



# PROFILE OF CHINESE ETHNICS



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# Introduction

China is a unified multi-ethnic country. On this vast land, many ethnic groups have survived and thrived for thousands of years. With mutual exchange and national amalgamation, the 56 ethnic groups finally formed a big family characterized by peaceful coexistence and indivisibility by now. All the ethnic groups in their long course of development have not only formed a unique long history, but also created a gorgeous rich culture. The histories and cultures of different ethnic groups together have enriched the cultural diversity of China.

This book presents different life and production styles as well as vastly different faces of the 56 Chinese ethnic groups on pictures, to help readers understand the history and status quo of the various ethnic groups of China.



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## Mongolian



Mongolian has a population of 5,813,947 (according to the fifth national census statistics in 2000), mainly living in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Jilin, Liaoning, Heilongjiang, Xinjiang, Gansu, Qinghai and other provinces and autonomous regions.

The Mongolians have their own language and script. The language belongs to Mongolian branch of the Altaic family. The Mongolians use Mongolian script and believe in Tibetan Buddhism.

Mongolian has well-developed animal husbandry and the Mongolians used to be mainly engaged in nomadic herding, thus, known as "an ethnicity on horseback". Mongolian yurt is the traditional housing, which is easy for construction and demolition. Fried rice, milk tea, cream, and cheese are the most distinctive daily food of Mongolian herders.





© Mongolian girls are dancing on the grassland, 1962. Photo by Wang De





**Photography:** Chen Haiwen

**Shooting Time:** February 14, 2009

**Shooting Location:** Baiyin Hubu, Shama Sumu, East Ujimqin Banner, Xilin Gol Prefecture, Inner Mongolia, China

**Elevation:** 836 m

**Latitude and longitude:** 116°58'E 45°30'N

**Figures:**

Janbal (46), Lamujav (49), Mergenbileg (39), Gonqigjav (8), Erhembayar (33), Khasbilig (34), Odengerel (10), Oljee (60), Sevel (46), Ortoo (40), Togsbileg (33), Namdlag (17), Enhejargal (32), Delgerqiqig (41), Sebel (29), Batmenkh (57), Cirbu (49), Bilegte (5), Altangerel (9), Otgen (72) and Selen (6)