

CHINA'S TIBET

FACTS AND FIGURES **2009**

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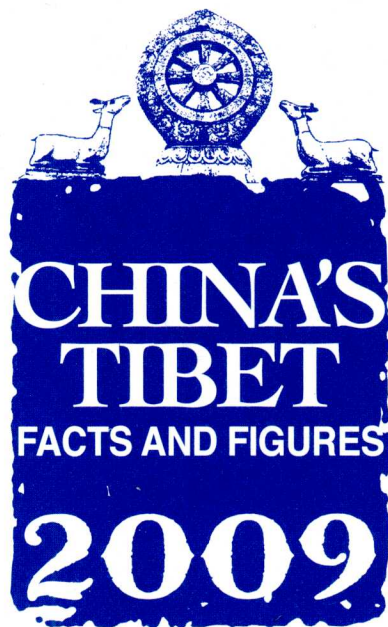
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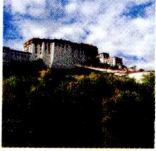
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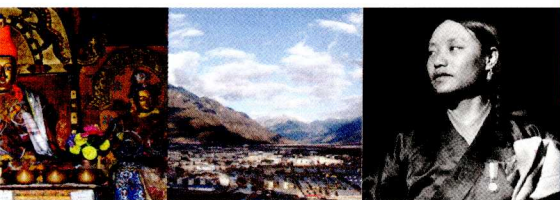


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Known as the "Sunlight City", Lhasa is one of the cleanest cities in the world.





01

GENERAL SURVEY AND HISTORY

Geographical Location and
Administrative Division

History and Administrative Division

Origin and Essence of the "Tibet
Independence" Issue

01

GENERAL SURVEY AND HISTORY

Geographical Location and Administrative Division

The Tibet Autonomous Region is situated in the southwestern border area of the People's Republic of China. Lying at $78^{\circ}25'$ — $99^{\circ}06'$ E and $26^{\circ}50'$ — $36^{\circ}53'$ N, it covers an area of more than 1.22 million square km, or one-eighth of China's land area. With a size equal to the total of the five countries including the Great Britain, France, Germany, the Netherland and Luxemburg, Tibet is the second largest provincial-level area in China, next only to the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. It abuts the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Qinghai Province in the north, Sichuan Province in the east, and Yunnan Province in the southeast. It also has a 3,800 km border with the neighboring countries of Myanmar, India, Bhutan and Nepal as well as Kashmir in the south and west.

A shot of Tibet, known as the "roof of the world".



As one of the five autonomous regions in the People's Republic of China, the Tibet Autonomous Region exercises jurisdiction over one city (Lhasa City), six prefectures (Nagqu, Qamdo, Ny-yingchi, Shannan, Xigaze and Ngari prefectures), one county-level city (Xigaze City) and 71 counties.

Lhasa is the capital of the region and Xigaze its second largest city.

Lhasa City

Located in the central south part of Tibet, Lhasa City lies on the northern bank of the Lhasa River, a tributary of the Yarlung Zangbo River. Covering an area of 31,622 square km, the city is home to more than 30 ethnic groups including Tibetan, Han and Hui, of which Tibetans account for more than 87 percent of the total population. It falls into the category of a highland monsoon climate. Tibet's major grain and economic crops could be found in the city. Its medicinal herbs include Chinese caterpillar fungus, caladium, rhodiola root, snow lotus, ginseng fruit, musk and pilose antler. Its wildlife includes wild yaks, wild donkeys, Mongolia gazelles and Tibetan antelopes. Its traditional handicrafts include waist knives, kardian cushions, carpets, bamdian aprons, wooden bowls, and gold and silver jewelries.

Lhasa has a long history and is richly

endowed with cultural relics. Thus far, it has opened more than 200 scenic spots, including some 20 major ones, such as the Potala Palace, the Jokhang Monastery, the Ramoche Monastery, the Norbu Lingka, the Zhaibung Monastery, the Sera Monastery, the Zongjab Lukhang, the Gandain Monastery, the Curpu Monastery and the Razheng Monastery. Its major natural attractions include the Nam Co Lake, the Lhalu Wetland, the Yangbajain Geothermal Field, snow peaks of the Nyainqentanglha Mountains, hot springs at Dezhong and Doilung, and nature reserves in Lhunzhub and Meizhukongka.

Nagqu Prefecture

Nagqu Prefecture lies in northern Tibet abutting Xinjiang and Qinghai. Its total area is 286,500 square km. More than 98 percent of its population is Tibetan and their main livelihood is livestock breeding.

The central and western parts of Nagqu belong to Changtang, lying at an average elevation of over 4,500 meters. Maintaining a primitive ecology, the prefecture is dotted with some 1,000 rippling lakes including the Nam Co, the Serling Co and the Tangra Yumco, as well as many hot springs and geothermal, oil and gas fields. There are over 20 animal species subject to national first and second class protection. Major special products in-

clude oxen and sheep wool, Cashmere goat wool, caterpillar fungus, snow lotus flower, caladium and musk. Major scenic spots include the Tangua Station of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, the Cona Lake in Amdo County, the Shaten Monastery in Nagqu County, the Arza Lake and the Chongyi Township Scenic Area in Jiali County, the Nujiang River scenic area and the Bomphan Primitive Forests in Biru County, as well as the Bacang Monastery of the Bon religion, the Lungkar and the Lupug Monasteries.

Qamdo Prefecture

Located in eastern Tibet, Qamdo Prefecture abuts Yunnan and Sichuan Provinces to the east, and Qinghai Province to the north. The Sichuan-Tibet, Yunnan-Tibet, Qinghai-Qamdo and other trunk highways meet here. There are also roads leading to various county seats. Covering an area of 130,000 square km, this prefecture is home to the Tibetan, Han, Mongolian, Naxi, Lili and Hui ethnic groups.

There are some 80 high peaks each with an elevation of over 5,000 meters in the prefecture. In the river valleys, forests and natural pastures live more than 600 species of wildlife such as snow leopards, pandas, Yunnan golden monkeys and white lipped deer. It is rich in some 1,200 kinds of medicinal herbs including caterpillar fungus,

musk and young pilose antler.

Major scenic areas include Qamdo County's Qambaling Monastery and Karu New Stone Age Ruins, Zugung County's Meili Snow Mountain, and Zaya County's carved rock paintings and Lunglung stone carvings.

Nyingchi Prefecture

Located in southeastern Tibet, Nyingchi Prefecture is on the middle and lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River. It abuts India and Myanmar to the south. Covering an area of 99,700 square km, it is home to the Tibetan and Han, as well as Moinba and Lhoba ethnic groups.

Under the impact of the warm air current from the Indian Ocean, Nyingchi Prefecture is free from unbearably hot weather in summer and freezing cold in winter. It is blessed with plentiful precipitation and humidity. Forests covering 2.64 million hectares teem with giant spruce trees some more than 200 years old, while the oldest cypress tree is 2,500 years old. Timber reserves exceed 800 million cubic meters. The number of known higher plants reaches some 2,000. The lowest elevation is about 1,000 meters. Some places in the prefecture are suitable for growing rice, oranges, bananas and lemon. Rare wildlife includes Bengal tigers, Yunnan golden monkeys,

leopards, bears and antelopes. Native produce include tube of elevated gastrodia, pseudo ginseng, fritillaria, Hongjintian, Chinese caterpillar fungus, glossy ganoderma and other medicinal herbs, as well as more than 120 kinds of fungi. Nang County's Tibetan hats and wooden bowls, Bome's "Qomolangma tea", and Ye'ong Tibetan knives, Zayu's woven bamboo products and Tibetan wooden bowls are famous in China.

Nyingchi boasts eight scenic areas comprising 40 scenic spots. They include ones acknowledged as outstanding by world tourism organizations, 4A ones recommended by the China National Tourism Bureau, as well as the national forest park—the Basum Co Scenic Area. Others include the

Namjiagbawa Scenic Area, the Yarlung Zangbo Grand Canyon, the Yi'ong Geological Park and the Serchila National Forest Park..

Shannan Prefecture

Located on the middle and lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River, Shannan Prefecture abuts Bhutan and India to the south. Covering an area of some 80,000 square km, it is home to the Tibetan, Han, Hui, Moinba and Lhoba ethnic groups. Tibetans occupy 98 percent of the total population.

As one of the major cradles of the Tibetan race, Shannan has a long history. It has 10 cultural relic sites subject to national protection, including the Tombs of Tibetan Kings, the Samye Monastery, the Changzhub Monastery,

Bayi Town in Nyingchi



the Zhatang Monastery, the Jidui Tubo Tombs Group, the Leshan Tomb, the Lhagyal Imperial Palace Ruins, the Namserling Manor, the Gyiru Lhakang, as well as holy mountains and holy lakes.

The Yarlung River National Class Scenic Area is the only one of its kind in China. It boasts snow-covered mountains, glaciers, pastures, unspoiled river valley, and places of historic interest. The prefecture has three tourist sites featuring scenic beauty and human interest—the Yamzhog Yumco Lake Scenic Area, the Samye Scenic Area and the Holy Lakes Scenic Area.

Native produces include pulu woolen fabrics, Tibetan joss sticks and kardian cushions.

Shannan Prefecture is an area with sound transport facilities. The Lhasa Gonggar Airport is located in Gyizholing Town of the prefecture's Gonggar County.

Xigaze Prefecture

Located in central south part of Tibet, Xigaze Prefecture abuts Bhutan and Nepal. Covering an area of 180,000 square km, it is home mainly to Tibetans. Other ethnic groups found here include the Han, Hui, Mongolian, Naxi, plus Sherpa people.

Traditional ceremony is held in Xigaze for the spring ploughing.



The prefecture is home to many plateau pastures, fields, forests, and snow-covered peaks. The Qomolangma Nature Reserve boasts the world's highest most intact vertical eco-system. Major places of historical interest include the Tashilhunpo Monastery, the Sagya Monastery, ruins of the Zongshan Hill Resisting-the-British-Invaders Site, the Shalhu Monastery, the Deqoi Monastery, the Zholma Lhakang and Carved Cliff Inscriptions of the Tang Dynasty (608-907) which records first Tang envoy sent to visit Hindu, and other national cultural relics, as well as the Natang Monastery, the Rongbu Monastery, the Palkor Monastery and the site of the former Parlha Manor.

Xigaze Prefecture is major area for the development of mountaineering in Tibet partly because it boasts five peaks each rising at least 8,000 meters above sea level: Qomolangma (8,844.43 meters), Lho Tse (8,516 meters), Makalu (8,463 meters), Cho Oyu (8,201 meters) and Xixabangma (8,012 meters). In the past two decades or so, China has opened 44 high peaks and mountaineering routes. Foreign mountaineering teams climbing Qomolangma now number over 20 a year.

Native produce of the prefecture include wooden bowls wrapped in silver, tea tray and frames, Tibetan carpets, golden thread hats, Tibetan

knives and kardian cushions.

Ngari Prefecture

Located in western Tibet, Ngari Prefecture abuts Kashmir, India and Nepal to the west and south. With the border extending 116 km, the prefecture has over 60 mountain mouths leading to other parts of the world. Of the seven counties under its jurisdiction, three engage entirely in livestock breeding, and four in farming and livestock breeding at the same time. It covers an area of 303,000 square km, with relatively low population density.

The prefecture holds an important place in China's cultural and economic exchanges with the west. It is home to ancient civilization of Zhangzhung and the Bon religion.

With an average elevation of 4,500 meters, the prefecture is full of scenic wonders including glaciers, extensive plateau plant coverage, Gobi desert, rippling rivers and lakes, green fields, clay forests, and wildlife. Its Shiqianhe River, Kongquehe River, Xiangquanhe River and Maquanhe River are respectively sources of the Indus, Ganges, Sutlej and Yarlung Zangbo Rivers. It is also home to the sites of many ancient civilizations such as the ruins of the Guge Kingdom, the Toding Monastery, the Donggar Frescos and the Ritog Cliff Paintings. In Burang County is the

holy mountain of Kangrenboqe, the chief peak of the Kangdese Mountains, and the holy lake of Mapang Yumco. Both hold an important place in Asian religious history. Ngari Prefecture also has five world-class tourist sites, 18 national class ones, and 48 regional level ones. Tourism has grown into a major contributor to local economic growth.

History and Administrative Division

Experts in genetics, archeology, history and linguistics have come to the conclusion through studying many genetic marks such as blood type and protein that the Han and the Tibetan race shared the same ancestors; the pre-historic boom in Tibet was strongly as-

sociated with the Chinese culture; and the Tibet Plateau and the hinterland of China maintained long economic, cultural and political ties throughout history. Such a kind of relations developed further in the 7th-10th and, by the mid-13th century, Tibet became a region administered by the Yuan Dynasty court. All the the major events that happened in the Tibetan history were closely associated with the Chinese history.

The 7th-12th Centuries

Early in the 7th century, the powerful Tang Dynasty was founded in the Central Plains, ending the disintegration and chaotic situation that had prevailed in the region for more than 300 years. In the meantime, the Spur-

Two Tang Dynasty princesses were married to Tubo Kings. Here are the statue of Tubo King Songtsam Gambo and his wife Tang Dynasty Princess Wencheng.



gyal tribe rose in the Yarlung area in today's Shannan. The tribe conquered others in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, and formed the Tubo Kingdom in the 7th century.

Tubo kings married two Tang Dynasty princesses, and political, economic and cultural relations between the two parties became increasingly friendly and extensive. Tibet's ties with other ethnic groups in China were unprecedentedly close. The Tang-Tubo Peace Pledge Monument was erected in front of the Jokhang Monastery in Lhasa following the end of the eighth peace meeting.

The Tubo Kingdom was a slavery military power in west China, the size of its territory changing throughout the years. Tubo documents show that the Tubo Kingdom boasted a number of local administrative organs in the U-Tsang area in its early period. Throughout the history, however, Tubo did not have a sound administrative division and a complete set of administrative system for effective government. In the second half of the 9th century, a Tubo-wide slavery uprising toppled the Tubo Kingdom. Coincidentally, the Tang Dynasty (618-907) was later also toppled by the peasants uprisings. In the ensuing 300-400 years, no centralized power was established in the Central Plains and the Tubo area as well. During

this period of time, the Tibetans maintained close ties with the Northern Song (960-1127), the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), the Xixia Dynasty (1038-1227), the Liao (916-1125), the Jin (1115-1234) and other political powers. People of the Tuyuhun and Xianbei ethnic groups, who formerly lived under the rule of the Tubo regime, merged with the Tibetans, and in the few decades following the fall of the Tubo Kingdom, Tubo people living close to China's hinterland gradually merged with the Han people.

In the Tubo history books, the Tubo Kingdom was called the "period of Tsampo", as Tubo was ruled by Tsampo (kings) during the period, and the 400-year period after the fall of the Tubo Kingdom was mentioned as the "split period".

Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368)

In 1246, Tubo pledged allegiance to the Mongol Kharnate. In 1271 Mongolian Kublai Khan took Yuan as the name of his dynasty, with Dadu (present-day Beijing) as its capital. And the Tibetan area became a part of the Yuan Empire, and Tibet was finally included as a directly governed administrative unit.

When the Yuan unified China, the rulers adopted a series of measures for rule over Tibet. They included the following:

—The Zongzhi Yuan was set up to manage national and Tibetan Buddhist affairs. It was later renamed Xuanzheng Yuan.

—Conducting population census, collecting taxes, setting up post stations, stationing troops in Tibet, and promulgating Yuan criminal laws.

—Tibetan monks and lay people were given high official titles for management over Tibetan affairs. Establishment of administrative organs in Dbus-Tsang and Do-khams and appointment of officials, and giving punishment or rewards to them were subject to the Central Government.

—Tibet was divided into different administrative areas. The Yuan Dynasty installed three Pacification Commissioners in the Tibetan-inhabited areas, and they were separated and worked under Xuanzheng Yuan. The present-day Tibet Autonomous Region was put under two of the three Pacification Commissioners. One was the Udbus Tsang Pacification Commissioner, set up in Sasgya (present-day Sagya of Tibet) and had under it 13 10000-Household Offices and some 1000-Household Offices. Area under its jurisdiction was confined to present-day Lhasa, Shannan, Xigaze and Ngari. According to historical records in Tibetans, it was the local regime called the Sagya Regime

of Tibet then. The second was the Do-khams Pacification Commissioner, which exercised jurisdiction over present-day Qamdo and Nyingchi area, eastern Nagqu area (plus Yushu of Qinghai, Deqin of Yunnan and Garze of Sichuan), with the government site found in western Garze of Sichuan. The Yuan effort to establish administrative divisions in Tibet laid a good foundation for the effective government of the region. Such an administrative division became the base of administrative changes in later generations. The three areas matched by and large the three areas where people spoke U-Tsang, Amdo and Kampa dialect respectively. People claim “three regions of one Tibet” with a view to supporting Tibetan separatists.

Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)

Soon after the Ming Dynasty replaced the Yuan Dynasty in 1368, the Central Government sent officials to the Tibetan-inhabited areas, calling for various tribal leaders to swear allegiance to the new ruler. Old official seals were reclaimed and replaced by new ones. The Ming continued sovereignty over Tibet.

The Ming abolished the official system the Yuan had adopted. But, the Ming rulers introduced a new system of granting official titles to Tibetan monks. All the representative figures