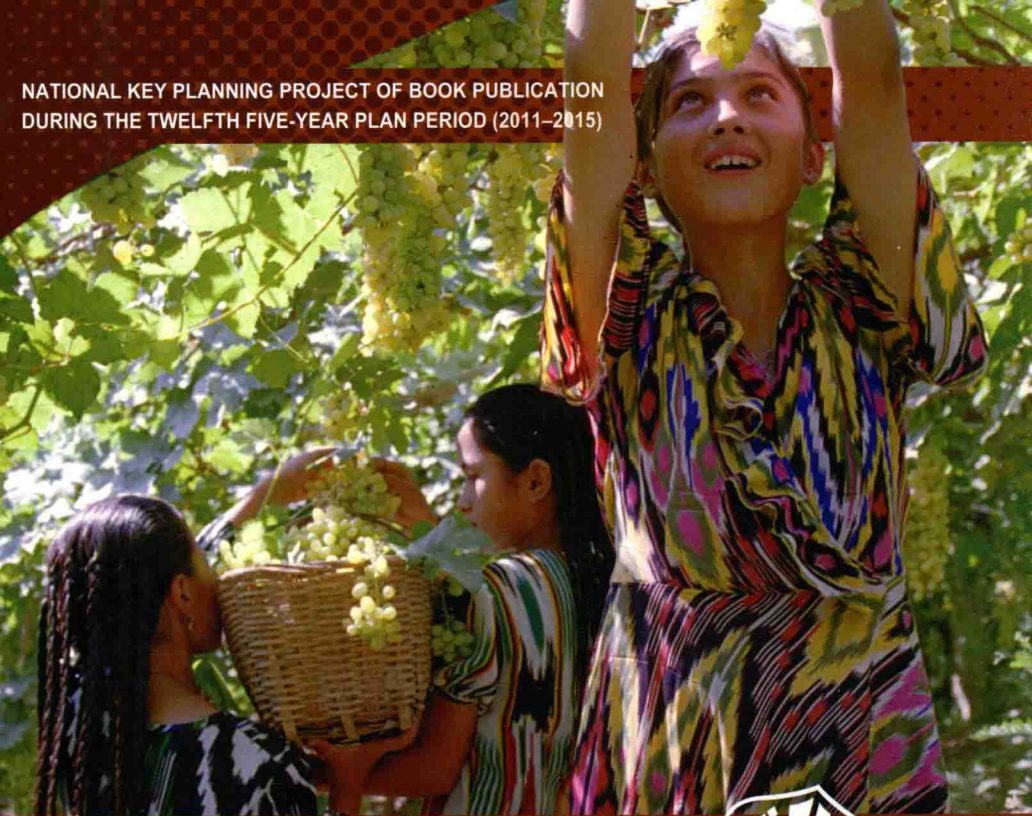


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Foreword

Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (hereinafter referred to as Xinjiang) is located in the Northwest of China with a borderline of more than 5,600 kilometers and an area of 1.6649 million square kilometers, which accounts for 1/6 of China's land area. Neighboring eight countries, Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, it is an important passage on ancient Silk Road.

With thousands of years of history, Xinjiang has been a multi-ethnic and multi-religious region since ancient times. Since the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC to 25 AD), Xinjiang has been an inseparable part of this unitary multi-ethnic country of China.

As one of the five autonomous regions in China, Xinjiang now has 55 ethnic compositions, including Uygur, Han, Kazak, Hui, Kirgiz, Mongolia, Tajik, Xibe, Manchu, Uzbek, Russian, Daur, Tatar, etc. By the end of 2013, the total population of Xinjiang was about 22.643 million, among which the ethnic minority population accounts for about 61%.

Xinjiang, a charming place! Here are numerous scenic spots and historical sites, legendary history stories, splendid ethnic culture, impressive ethnic customs as well as diverse religious affiliation. Xinjiang, the heart of Eurasia! Here are unique natural conditions, a wide variety of terrain as well as majestic natural scenery. Xinjiang, an abundant place! Here are rich mineral resources, herds of cattle and sheep, grain

and cotton all over fields as well as seasonal fragrance of melon and fruit...

We publish the “Charming Xinjiang” Series to make this ancient, vibrant and modern place known by more readers at home and abroad. The Series include ten volumes and introduce Xinjiang in terms of ten aspects respectively. We hope this series can take you on a tour of “Charming Xinjiang”.

August 2014

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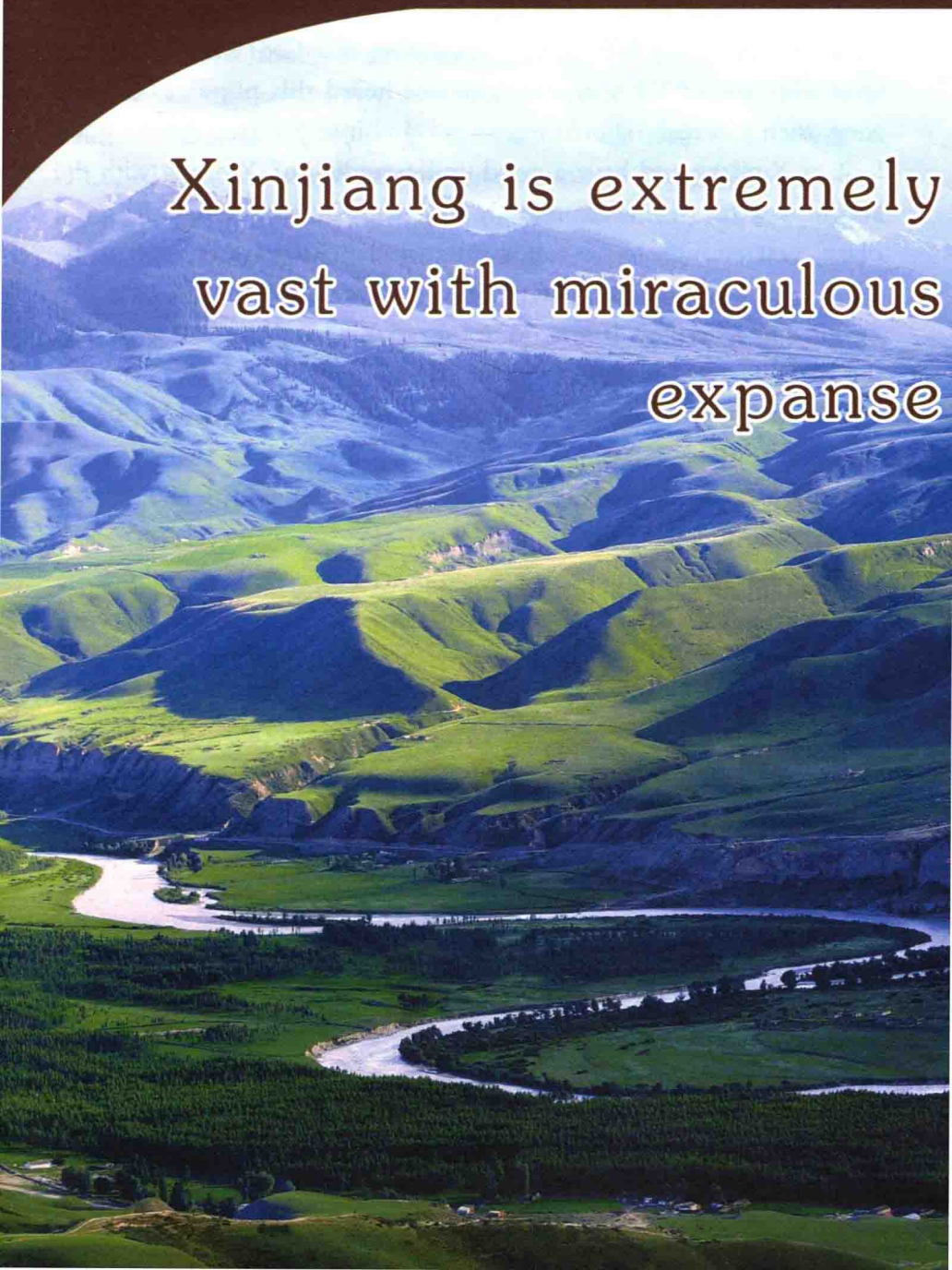
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XINJIANG

Xinjiang is extremely
vast with miraculous
expanse



“Our Xinjiang is a good place with fertile pastures on the south and north of Tianshan Mountains. The Gobi desert is turned into fertile land and the melted snow irrigates the farm village...”

Even if you have never been to Xinjiang, you should have ever heard the Xinjiang folk song *Our Xinjiang is a Good Place* which has won wide praises; if you still have not heard this popular Xinjiang song, then you really should have a good visit to Xinjiang, have a good look at Xinjiang and have a good understanding of Xinjiang with the accompany of this sweet melody. Because Xinjiang is really a good place, vast enough to be called miraculous, extensive enough to be qualified as an abundant good place...

People often say: if you do not go to Xinjiang, you will never feel the vastness and breadth of China; if you do not climb the Tianshan Mountains, you will never know the vast breast and backbone of the Xinjiang earth. Yes, Xinjiang is really large, with vast expanse, miraculously and uniquely; it is vast enough to astound you and to leave you an unforgettable memory...

1/6 of China's total land area

Xinjiang is really large with vast length and breadth. Xinjiang, located in center of Eurasia and on China's northwest border, has a

People of all ethnic groups living at the foot of Tianshan Mountains



total area of 1,664,900 km², accounting for 1/6 of the country's total land area; it is the 1/6 of the country's total land area that ranks first in area compared with all other Chinese provincial administrative regions.

Xinjiang, covering 1/6 of the territory of China, includes 14 prefecture-level administrative units (including two prefecture-level cities, seven regions and five autonomous prefectures), 98 county-level administrative units (including 11 municipal districts, 19 county-level cities, 62 counties and 6 autonomous counties) and 1,021 township-level administrative units (including one district office, 162 streets, 237 towns, 578 townships and 43 autonomous townships).

Xinjiang, covering 1/6 of the territory of China, has a population of 22.64 million people (data in 2013). Xinjiang has been a multi-ethnic inhabited area since ancient times and is one of China's five ethnic minority autonomous regions. 55 ethnic groups live happily and harmoniously in the beautiful and fertile land, including Uygur, Han, Kazak, Hui, Kirgiz, Mongolian, Tajik, Xibe, Manchu, Uzbek, Russia, Daur, Tatar, Dongxiang, Zhuang, Sarah, Tibetan, Yi, Bouyei, Korean, etc. Xinjiang, always with a good reputation of "the showcase of ethnic groups", is one of the border provinces in China with full-bodied ethnic customs and the richest exotic atmosphere.

Xinjiang is really large with magical and unique largeness. Xinjiang is really large. It collects almost all of natural landscapes on the Earth: desert, oasis, snow-capped mountains, glaciers, grasslands, the Gobi desert... Whether the quiet isolated "cities" in the desert, or the thriving small towns in the oasis; whether the continuous, snow-capped and dragon-like snow mountains, or the tall and majestic, magnificent, solemn and majestic glaciers; whether the pastures with "under the blue sky, on the vast land, with the wind blowing, cattle and sheep are grazing" or the barren Gobi with flying sand and rolling pebbles and sand all over the sky, they are all full of miracles.

Xinjiang, covering 1/6 of the territory of China, is rich in amazing natural landscapes. Fire land coexists with icy peaks here; desert is

adjacent to the oasis. The natural landscape is rough and the landscape combination is unique. There is the world's second highest peak at 8,611 m above sea level—Chogori; There is the longest glacier in China—Insukati Glacier; There is the second largest desert in the world—Taklimakan Desert; There is the longest inland river in China—Tarim River; There is the largest inland freshwater lake in China—the Bosten Lake; There is the largest Yardang landform group in China—“Dragon City”, “Windy City” and “Ghost City”; There is the largest silicified wood park in China—General Gobi silicified wood group... Everything is so unique and marvelous. Everything seems so mysterious.

Xinjiang, 1/6 of the territory of China, has been breeding unique national cultures. Xinjiang, an important passageway for the ancient Silk Road, blends the multi-ethnic and multi-cultural landscapes through the baptism and rendering of time and historical accumulation and integration, and, at the same time, manifests the cultural uniqueness with special charm. Xinjiang has always been reputed as “the land of song and dance”. The people of ethnic minority groups here are born singers and dancers. The traditional ethnic cultural activities such as Mashrap, a kind of dancing recreation among Uygur people, the “Aken ballad singing while playing” of the Kazakh people, the “Kumz ballad singing while playing” of the Kirgiz people, as well as the Nadam Fair of the Mongolian people and the Memorial Day of Western Migration among Xibe people are fascinating and appealing. Full-bodied characters, colorfulness, enduring popularity, openness and inclusiveness are all the features of the gorgeous and attractive ethnic cultures of this magic land, Xinjiang.

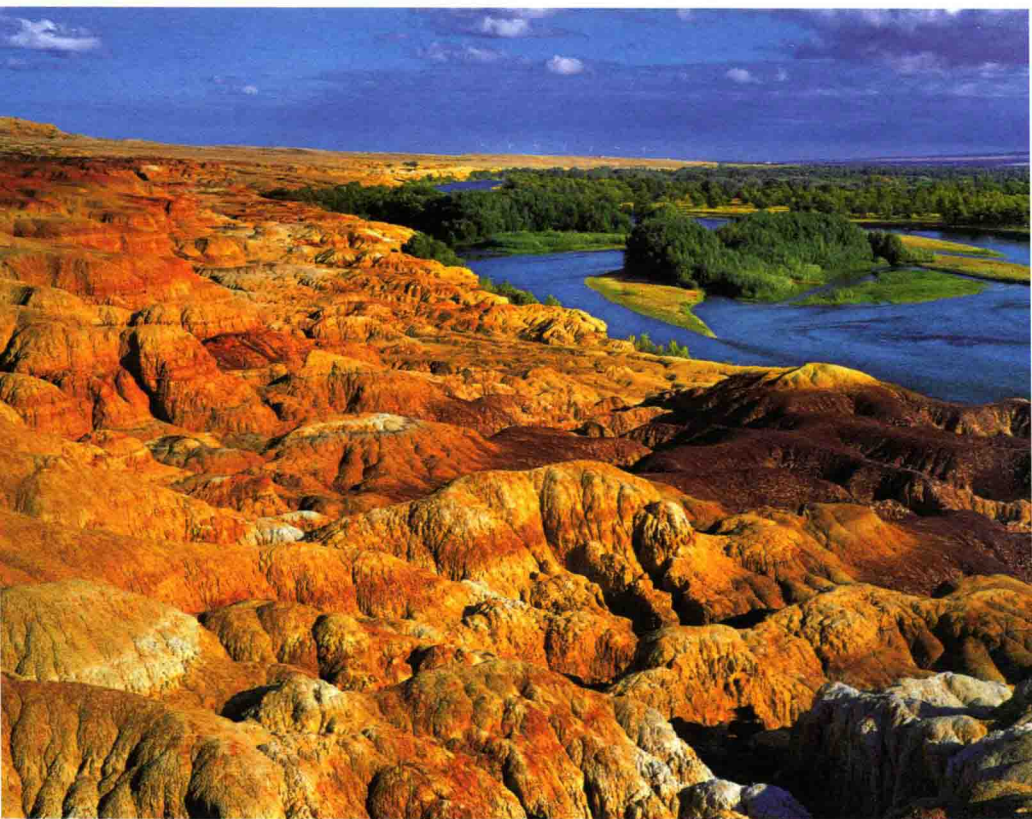
Xinjiang is extremely large and its largeness is shocking. Have you ever seen the flickering pastures in the vast desert? They are just like the exceptionally glaring jades on vast yellow silk. The pastures with green grass are endless extensive, while the mountain ridge is lofty and steep and the crystal river way twists and turns. They all have intoxicating beauties. Have you ever seen the poplars which stand upright in the



Glorious scenery of Tianshan Mountains

desolated Gobi desert? They are like a dancing life on the desert. Just as what people say, “A Euphrates poplar can live for a thousand years. Even after it dies, it stands upright for a thousand years, and even after it falls, it stays intact for another thousand years”. Though lonely and solitary, they are firm and tenacious, stubborn and struggling. They leave a shocking vicissitudes.

Xinjiang, 1/6 of the territory of China, contains a strong vitality. The frigid snow engulfs the mountains and freezes all creatures. However, here stands cedars one by one and layer by layer which are rooted in the Tianshan Mountains and stand upright between the blue sky and snow-capped mountains, which form a stunning scroll painting. Though desolate desert is silent and silences the souls and lives, here stands clusters of rose willows rooted in the desert and blossom among



the sand and gravel, which composes a stunning paean.

Xinjiang, 1/6 of the territory of China, is populated by optimistic Xinjiang people. Although there are desolate deserts, boundless Gobi, baking hot fire land and cold regions here, people in Xinjiang are optimistic, hardworking and earthly. They are perseverant, kind and unsophisticated, and dedicate their youth and their whole lives silently to their beloved homeland and the lofty ideal of building better home.

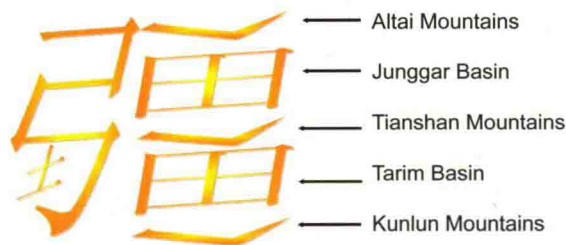
Xinjiang is so large, which is profoundly inscribed in their hearts. Do you know the interesting interpretation of the character “疆” (jiang)? The character “疆” of Xinjiang is the true portrayal of the



Amazing oasis

history and reality. The character “疆” is a combination of the left part and the right part. The left part is composed of a character “弓” with “土” below it. The character “弓” symbolizes the long and winding boundary line. The character “土” means land and territory. The combination of “弓” and “土” means that there are a long boundary line and a large territory in Xinjiang; While the little character “土” also tells people that outside the border of Xinjiang, there are many territories originally belonging to China, which have been ceded out because of the unequal treaties on which China was forced to sign.

Xinjiang, which covers 1/6 of the territory of China, contains



countless “-est”s. We continue to talk about the character “疆” of Xinjiang. The right part of “疆” is composed of three horizontal strokes “一” and two characters “田”, which visually

generalize the landform of Xinjiang. The three horizontal strokes “一” refer to the Altai Mountains, Tianshan Mountains and Kunlun Mountains respectively from north to south. The two characters “田” refer to Junggar Basin and Tarim Basin. Tianshan is one of the largest mountain range in Asia and one of the three largest horizontal mountain ranges in China; Kunlun Mountains is the longest mountain range in Asia and one of the longest mountain ranges in the world; Junggar Basin is the second largest interior basin in China; Tarim Basin is the largest basin in China and the basin bottom of Tarim Basin is the



The dancing life in desert—Populus



Hongshan Grand Canyon in Kuytun

largest drifting desert in China—the Taklimakan Desert.

Xinjiang, which covers 1/6 of the territory of China, is inscribing unforgettable memories. Xinjiang has the western regions' (a Han Dynasty term for the area west of Yumenguan, including what is now Xinjiang and parts of central Asia) customs of “wearing a cotton-padded jacket in the morning and yarn clothes in the afternoon, and eating watermelon around the stove”. There is a jubilating, stimulating and thrilling game named “Scrambling for the goat”; There is an exciting “Girl Chasing Game”; There is thrilling, tensional and challenging Darwaz (Uygur tightrope walking at high altitude) and there is Mashrap which is joyous, festive and fair-sounding... The scene, the feeling, the people and the love here all make people cherish and memorize deeply.

With a land borderline of 5,600 km

Xinjiang is located to the east of Central Asia, the hinterland of the Eurasia Continent and has a land borderline of more than 5,600 km, accounting for 1/4 of China's land borderline. Xinjiang is China's largest provincial administrative region with the longest land borderline and the most neighboring countries. It is also one of the provincial regions with the most foreign trade ports.

5,600 km is a symbol of friendly exchanges between Xinjiang and its neighboring countries. Xinjiang borders on eight countries—Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, India and Afghanistan, and closely neighbors Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Iran. Since ancient times, Xinjiang has been a transportation hub between East and West countries and an important channel of the ancient Silk Road. Xinjiang, being an important frontier for China open to the west and an international trade bridgehead, has close and frequent economic and cultural exchanges with Central Asia, West Asia, South Asia and Europe and has many time-honored trade routes and ports.

5,600 km is a symbol of communication and mutual trade between Xinjiang and the world. Xinjiang is one of the provinces with the most ports in China with 17 first-level ports, 12 second-level ports and 67 counties and cities open to the outside. Among the first-level ports, there are 2 international air ports, the Urumqi and Kashgar air ports; there are 15 first-level land border ports.

Xinjiang, an important channel of the ancient Silk Road in the history, now has become a place which the second "Eurasian Continental Bridge" must pass through.

The new Eurasian Continental Bridge not only becomes the most convenient and cheapest transportation passageway connecting Asian-Pacific region and the whole Europe but also is a two-way open passageway running from east to west in China, and it is the foundation