

TIBET TODAY

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THE Tibet Autonomous Region in China's far southwest is mountainous, with rich mineral resources, rivers, lakes, lush pastures and virgin forests. It is the home of more than a million industrious and brave people of the Tibetan, Monba and other nationalities.

Before liberation, Tibet's politics, economy and culture were in a state of decay under feudal serfdom. The reactionary local authorities, the monasteries and the nobility, less than 5 per cent of the population, owned all land and almost all livestock, and exercised a most dark and brutal rule over the serfs and slaves who made up the other 95 per cent of the population. Hard labour, crushing land taxes and numerous levies were the order of the day, while slight offences brought flogging, the cutting out of tongues, gouging out of eyes, or skinning alive.

Since Tibet's peaceful liberation in 1951, and especially since the democratic reform of 1959, the Region has changed. Under the leadership and with the concern of Chairman Mao Tsetung and the Chinese Communist Party, the million former serfs and slaves overthrew the feudal serfdom for good and all, became the masters and transformed Tibet along socialist lines.

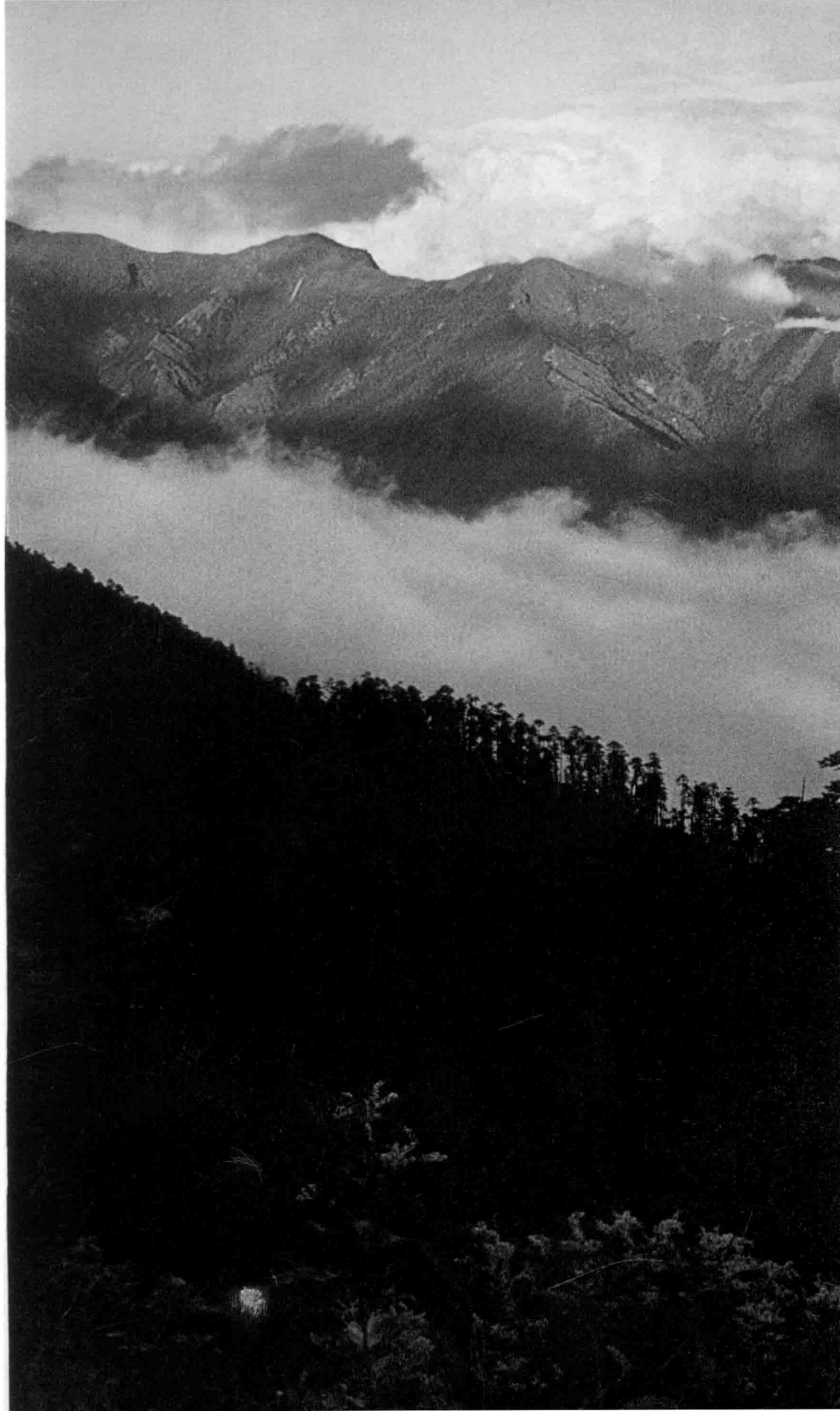
The past dozen years have seen rapid development in Tibet's industry, agriculture and livestock breeding, as well as in culture, education and health services, bringing definite improvement in the people's living. In social development, Tibet has bypassed several centuries, speeding from feudal serfdom through the democratic reform and into socialism. The people of Tibet are advancing in step with China's other nationalities on the socialist road forward.

Scenic Tibet

Over "the roof
of the world."

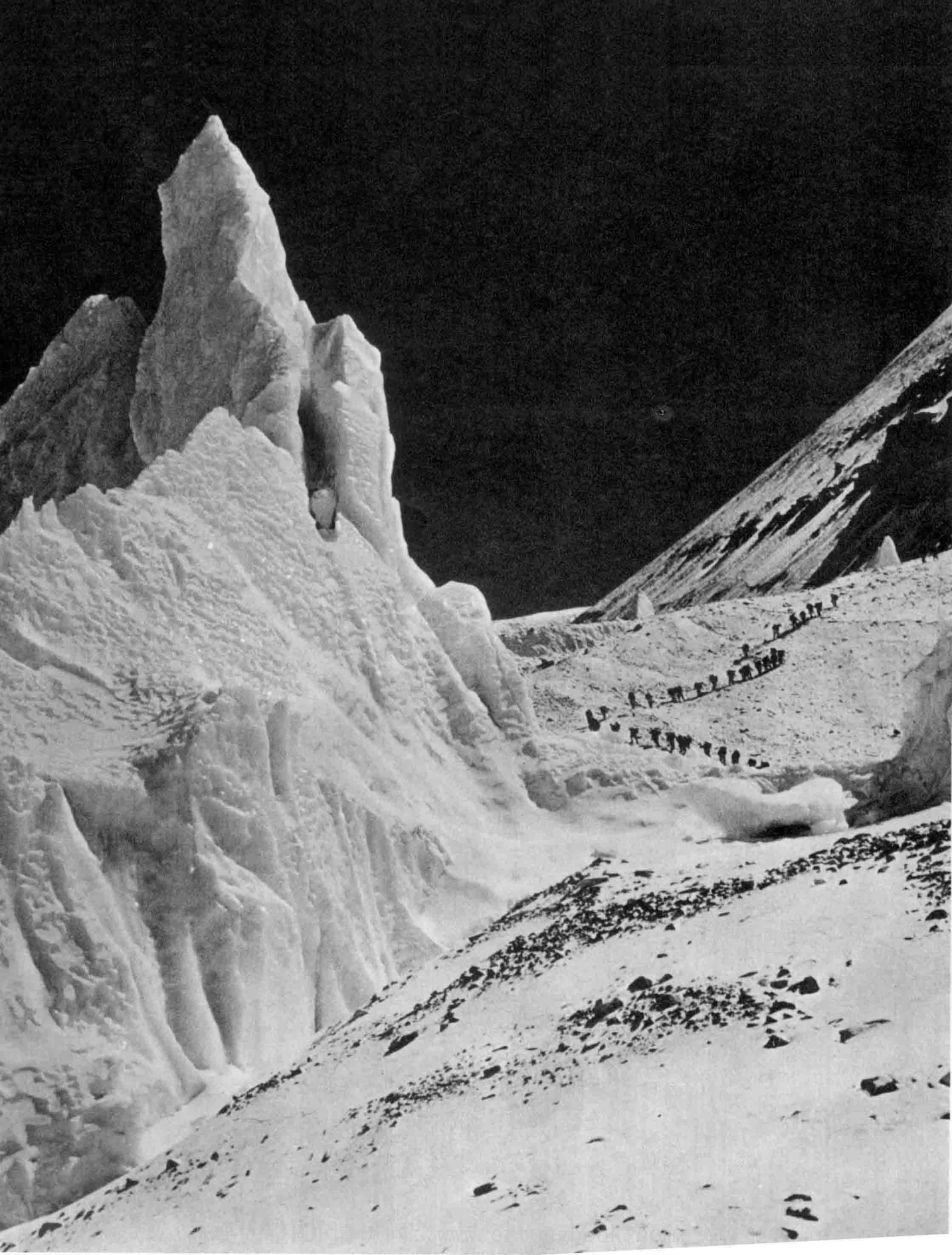








Cloud on the forest.





View at the foot of the Himalaya.

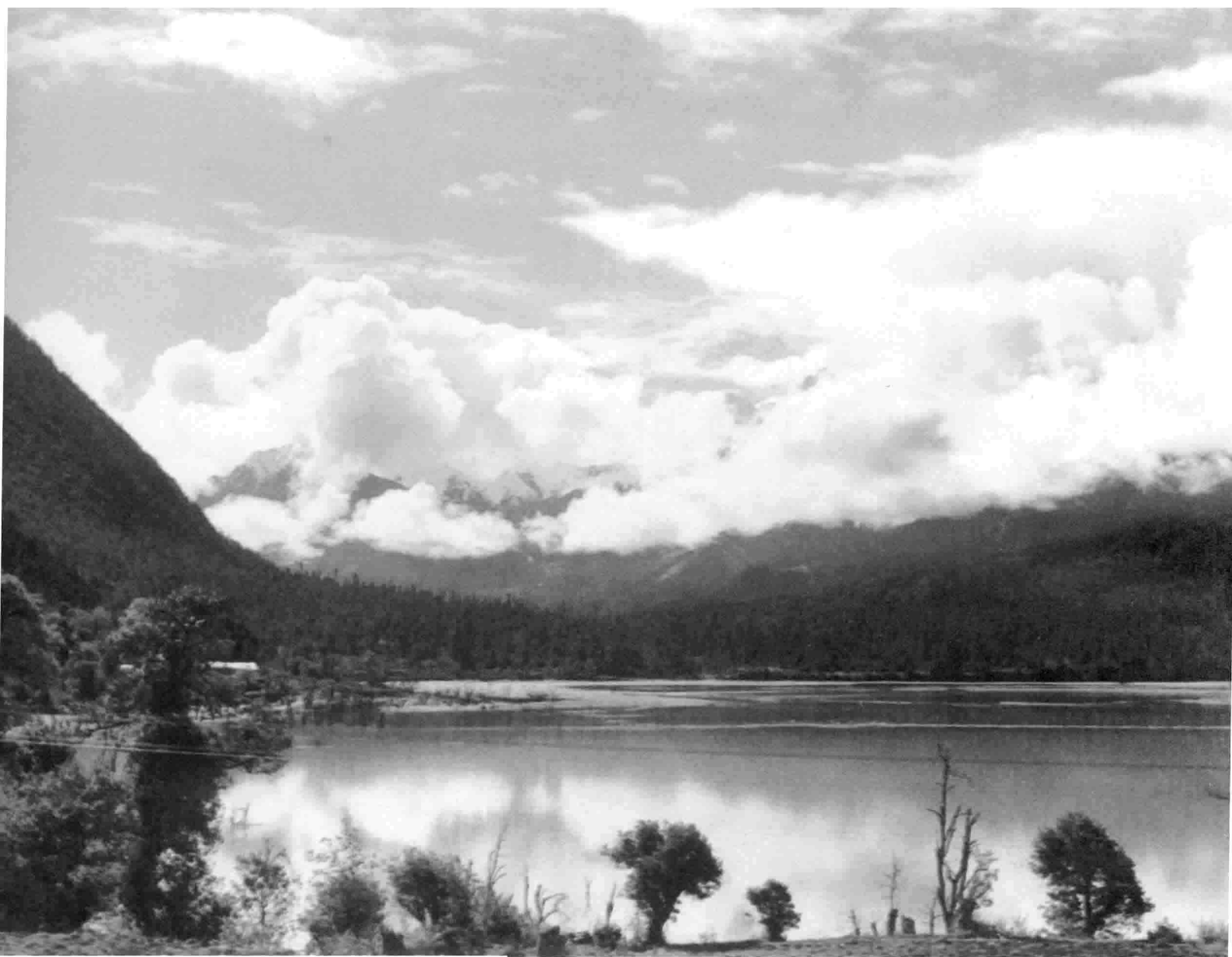
glacier rises out of the Himalaya.

Tibet's largest river
—the Yalutsangpo.





Evergreen trees below
snow-covered peaks.



View of Ikung Lake.

原书缺页

Terraced fields of a Zayul village.

