

Course Title: Society, Culture and Politics in Xinjiang

Course No: SA 661

Total Credits: Three (3)

Course Teacher: Dr. Mahesh Ranjan Debata

INTRODUCTION

China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) borders three Central Asian Republics - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as Russia, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. In terms of territory, XUAR is the largest province of China with Uyghur Muslims as the majority. A sizeable Muslim population in almost all the countries bordering this region, a complex geography, history, ethno-cultural and religious diversity as well as abundant natural resources have catapulted XUAR into one of China's most important and strategic regions. Against this backdrop, the Course, "Society, Culture and Politics in Xinjiang", begins with a brief historical outline of the Xinjiang region. It discusses social, cultural and political aspects of the situation in Xinjiang with emphasis on the problems of ethnicity, ethno-nationalism, religion etc. The Course analyses the nature of radical Islam in Xinjiang leading to violent separatist and terrorist activities. The Course deals with the regional government structure in Xinjiang with special focus on Chinese policy towards the minority nationalities.

EVALUATION PATTERN

1. Term Paper and Presentation
2. Book Review
3. End Semester Examination

COURSE CONTENTS

1. History of Xinjiang

- A. Han Rule; Tang Period; Xinjiang under Yuan Dynasty; Ming Rule; Manchu Qing Era
- B. Yakub Beg Regime: Creation of first Islamic Republic in Xinjiang
- C. Xinjiang under Republican China: Rule by Chinese Warlords: Yang Tseng Hsin; Chin Shu-jen; Sheng Shih-tsai)
- D. Soviet Influence in Xinjiang
- E. East Turkestan Republic in 1930s and 1940s
- F. Xinjiang since 1949

2. Society and Culture in Xinjiang

- A. Sedentary Society, Oasis settlements etc.
- B. Xinjiang's Ethnic Composition and relation among minorities; Uyghur-Han Relations; Kazakh-Han Relations
- C. Ethno-Religious Identity of Minorities; Ethno-Nationalism in Xinjiang

- D. Ethnic Separatism and Terrorism in Xinjiang: External and Internal Factors; External and Internal Actors
- E. Religious Practices in Xinjiang: Buddhism, Islam, Daoism, Christianity
- F. Islam in Xinjiang; Islamic Traditions (Sufi, Naqshbandiya etc.); Rise of Radical Islam and its Implications
- G. Indigenous Culture, Customs and Traditions: Muqam, Mashrep etc.

3. Political System in Xinjiang

- A. Structure and Organisation of Regional Government: Prefectures, autonomous prefectures and prefecture-level cities; Provincially Administered Municipalities; Counties, County level cities; Local Self Government in Xinjiang.
- B. Role of Chinese Communist Party in Xinjiang: Minority Nationalities Policies and its Practice in Xinjiang; Military-Civilian Administration; Role of People's Liberation Army; Population Transfer: Han Migration from Mainland to the Western Areas; Economic Development; Five Year Plans; Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC); Great Western Development Programme; Language and Cultural Policies; Religious Policy: Xinjiang Islamic Association

SELECTED READINGS

Beller-Hann et al. (2007), *Situating the Uyghurs between China and Central Asia*, UK & USA: Ashgate.

Benson, Linda (1990), *The Ili Rebellion: The Moslem Challenge to Chinese Authority in Xinjiang, 1944-1949*, Armonk: M. E. Sharpe.

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Clarke, Michael E. (2011), *Xinjiang and China's Rise in Central Asia – A History*, London and New York: Routledge Curzon.

Dawamat, T. (1993), *Xinjiang- My Beloved Home*, Beijing: China Today Press.

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Lattimore, Owen (1950), *Pivot of Asia, Sinkiang and the Inner Asian Frontiers of China and Russia*, Boston: Little Brown Publishers.

Mackerras, Colin & Clarke, Michael (2009), *China, Xinjiang and Central Asia: History, Transition and Crossborder Interaction into the 21st Century*, London & NY: Routledge.

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Toops, Stanley (May 2004), "Demographics and Development in Xinjiang after 1949", *Working Papers 1*, Washington: East West Centre.

Soucek, Svat (2000), *A History of Inner Asia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Tredinnick, Jeremy (2012), *Xinjiang: China's Central Asia*, Odyssey: Airphoto International.

White Paper (2005), "Regional Autonomy for Ethnic Minorities in China", Beijing: Information Office of the State Council, PRC.

White Paper (May 2003), "History, Development of Xinjiang", Beijing: Information Office of the State Council, People's Republic of China.

White Paper (September 1999), "National Minorities Policy and its Practice in China", Beijing: Information Office of the State Council, PRC.

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