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Using This Resource Guide NOTE: Many of these descriptions were excerpted directly from the source website Recommended Resource Visual Media Lesson Plan or Classroom Resource Audio Book Recommendation Charts and Graphs Articles

Find this packet and more at world-affairs.org/program/global-classroom

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## **Learning Objectives**

- **1.** Students will be able to analyze major Uyghur historical, cultural, political, economic, and geographic themes. In addition, students will be able to compare the impact of Uyghur society on the region of Xinjiang.
- **2.** Students will be able to identify and analyze the importance of the Silk Road historically, politically, economically, and culturally. In addition, students will be able to evaluate the role of Uyghurs in the context of the Silk Road and explain their impact on this network of trade routes.
- **3.** Students will be able to assess the past and current relationship between Uyghurs and Chinese society, including concerns over Chinese Communist Party policies to marginalize Uyghur communities through "re-education" camps and enhanced security.
- **4.** Students will be able to identify and analyze U.S. and other national perspectives on Chinese policies toward Uyghurs in Xinjiang, including the development of "re-education" camps. In addition, students will be able to consider and develop various policy proposals to address concerns regarding mass detentions of Uyghurs.
- **5.** Students will be able to utilize 21st century skills, such as critical thinking, collaboration, media literacy, and communication, in their study of Xinjiang and Uyghur society (both past and present).
- **6.** Students will be able to utilize a variety of sources in their analysis of current and past challenges faced by Uyghurs in Xinjiang.





## Key Terms

**Chinese Communist Party:** Founded in 1921, it is the ruling political party of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and is the sole governing party within mainland China, permitting only eight other, subordinated parties to co-exist.

**Detention Camps/Internment:** The state of being confined as a prisoner, especially for political or military reasons.

**Ethnic Cleansing:** The mass expulsion or killing of members of an unwanted ethnic or religious group in a society.

Han Chinese (also called Han): An ethnic group within East Asian people. 92% of the Chinese population and more than 97% of the Taiwanese population are Han. Out of the entire human population in the world, 19% are Han Chinese

**Human Right:** A right that is believed to belong justifiably to every person.

**Islam:** The religion of the Muslims, a monotheistic faith regarded as revealed through Muhammad as the Prophet of Allah.

**Re-education:** Education or training to change someone's beliefs or behavior, often associated with brainwashing.

Silk Road: An ancient caravan route that linked Xian in central China with the eastern Mediterranean.

**Uyghur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang:** Xinjiang officially the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) is the largest region of China. It is home to the Turkic-speaking Muslim Uighur minority, who make up about eight million of its 19 million people.

**Uyghur**: A member of a Turkic people of northwestern China, particularly the Xinjiang region, and adjoining areas.

Note: In this resource guide, you may find sources that spell Uyghur with an "I" (Uighur).

#### **A Note on Articles and Paywalls**

Some of the resources found within this packet require a subscription or other payment in order to be viewed. If you do not have free access to these resources through your home institution, you may be able to access them through the University of Washington's borrowing program for educators. To find out how to utilize this program, please follow the link below:

http://www.lib.washington.edu/services/borrow/card/eligible

#### A Note on Learning Standards Presented in this Packet:

Three sets of standards have been linked to each of the learning objectives in this packet. The **Washington State K- 12 Social Studies Learning Standards** and the accompanying Grade Level Requirements are the social studies standards for WA State.

The College, Career, & Civic Life C<sub>3</sub> Framework for Social Studies State Standards are the standards published by the National Council for the Social Studies. Guiding the packet as a whole is the Framework for Global Learning created by the Asia Society and the Council of Chief State School Officers titled *Educating for Global Competence: Preparing Our Youth to Engage the World* (2011).

Cross-objective standards are listed at the beginning of the packet, and content-specific standards can be found after each learning objective.

The standards provided have been selected for relevance, but are not exclusive: many other standards, such as Common Core, may be applicable to the resources and learning objectives identified in this packet. The intention for this packet's organization is to provide educators with an idea of resources available and possible uses for resources. Users should feel free to create their own learning objectives and to select resources according to the specific needs of their classrooms.

#### WASHINGTON STATE K-12 SOCIAL STUDIES LEARNING STANDARDS

There are five EALRs in Social Studies, one for each of the discipline areas: civics, economics, geography, and history, and a fifth for social studies skills.

#### (1) Social Studies EALR 1: CIVICS

The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.

#### (2) Social Studies EALR 2: ECONOMICS

The student applies understanding of economic concepts and systems to analyze decision-making and the interactions between individuals, households, businesses, governments, and societies.

#### (3) Social Studies EALR 3: GEOGRAPHY

The student uses a spatial perspective to make reasoned decisions by applying the concepts of location, region, and movement and demonstrating knowledge of how geographic features and human cultures impact environments.

#### (4) Social Studies EALR 4: HISTORY

The student understands and applies knowledge of historical thinking, chronology, eras, turning points, major ideas, individuals, and themes on local, Washington State, tribal, United States, and world history in order to evaluate how history shapes the present and future.

#### (5) Social Studies EALR 5: SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS

The student understands and applies reasoning skills to conduct research, deliberate, and form and evaluate positions through the processes of reading, writing, and communicating.

#### COLLEGE, CAREER, & CIVIC LIFE C3 FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL STUDIES STATE STANDARDS

The C<sub>3</sub> Framework is organized into the four Dimensions, which support a robust social studies program rooted in inquiry.

The four Dimensions are as follows:

- (1) Developing questions and planning inquiries;
- (2) Applying disciplinary concepts and tools;
- (3) Evaluating sources and using evidence;
- (4) Communicating conclusions and taking informed action

#### C<sub>3</sub> Framework Organization

DIMENSION 1:  DEVELOPING QUES- TIONS AND PLANNING INQUIRIES	DIMENSION 2:  APPLYING DISCIPLI- NARY TOOLS AND CON- CEPTS	DIMENSION 3:  EVALUATING SOURCES  AND USING EVIDENCE	DIMENSION 4:  COMMUNICATING CONCLUSIONS AND TAKING ACTION				
Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries	<ul><li>Civics</li><li>Economics</li><li>Geography</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Gathering and Evaluating Sources</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Communicating and Critiquing Conclu- sions</li> </ul>				
	• History	<ul> <li>Developing Claims and Using Evidence</li> </ul>	Taking Informed Action				

Dimension 2 has four disciplinary subsections: (1) Civics; (2) Economics; (3) Geography; (4) History. Each disciplinary subsection has three to four additional categories, which provide an organizing mechanism for the foundational content and skills within each discipline.

#### Four Categories within Dimension 2

CIVICS	ECONOMICS	GEOGRPAHY	HISTORY
Civic and Political Institutions	Economic Decision Making	Geographic Representa- tions: Special Views of the World	Change, Continuity, and Context
Participation and Deliberation: Applying Civic Virtues and Democratic Principles	Exchange and Markets	Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Religions, and Culture	Perspective
Processes, Rules, and Laws	The National Economy	Human Populations: Spatial Patterns and Movements	Historical Sources and Evidence
	The Global Economy	Global Interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns	Causation and Argumen- tation

#### **EDUCATING FOR GLOBAL COMPETENCE**

Frameworks taken from Educating for Global Competence: Preparing Our Youth to Engage the World (Asia Society and the Council of Chief State School Officers 2011).

"Global competence is the capacity and disposition to understand and act on issues of global significance" (Chapter 2).

Globally competent students are able to perform the following four competences:

- 1. Investigate the world beyond their immediate environment, framing significant problems and conducting well-crafted and age-appropriate research.
- 2. Recognize perspectives, others' and their own, articulating and explaining such perspectives thoughtfully and respectfully.
- 3. Communicate ideas effectively with diverse audiences, bridging geographic, linguistic, ideological, and cultural barriers.
- 4. Take action to improve conditions, viewing themselves as players in the world and participating reflectively.
- · Identify an issue, generate questions, and explain its significance.
- Use variety of languages, sources and media to identify and weigh relevant evidence
- Analyze, integrate, and synthesize evidence to construct coherent responses.
- Develop argument based on compelling evidence and draws defensible conclusions.

#### Investigate the World

Students investigate the world beyond their immediate environment.

#### Recognize Perspectives

Students recognize their own and others' perspectives.

#### Understand the World through Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Study

#### **Take Action**

Students translate their ideas into appropriate actions to improve conditions.

#### **Communicate Ideas**

Students communicate their ideas effectively with diverse audiences.

- · Identify and create opportunities for personal or collaborative action to improve conditions.
- Assess options and plan actions based on evidence and potential for impact.
- Act, personally or collaboratively, in creative and ethical ways to contribute to improvement, and assess impact of actions taken.
- Reflect on capacity to advocate for and contribute to improvement.

- Recognize and express how diverse audiences perceive meaning and how that affects communication.
- Listen to and communicate effectively with diverse people.

· Recognize and express their own

on that perspective.

interactions.

perspectives.

perspective and identify influences

Examine others' perspectives and

Articulate how differential access

resources affects quality of life and

to knowledge, technology, and

identify what influenced them.

Explain the impact of cultural

- Select and use appropriate technology and media to communicate with diverse audiences.
- Reflect on how effective communication affects understanding and collaboration in an interdependent world.

#### 7

## About the Speaker

UW Anthropology Lecturer Darren Byler's Journey of Activism Using scholarship to speak for innocents forced into silence in China



Since 2017, China has interned as many as 1 million Uyghurs, Kazahks, Kyrgyz, and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang, the Uyghur "autonomous region" in northwestern China. Darren Byler, a lecturer in the department of anthropology, has been researching the Uyghur community for the past eight years. Over time, his research has prompted the attention of the Chinese government.

"After I testified in front of the Canadian House of Commons, the Chinese

government might have put me in a different 'category' on their blacklist," Darren Byler said with a smile on his face. "I possibly became an enemy of the state."

These primarily Muslim ethnic minorities are held in reeducation prison camps where they are forced to abandon their native language and religious beliefs, communicate in Mandarin Chinese, and embrace state doctrines and Han cultural values. Hundreds of thousands more, including Uyghur scholars and public figures, have also been arrested and given long prison sentences on vague charges of "separatism, terrorism, and extremism" across what historically was referred to as East Turkistan.

Turkic minority people who are not interned in the camps are subjected to dense networks of surveillance and institutionalized discrimination. Chinese authorities justify these forms of oppression by citing security concerns, particularly forms of extremist Islam which they describe as a "disease" that must be eradicated. The state has sent 1.1 million civil servants to live in Turkic minority homes and evaluate their need for reeducation.

"The effect of all the monitoring is to project absolute authority and to create fear," Byler said. "It becomes normalized. You expect to have your phone checked every day and your ID checked a dozen times a day. You also expect to have relatives taken to these camps. Almost everyone knows someone who's been taken. You don't know if you might be next."

Byler's first fascination with Ürümqi, the capital of Xinjiang, was not due to the political conflict, rather for the artistic life of the city, which for centuries has been a multicultural, multiethnic cross-roads along the ancient Silk Road. He first visited the city as an undergraduate in 2002 and returned several times to study the Uyghur language and conduct fieldwork, including two yearlong trips with his partner in 2011 and 2014.

"These people are being dispossessed," Byler said. "But what I wanted to do with my work is figure out how people live in spite of these conditions. How they find ways to make sense out of their lives, make meaning in their lives." Building trust and conducting research across those ethnic lines is rare, according to Sasha Welland, Byler's dissertation advisor and associate professor of gender, women & sexuality studies.

"I think both Han and Uyghur individuals have trusted him with their stories because he really listens," Welland said. "He is not interested in taking sides or finding heroes but in analyzing how the state and larger structural forces — transnational capitalism, the war against terror, and the spread of Islamophobia — continually incite and take advantage of these fault-lines." In Seattle, Byler has organized Uyghur cultural events, including a music and dance performance that filled an exhibit hall at the Seattle Asian Art Museum in 2016. He has seen fear rise as China targets the families of Uyghurs abroad who speak against the state. In March 2018, Byler hosted Uyghur poet Tahir Hamut for a series of poetry readings in Seattle and only a few Uyghurs came to the event, from the Pacific Northwest's community of hundreds.

"They arrived late and left early, seemingly wary to be seen in public with a public dissident," Byler explained.

The scale and pervasiveness of the surveillance suggest that China is field-testing new techniques in Xinjiang for eventual use elsewhere, domestically or abroad. According to the South China Morning Post, Ecuador, in an attempt to reduce its crime rate, has instituted a network of facial-recognition surveillance cameras in partnership with China.

On his most recent trip, Byler found a stark decline in religious practice. "Once lively neighborhood mosques were empty, their green crescent moons replaced with red Chinese flags," Darren said. "Traditional Muslim greetings were no longer spoken in the streets. The neon glow of police-station lights, some every 500 meters, cast a constant reminder of the state's surveillance." Byler expects his future will continue to include both scholarship and advocacy. For him, the two are deeply connected, just as art and politics connect for anyone seeking to understand both inner life and outer tumult.

**Professor Darren Byler** is a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Asian Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He researches the dispossession of ethno-racial Muslim minorities through forms of surveillance and digital capitalism in China and the global South. His first book project, Terror Capitalism: Uyghur Dispossession and Masculine Violence in a Chinese City, examines emerging forms of media, infrastructure, economics and politics in the Uyghur homeland in Chinese Central Asia. His current project considers how biotechnical surveillance systems can be tied to new forms of control both in China and in sites across the world where these technologies are exported. Prior to joining the University of Colorado he was lecturer in Anthropology at the University of Washington in Seattle. He has published research articles in the Asia-Pacific Journal, Contemporary Islam, Central Asian Survey, and the Journal of Chinese Contemporary Art, and contributed essays to volumes on ethnography of Islam in China, transnational Chinese cinema, and travel and representation. In addition he has provided expert testimony on Uyghur human rights issues before the Canadian House of Commons and writes a regular column on these issues for the website SupChina. His writing has appeared in Logic, Guardian, and ChinaFile. He also edits the art and politics repository The Art of Life in Chinese Central Asia, which is hosted at livingotherwise.com.

Darren writes monthly articles on Xinjiang. His **Xinjiang Column** is published on the first Wednesday of every month here at supchina: <a href="https://supchina.com/tag/xinjiang-column/">https://supchina.com/tag/xinjiang-column/</a>.



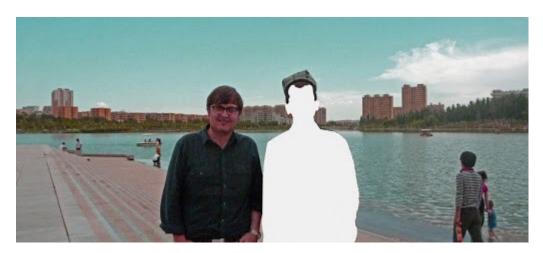
Choose a topic that interests you from his diverse library of articles; some of these include: *His dictionaries taught Chinese to the Uyghur world. Then he was taken away* 5/6/20, 'Heaviness in the stomach': A Uyghur daughter alone in America on her birthday during a pandemic (4/1/20), Sealed doors and 'positive energy': COVID-19 in Xinjiang (3/4/20), The disappearance of Perhat Tursun, one of the Uyghur world's greatest authors (2/5/20), A Xinjiang scholar's close reading of the China Cables (12/4/19), Xinjiang education reform and the eradication of Uyghur-language books (10/2/19), Uyghur love in a time of interethnic marriage (8/7/19), Uyghurs don't need to be saved. Their stories need to be mainstreamed (4/3/19).

Darren is also the founder/author of "Art of Life in Chinese Central Asia." His blog is a "repository of emerging forms of Uyghur, Han and Kazakh art and politics. <a href="https://livingotherwise.com/author/lutbulla/">https://livingotherwise.com/author/lutbulla/</a>



# The Darkness only Deepens: A Decade of Stories of Loss in Xinjiang

https://supchina.com/2020/01/01/a-decade-of-stories-of-loss-in-xinjiang/



I met Ablikim for the first time in late 2014 at a Uyghur house party in a neighborhood in Southern Ürümchi. He was a thin man with a closely-trimmed moustache. He sat hunched over, his shoulders drawn in. We told each other our names, but I wasn't really sure how to place him. Over the course of the evening, he sat in the corner quietly, his eyes darting around the room. It wasn't until much later, when we were walking to our homes side-by-side, that he began to speak. He said he didn't like speaking in groups because he didn't like talking openly with strangers. Like many of the young Uyghurs I interviewed over the course of the past decade, Ablikim had been deeply affected by his encounters with police and Han society.

In the months that followed, Ablikim and I became close friends. We met nearly every day to drink tea, read novels, and talk about his job search and the future of Uyghur society. Slowly, he told me the story of his life. What came up most often was the story of his detention nearly 10 years before. It happened when he was on a public bus traveling from his school, which was in a predominantly Han neighborhood in the northern part of Ürümchi. As they were going through a checkpoint he realized that he was the only Uyghur on the bus. Not only that, but he had a mustache, which marked him not as an urban Uyghur with a high level of Chinese language education, but as a migrant from the countryside. He knew that, in the minds of many Han people he met, he looked like a suicide bomber. The police took one look at him and forced him off the bus. He said, "At that time I didn't even know what I said. I was just so terrified. I didn't know what they would do to me." Ablikim said that he felt completely exposed and vulnerable. After that, he realized that being a Uyghur in the 2010s meant that his body could be taken at any time.

Ablikim's story inspired me to ask other Uyghurs what the past decade has felt like to them. I asked them to think about the memories that most stuck out — the moments that changed their lives. Most of the people I spoke with for this story are now living in unplanned exile outside of China in places around the world. Ablikim is still in Xinjiang.

The Uyghurs and Kazakhs I have spoken with recently told me that the 2010s have been punctuated by moments of extreme fear and loss. In between these moments of trauma, people have tried to recover their sense of security, to protect their family and friends. They have told each other their stories of police brutality, stories of ethnoracism that made them question their humanity. They have tried to remain the authors of their own lives and the lives of their societies. But the 2010s have been a time of historical shifts. As many as 1.8 million Muslims have been "disappeared" into a vast internment camp system, and millions more have been separated from their families by labor and education systems.

Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims have been forced into an experience of what the China historian Gail Hershatter refers to as "campaign time." For Hershatter, these were the times in the recent Chinese past when political violence invaded nearly all aspects of daily life: the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. In the 2010s, Turkic Muslims have entered a similar moment: Reeducation Time. It is a time in which their way of life has been targeted for replacement. As in those earlier moments of intense turmoil, the space they have to recover from violence and ethnoracism has become smaller and smaller. They can feel history happening to them. Their world is out of their control. There is no time for the "post-trauma" of PTSD. Over the course of the decade, all of life has begun to feel like it is disordered by an unending trauma. Back in 2015, Ablikim told me that the traumatic stress of his life stemmed not only from his experience with policing, but also from the apathy and discrimination he received from his Han coworkers who refered to him as the "mustache teacher" (húzi lǎoshī) behind his back. He said that the experience of being harassed and isolated turned him into a "crazy person" (Uy: sarang).

"After I was put in the interrogation room for a couple of hours, it took me years to feel normal again. Actually, I still don't feel normal. That was the whole reason why I started hating that school and my job and why I eventually quit. It is so hard to get over things like that. For the next year I acted like a crazy person. I think I gave all of my coworkers a very bad impression of me. They thought I was some strange guy who was always nervous, always shy, never willing to talk or act in normal ways."

Another Uyghur young man I interviewed, who I'll call Memtimin, told me that he had numerous similar experiences in 2013 and 2014. He said that when he traveled he was refused service at a number of hotels. "Sometimes (they) refused me (when they saw me). Or they told me that they did not have a room available when they saw my birthplace was Xinjiang on my ID." He said these experiences made him feel helpless and angry. The legal system itself had denied him equal civil rights.

But what was even more troubling to him was the way other citizens accepted this. "A couple of times (when he was in the city), Han people greeted me in a very friendly and polite manner in English. They asked me, 'Where are you from?'" Assuming they were speaking to him in English because they thought he was a foreigner, he would answer back in in Mandarin: "I am Uyghur (wǒ shì wéiwú'ěr rén)."

"Without fail, they would roll their eyes and say, 'Oh, a Xinjiang person?!" Memtimin said. "Then they would give me a look of disgust — their lips would be pulled up like they had just seen a rat or a mangy dog."

The institutions Memtimin and Ablikim found outside of the Uyghur-majority areas were oriented around Hanness. As the Pakistani-British social critic Sara Ahmed points out, racialized institutions "take the shape of 'what' resides within them." They make non-majority bodies feel "'out of place,' like strangers." When Ablikim entered these institutions, he felt his body being stopped and searched over and over again both by security guards at the entrance to the institutions and by all of the bureaucrats he encountered. He told me he felt as though every conversation, every encounter was filled with questions: Who are you? What are you doing here?

Underlying and supporting this systemic ethnoracism is the police. Over the past decade, police harassment and discrimination has transformed the lives of millions of Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims. Another story Ablikim told me over and over again was how he and another of his friends, Tursun, were stopped when walking in a market area near the train station. A Han policeman confronted them and asked to check their ID cards.

"I told him, 'Why do you want to check our ID cards? We're not doing anything. Why don't you check some Han people's ID cards?'" Ablikim said. "He immediately made us go with him to the police station. I wasn't scared at all. Tursun was scared. But I wasn't scared at all. I didn't do anything wrong, so why should I be scared of them? If they don't respect me, why should I respect them?"

After threatening them, eventually the police let them go. Every time Ablikim told this story, his voice quivered. Beneath his shyness and his trembling hand he carried a deep anger. Despite his fear, he was still the narrator of his own story.

The anger of Ablikim and other migrants I interviewed was always mingled with the fear of being taken by the police at any moment. Near the beginning of 2017, this fear dramatically intensified when hundreds of thousands of Turkic Muslim parents, sisters, and brothers had contact cut off with their loved ones, and then one by one disappeared. Gulnar, a Kazakh woman who is now stranded in North America, told me that the pivotal moment of the decade for her was when she said goodbye to her parents at the Ürümchi airport near the end of 2016.

"The flight was delayed from Ürümchi to Beijing. Xinjiang was covered with Xi Jinping propaganda. Red banners with the big characters of 'socialist core values' were everywhere. Even my parents, who seldom make political comments, said, 'This looks just like the Cultural Revolution.' They came to see me off at the airport. The flight was delayed, but both of them stayed with me until it was really late. When I had to go, they both cried even though I said I would come back again many times. It was as if they felt that it was going to be our last goodbye or something. I didn't cry because I had a life waiting for me back in North America.

"Actually, this was a narrow escape. I learned later that the situation in Xinjiang worsened suddenly in early 2017. After our farewell, when crossing through Chinese customs, the officer asked what 'ethnicity' (民族 mínzú) I was. I was nervous every time when I went through customs, but I usually pretended to be calm and nonchalant. I said 'Kazakh.' They studied my passport for a long time and even discussed with their supervisor about whether to let me go. Eventually they said I could go, but I remember sitting on the plane feeling like, 'Fuck! What was that all about?' Many times I have reflected on this, after reading all the news about Xinjiang. I feel so scared, thankful, guilty, and mad at the same time.

"Now it's been three years and I haven't seen and been together with my family. They are getting older and older and I have no idea whether I'll see them again. I remember their tearful eyes clearly and I feel horrible for not being a caring daughter who stays close by. Or a capable daughter who could predict the future and get them out of there before things got so bad. What drives me crazy is not knowing whether or not this was our final farewell."

A young Uyghur woman, who asked me to call her Musafir, told me that her deepest points of trauma over the past decade also began in 2017 when Uyghur public figures began to disappear. As an international student, they were her lifeline back to the Uyghur institutions where she felt she had a sense of belonging and purpose. She said: "After that, I realized that the Chinese Communist Party's attitude toward us had fully changed. Any semblance of trust we had before in our rights as citizens was completely broken. Ever since then, I have felt powerless and intimidated. I did not imagine that such injustice was possible. My belief in humanity was shattered."

But state violence did not stop with the replacement of Uyghur institutions; it also began to sever Musafir's ties to her family and friends. She told me: "In the summer of 2018, my closest friends deleted me on WeChat one after another. Then my mom called me. Through her tears, she told me something that broke my heart. Her exact words were, 'If you care about us, please don't call us again.' At that very moment, I was deprived of my basic human right to contact my loved ones."

As the decade draws to a close, Musafir fears that she may never hear from or see her family again. She has been exiled. She said, "This decade has changed my life forever."

As the decade wound to an end in 2019, the fear and trauma that many Turkic Muslims experienced often turned to despair and hopelessness. For Musafir, one of the most moving moments of the year was when she watched a Vice documentary called, "They come for us at night." She said, "It brought tears to my eyes to see my beloved home, the streets I used to walk. But it just broke my heart to see that it had become such an unimaginable police state, full of surveillance. It had been so emptied out, nothing like what I remembered. It has haunted me ever since."

The thing that filled her with the most despair in 2019 was when an elderly Han woman on the train told the reporter Isobel Yeung, "Uyghurs should be the same as Han people, I don't feel sorry for them." Musafir said, "That was the moment that made me realize the majority of the Han Chinese actually believe the government's narrative and are actively contributing to this human rights atrocity. I know it is almost impossible to change the state's discourse without public support, and this means we have neither government support nor public support. The darkness only deepens. It made me feel more desperate about the future of humanity than I have ever felt in my life."

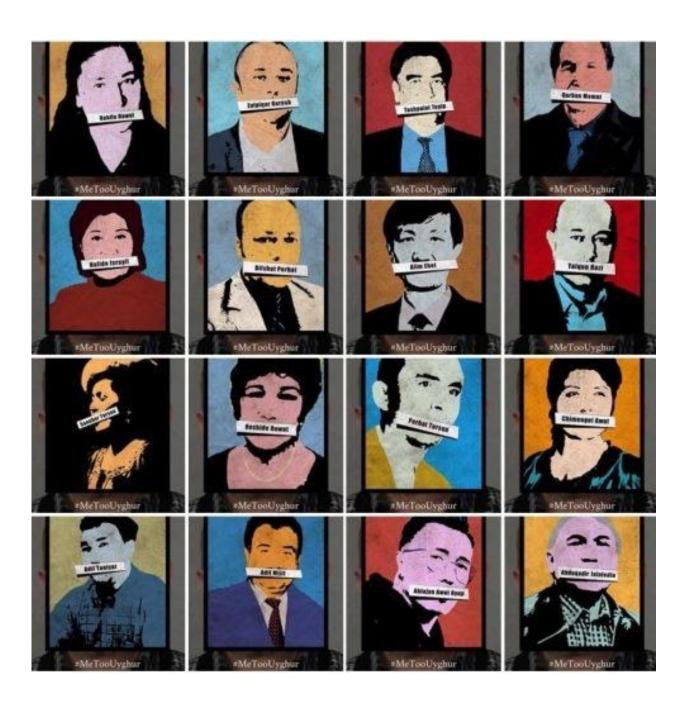
In 2015, Ablikim taught me a Uyghur saying that describes the sort of obligations that friendships with Uyghurs entail: "A friend's friendship is revealed the day tragedy befalls you" (Uy: dostning dostluqi bashqa kün chüshkende biliner). Friendship requires a friend to share in the tragedy of another. This is why friendship can be empowering. It can also mean that violence hurts most when you are not able to protect your friends from it.

On June 29, 2017, I received a final message from Ablikim: "It's been a long time that we did not talk, I am sorry to say I had to delete all foreigners from my WeChat friends list for security reasons." He said he had returned to his village near Kashgar because his parents had arranged for him to marry a woman from his neighborhood. Several months later, Ablikim's friends lost touch with him. They have not heard from him since. He has simply disappeared. They are certain that Ablikim has been taken to one of the newly built reeducation camps. It is likely that he had been deemed a "pre-terrorist" because he had used a VPN to download movies, listen to music, and read unfiltered news.

In 2019, Memtimin received a similar cryptic message from an acquaintance in China. "The message said 'your brother has passed away.' I was like, 'Are you sure that you are talking about my brother? He is only in his 40s.' He replied, 'Yes.'" As he absorbed the news, Memtimin felt lightheaded. "I found myself on the floor in my room because I had passed out. I looked at his photos again and again and I also looked at our last WeChat conversation from June 2017. I could not stop crying. I wish so badly that I could have talked to him one more time before his death."

This decade, Ablikim and my other Turkic Muslim friends have taught me that sharing the pain of others means listening to their stories and finding ways to help them tell their stories. As the anthropologist Michael D. Jackson has argued, storytelling is a way of giving order and consistency to events, whether they are tragedies or triumphs. In personal stories, people become the main characters rather than bit players on the sidelines of social change. It is not just that stories give meaning to human lives in general, but rather, Jackson argues, they change how people "experience the events that have befallen [them] by symbolically restructuring them." In doing this, stories give people a way of overcoming even the bleakest of circumstances and remaining the authors of their own lives. This is why Memtimin, Gulnar, and Musafir are telling their own stories and the stories of those they love, as loudly as they can.

One of Ablikim's favorite songs is "Say Goodbye" by Norah Jones. It is a song about not pretending to still be in love, being honest, and moving on with your life. When I went to Ürümchi for the last time in 2018, I went to our table at the Turkish tea place. The song mix had changed a bit, but it was close enough to bring back the memories of our conversations about that song and evoke the horror of what has happened to him since then. His deepest fear has come true, he is no longer in control of his life. His story has been suspended by Reeducation Time. In order not to be the weird foreigner crying in the corner, I went outside and smoked two Hong He cigarettes, one for him and one for me. For most of the past decade I have thought about the stories Ablikim told me. My friendship with him, more than anything else, is what motivates me to keep telling difficult Xinjiang stories. It is what he would do for me if our positions were reversed. I do not know if Ablikim is alive or dead, but his stories will live on.



# Uyghur Background History



#### **China's Fourth Teaching: Islam**

https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/3483022346418650120

A webinar (recorded May 21) by the Five College Center for East Asian Studies (FCCEAS). It features Jonathan Lipman, Professor Emeritus of History at Mount Holyoke College (In addition to many books and articles, Professor Lipman has previously written Familiar Strangers: A History of Muslims in Northwest China).



#### **Uighur Overview:**

https://www.britannica.com/topic/Uighur

The Uighur are Turkic-speaking people living in interior Asia, in the Uygur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang; a small number live in the Central Asian republics. There were around 10 million Uighurs in China and at least a combined total of 300,000 in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan in the early 21st century. They are mentioned in Chinese records as early as in the 3rd century CE. They first rose to prominence in the 8th century, when they established a kingdom along the Orhon River in what is now north-central Mongolia.



#### A Brief History of the Uighurs:

http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1909416,00.html

Despite an official ideology that recognized them as equal citizens of the communist state, Uighurs have always had an uncomfortable relationship with the authorities in Beijing. The Uighurs have deep roots in the region, descending from the ancient Sogdian traders once observed by Marco Polo. Unlike many of the nomadic tribes of Central Asia, the Uighurs are an urban people whose identity crystallized in the oasis towns of the Silk Road.





http://uyghuramerican.org/about-uyghurs

Uyghurs embraced Islam in A.D. 934 during the Karahanid Kingdom. Kashgar, the capital of the Kingdom, quickly became one of the major learning centers of Islam. Art, the sciences, music and literature flourished as Islamic religious institutions nurtured the pursuit of an advanced culture. In this period, hundreds of world-renowned Uyghur scholars emerged. Thousands of valuable books were written.



#### A Uighurs' History of China

https://www.historytoday.com/archive/behind-times/uighurs%E2%80%99-history-china

The present clampdown in China in regards to the Uighur is the latest move by the state in an ethno-religious and political struggle that has been waged for decades and, in different forms, for centuries. It did not suddenly arise with the coming to power of the Chinese Communist Party in 1949. It is impossible to make sense of the current crisis without an understanding of the historical background. This is well documented and the present generation of Uighurs, many of whom are the descendants of previous activists, are profoundly conscious of the distinctive trajectory of Uighur history, a history that is intertwined with, though not completely subsumed in, the history of the regional great power, China. Unfortunately, the intensification of repression shows no sign of ending.



# Uyghur Background History Between China and the Uyghurs



#### Why is There Tension Between China and the Uighurs?

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-26414014

While the Uighur situation is complex, many say that ethnic tensions caused by economic and cultural factors are the root cause of the recent violence. Development in the area where many Uighurs reside has brought new residents. In the 2000 census, Han Chinese made up 40% of the population, as well as large numbers of troops stationed in the region and unknown numbers of unregistered migrants. Major development projects have brought prosperity to Xinjiang's big cities, attracting young and technically qualified Han Chinese from eastern provinces. The Han Chinese are said to be given the best jobs and the majority do well economically, something that has fueled resentment among Uighurs. Things really escalated in 2009, with large-scale ethnic rioting in the regional capital, Urumqi. Some 200 people were killed in the unrest, most of them were Han Chinese, according to officials.

#### Separatism: Sino-Muslim Conflict in Xinjiang

https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14781159408412784?journalCode=cpar19
The strategic importance of Xinjiang throughout history is examined and it provides a deeper analysis into Beijing's response.



#### The Xinjiang Conflict: Uyghur Identity, Language Policy, and Political Discourse

https://www.eastwestcenter.org/system/tdf/private/PS015.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=32051 Language is at the heart of ethnic identity and therefore needs to be critically addressed when looking at ethnic conflict.



## Whose Xinjiang? The Transition in Chinese Intellectuals Imagination of the "New Dominion" During the Qing Dynasty

http://www.harvard-yenching.org/sites/harvard-yenching.org/files/featurefiles/Jia% 20Jianfei Whose%20Xinjiang.pdf

This study looks at the change of place Xinjiang has taken in the minds of Han Chinese intellectuals. This is a result of historical incidences which reflects the continual influence of a traditional "Han-centered idea" or "China proper-centered idea".



#### **Examining Xinjiang: Past, Present, and Future**

https://www.brookings.edu/events/examining-xinjiang-past-present-and-future/

Past event (1:33:57 video) - This video examines the region of Xinjiang, past, present, and future. It provides an interesting overview that can be used in the classroom for a brief introduction.



#### Who are the Uyghurs of East Turkestan?

https://www.iuhrdf.org/uyghurs

Uighurs were the earliest ethnic group to permanently settle in East Turkestan. In A.D. 934, during the Karahanid Kingdom, Islam spread among the Uighurs and the capital of the kingdom, Kashgar, quickly became one of the major learning centers of Islam. Islamic institutions contributed to the rise in arts, sciences, music, literature, and scholarly works to be written. Although Sunni Islam is the predominant religion, folk religious beliefs and customs have been incorporated into their practices. These practices stem from Buddhism, Manichaeism, Shamanism and Tengrism.

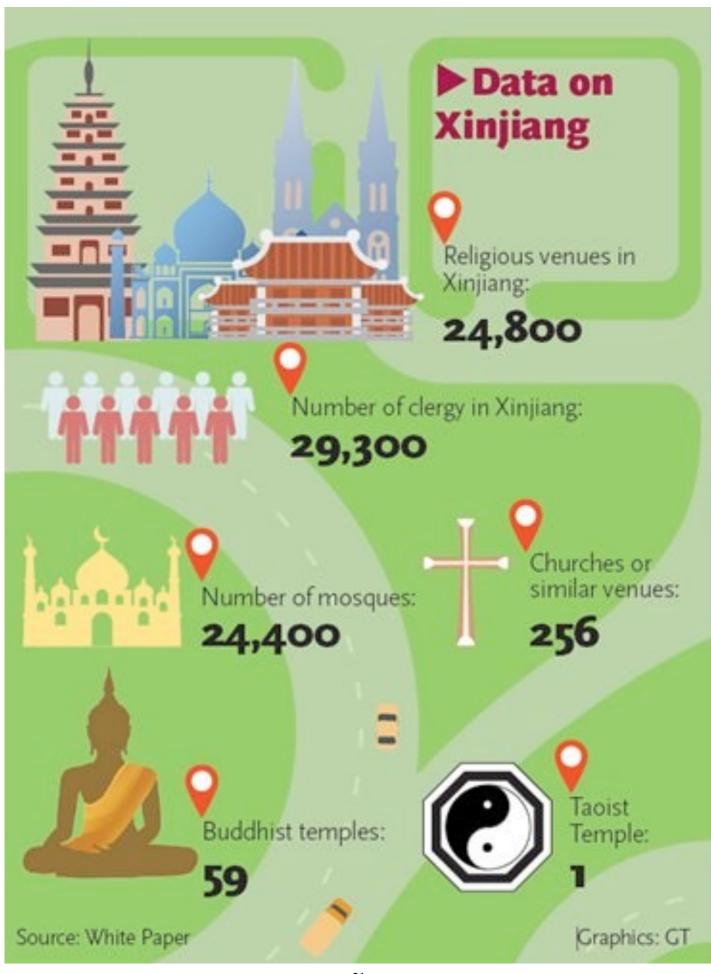


#### The Uighurs and China's Long History of Trouble with Islam

https://www.nybooks.com/daily/2018/11/23/the-uighurs-and-chinas-long-history-of-trouble-with-islam/

The Forbidden City, the gargantuan palace in the middle of Beijing where China's emperors ruled the land for nearly five hundred years, holds more than 65 temples to all of the empires greatest religions. All, except Islam. The monolithic view that arguably lies at the heart of Islam conflicted with Chinese syncretism. Islam's 1300 year presence in China saw problems rise by the next dynasty ruled by Kublai Khan, the Yuan's greatest emperor who sought to weaken Muslim power. The Qing's empire harnessed superior technology colonizing new lands and controlling Muslim territories. The name Xinjiang means "new territories." Many discriminatory policies were implemented such as the declaration of any group of three or more Muslims who carried a weapon as criminals. Muslims were driven into fighting with Muslim rebels which caused a spiral with the state reacting with greater violence. Today, prejudicial policies are taken to reduce Islam's visibility in China such as by tearing down Mosques, shops being forced to sell alcohol, and university students being forced not to fast during Ramadan.





## Uyghur Background Religion



#### **Uighur - Religion and Expressive Culture**

https://www.everyculture.com/Russia-Eurasia-China/Uighur-Religion-and-Expressive-Culture.html

Several religions including Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Nestorianism, and Manichaeism influenced the Uighur Kingdom. By the tenth century, however, following the expansion of the Arab Empire, Islam made inroads into eastern Central Asia, and by the fifteenth century, Islam superseded other belief systems or gained a stronghold throughout Central Asia.



#### Muslims in China and their Relations with the State

https://studies.aljazeera.net/en/reports/2015/08/2015826102831723836.html

This report analyzes Hui and Uyghur responses to assimilation policies in China. The authors claim that Hui express a greater level of assimilation to the majority Han in language and culture. By contrast, Uyghur are said to be more resistant to assimilation to the Han and submission of their Islamic identity to China's state nationalism. Note: it would be interesting to see what your students think and perhaps compare to other assimilation policies in other contexts.



#### The Land of the Pure and True - Muslims in China Feature

https://www.emel.com/article?id=77&a id=2139

Islam in China is almost as old as the revelation of Islam to the Prophet Muhammad. 10 of the 56 ethnic groups in China today are Muslim. Chinese Muslims created their own forms of cultural expressions as seen by Chinese Mosques that are built in traditional Chinese style with inspired Islamic influence on the inside. Islam was translated as Qing Zhen Jiao, "The religion of the Pure and the Real." Belief in Islam did not mean rejection of Chinese tradition as the two were not held in binary opposition.



Major Uyghur Mosques and Shrines Destroyed Since 2016 https://www.rfa.org/english/multimedia/mosques-destroyed-infographic-05152019155228.html

# Uyghur Background <u>Culture</u>



#### **Uyghur Cuisine**

http://www.xinjiangtravel.com/uyghur-cuisine/

This article discusses the variety of food items that form an integral part of the Uyghur culture.



#### **Uyghur Festivals**

http://www.asiaculturaltravel.co.uk/the-festivals-of-the-uyghur-ethnic-minority/

This site discusses the two major religious celebrations celebrated by the Uyghur people that belong to the Islamic faith: Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.



#### **Uyghur Dress**

http://www.asiaculturaltravel.co.uk/traditional-dress-of-uyghur-minority/

This article describes the vibrant clothing style of the Uyghur community. Inspired by their history with trade along the Silk Road and their devotion to the Islamic faith, the chapan and the doppa are two pieces of clothing that have become symbolic of the Uyghur minority.



#### **Uyghur Muqam**

https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/uyghur-muqam-of-xinjiang-00109

This resource highlights the historic folk music practice, called Muqam, that involves singing poems using a variety of instruments. These vary in style bearing witness to the history and contemporary life of the Uyghurs.



#### **Uyghur Language**

https://omniglot.com/writing/uyghur.htm

Uighur is a Turkic Language where it is mainly spoken in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. There are also communities of Uyghur speakers in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. In the 10th century, the Persio-Arabic dialect was introduced to Uyghurs which has expanded versions that are still used today.







#### **Uyghur Literature**

https://akademiye.org/en/?p=323

This page overviews the history of literature within Uyghur culture and its base in oral material.



## The Origins of Uyghur Medicine: Debates and Perspectives

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2095754816000351

This study asserts that Uyghurs had knowledge of Greek humoral medicine due to their extensive contact with Greco-Roman civilization beginning in the 4th century BCE. The argument is that "Greco-Roman", "Arab-Persian" and "Uyghur" medicines are all of essentially the same system under holistic humoral medicine and that "Traditional European Medicine" has been substantially preserved by the Uyghurs.



## Continuity of Musical Tradition: Performance of Islamic Stories among the Uyghur

http://www.soundislamchina.org/?p=778

With the spread of Islam among Uy-

ghurs came the transmission of stories which are a continuity of tradition. Recitation of the Qur'an, Sufi gatherings, women's hikmet, and story-telling are among rituals often performed at large religious gatherings.



#### **Translation of Uyghur Names Into Mandarin Under Communist China**

https://www.iuhrdf.org/content/translation-uyghur-names-mandarin-under-communist-china "Minority language policies" are limiting the survival of Uyghur language as "bilingual education" policies that unofficially abandoned Uyghur language instruction in Uyghur education. This extends to an appropriation of space where Uyghur geographical place names are being banned in certain areas.

### Silk Road

Oasis settlements such as Kashgar, Turpan, Hami, and Hotan – all located in present-day Xinjiang – were important centers for the transmission/exchange of religions, goods, cultures, music and languages along the ancient Silk Road. Included here are a few Silk Road teaching resources.



#### **Traveling the Silk Road: Ancient Pathway to the Modern World (2009)**

https://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/traveling-the-silk-road/promos/for- educators

This American Museum of Natural History curriculum guide includes the following activities for Fables (grades 3–5); Geography & Trade (grades 6–8); Technology (grades 9–12).



#### **SPICE Silk Road Interactive Activities**

http://web.stanford.edu/group/spice/SilkRoad/SilkRoad.html

Explore SR maps, SR Timelines, Art and Architecture, Music Game (win by buying enough food to survive the trek)



#### **SPICE Silk Road Jeopardy Game**

http://virtuallabs.stanford.edu/silkroad/index.html

Fun classroom activity!



#### **Teaching with Silk Road Fables (Elementary)**

https://www.amnh.org/explore/ology/anthropology/silk-road-fables2

Hundreds of years ago merchants, missionaries and other travelers made their way between the cities of Asia. Along the way, at inns and oases, they told stories. Many are fables – stories with a lesson about the consequences of good and foolish behavior. Watch the animations of the three fables from the exhibition online.



#### Annenberg Learner – Invitation to World Literature: Journey to the West

http://www.learner.org/courses/worldlit/journey-to-the-west/

The real, historical monk Hsuan Tsang actually walked on foot from China to India, and then throughout the Indian subcontinent. The distance, scholars believe, is like walking from Maine to California, and along this journey you'd have to cross an enormous desert and the Himala-yan Mountains, home to Mt. Everest (and much taller than the Rocky Mountains).





## Asia Society: Silk Road Connects the World – Download three units from the 2015 Asia Society Seminar

https://asiasociety.org/china-learning-initiatives/silk-road-connects-world

Elementary: The Silk Road Connects the Continents of the Old World

Students will be able to identify the continents and ascertain and discuss the importance of the silk road, especially for Asia and Europe. They will have knowledge of how goods were exchanged along the Silk Road and the way it was transported.

Middle School: Silk Road: A Gallery Walk

Students will research the role of Rome, the Middle East, India and China in the movement of people, goods and ideas along the Silk Road; Students will present their research in an in-class marketplace with student merchants presenting information and selling goods to student customers.

High School: Promotion: Ancient Silk Road to today's modern marketplace This unit's intention is to utilize the expertise of three disciplines (Marketing, Chinese Language, and International Marketing.



#### **Travelers on the Silk Road**

http://silkroadfoundation.org/artl/srtravelmain.shtml

This is an on-going project to compile an annotated list of all the important travelers on the Silk Road. The travels are arranged in chronological order. Each entry will include a brief description, highlighting where the person went and why the journey and its records are important.



#### **Recommended Articles from Education about Asia**

Important note: If these PDFs fail to open go to the Education about Asia archive site here and type in title: <a href="http://aas2.asian-studies.org/EAA/TOC/index.asp">http://aas2.asian-studies.org/EAA/TOC/index.asp</a>



#### **Teaching about Asia Through Travelers' Tales (Winter 2006)**

http://aas2.asian-studies.org/EAA/EAA-Archives/11/3/676.pdf

The Travel Records of Chinese Pilgrims Faxian, Xuanzang, and Yijing: Sources for cross-cultural encounters between ancient China and ancient India.



#### The Silk Roads: An Educational Resource (Spring 1999)

http://aas2.asian-studies.org/EAA/EAA-Archives/4/1/227.pdf

Morris Rossabi: Major themes of cultural borrowing, interactions of civilizations, and the development of new economic institutions and technologies to facilitate commerce, together with the sheer excitement of travel and adventure, can be conveyed through historical descriptions of the Silk Roads. East and West Asian civilizations that have often received short shrift in



## Lesson Plan: Buddhist Art Styles and Cultural Exchange Along the Silk Road (Spring 2004)

http://aas2.asian-studies.org/EAA/EAA-Archives/9/1/553.pdf
This 6-page article is adapted from curriculum material to be published in From Silk to Oil: Cross-Cultural Connections Along the Silk Road, The 4 student activities described in this article are aimed at bringing the visual arts into the high school global studies classroom.



## Online Music Resources for Teaching Silk Road History and Geography (Spring, 2007)

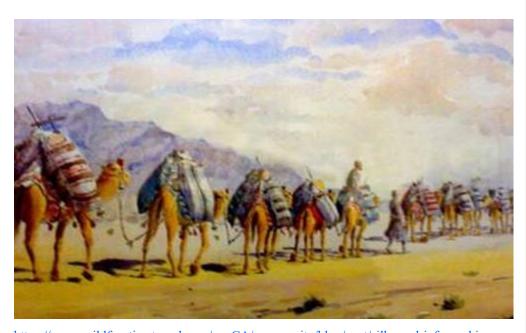
http://aas2.asian-studies.org/EAA/EAA-Archives/12/1/716.pdf

Music can capture students' imagination and turn a lesson on Silk Road geography and history into a fascinating exploration. Both the ECAI Silk Road Atlas and the Orchid Ensemble's online concerts are free resources that can be adapted for different grade levels and work extremely well with units about long-distance trade and cross-cultural interactions.



#### Your Silk Road Library (recommended books)

The Silk Road: A Very Short Introduction (James A. Millward) Life Along the Silk Road (Susan Whitefield) Along the Silk Road (Stanford SPICE Curriculum) The Silk Roads: A Brief History with Documents (Valerie Hansen)



https://www.wildfrontierstravel.com/en\_CA/community/blog/post/silk-road-infographichttps://menafn.com/1099547324/How-Ancient-Silk-Road-Contributed-to-the-Ancient-Civilizations





By Carissa Lopez



#### The Silk Road

The Silk Road was an ancient trade route. It originated in Chang'an in the east, and ended at the Mediterranean in the west. People carried different goods and concepts along the Silk Road.



### **Main Purpose**

The Silk Road was made during the Han Dynasty. The Silk Road was made for political contact with different Kingdoms in Asia. Ever since then it became a trading route.



### Trading

The Chinese traded silk, tea, salt, sugar, porcelain, and spices. A lot of what they traded was expensive goods. They also imported goods like cotton, ivory, wool, gold, and silver.



#### Merchants

For about two thousand years merchants traveled along the Silk Road. They traveled from China to the West Their best known merchandise was Silk.



### Importance

Since silk was the major trade product which traveled on this road it became known as the Silk Road by Ferdinand von Richthofen in 1877. He was a famous German geographer.



### Length

The length of the Silk Road is 4,350 miles with 2,485 miles in China. It became active in the 2nd century BC and it ended in the 1st century AD,





#### Ideas

They made technological advancements through the Silk Road. Different types of inventions were made like paper, and the water wheel, and theories of astronomy. Buddhism moved into India through Central Asia to Tibet, China and Japan.



#### Growth

As the Silk Road grew larger in trading, Chinese weavers made different types of silk designs that appealed to other cultures. Chinese weavers started to make scenes of saddled horsemen and the roundel animal symbol on the silks that they designed.



#### Deadly

A lot of different types of diseases spread throughout the Silk Road. One of the diseases was the bubonic plague that caused widespread death.



#### Religion

The Silk Road also exchanged culture. For example, Buddhism spread through the Silk Road. Buddhist monks went through the Silk Road preaching the new religion.

#### Citations:

Mark, Joshua J. "Silk Road." Ancient History Encyclopedia. Tsohost, 28 Mar. 2014. Web. 14 Mar. 2017. The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. "Silk Road." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., 17 Jan. 2017. Web. 14 Mar. 2017.

## Chronology of Travelers Along the Silk Road

- **136–125, 119–115 BCE. Zhang Qian**, emissary sent by Han Dynasty Emperor Wu Di to the "Western Regions," who supplied important commercial and political intelligence.
- **629–645 CE. Xuanzang (Hsuan-tsang)**, Chinese Buddhist monk who traveled through Inner Asia to India, studied there, and once back in the Chinese capital Chang'an (Xian) was an important translator of Buddhist texts.
- **821. Tamim ibn Bahr**, Arab emissary, who visited the impressive capital city of the Uighurs in the Orkhon River valley in Mongolia.
- **1253–1255. William of Rubruck** (Ruysbroeck), Franciscan missionary who traveled all the way to the Mongol Empire capital of Karakorum and wrote a remarkably detailed account about what he saw.
- **1271–1295.** Marco Polo, Venetian who accompanied his father and uncle back to China and the court of Yuan Emperor Kublai Khan. Marco entered his service; after returning to Europe dictated a romanticized version of his travels while in a Genoese prison. Despite its many inaccuracies, his account is the best known and arguably most influential of the early European narratives about Asia.
- **1325–1354.** Abu Abd Allah Muhammad Ibn Battuta, Moroccan whose travels even eclipsed Marco Polo's in their extent, as he roamed far and wide between West Africa and China, and once home dictated an often remarkably detailed description of what he saw.
- **1403–1406.** Ruy González de Clavijo, Spanish ambassador to Timur (Tamerlane), who carefully described his route through northern Iran and the flourishing capital city of Samarkand.
- **1413–1415**, **1421–1422**, **1431–1433**. **Ma Huan**, Muslim interpreter who accompanied the famous Ming admiral Zheng He (Cheng Ho) on his fourth, sixth, and seventh expeditions to the Indian Ocean and described the geography and commercial emporia along the way.
- **1664–1667, 1671–1677. John Chardin**, a French Huguenot jeweler who spent significant time in the Caucasus, Persia, and India and wrote one of the major European accounts of Safavid Persia. From Dan Waugh's The Silk Road in History

## <u>Uyghurs Today</u> Chinese Government Policies



## 'Absolutely No Mercy': Leaked Files Expose How China Organized Mass Detention of Muslims

https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/16/world/asia/china-xinjiang documents.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage

The Chinese leadership distributed a classified directive advising local officials on how to handle returning students' anguished questions about their parents' disappearance. This directive was among the 403 pages of internal documents leaked by the Communist Regime.



#### The Uyghur Question in Contemporary China

https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/09700161003659129

There are policies the Chinese state has taken towards the Uighur Muslim community in Xinjiang since the Cultural Revolution. The extent to how these have changed with time is examined.



## Sino-Pakistan Relations and Xinjiang's Uighurs: Politics, Trade, and Islam along the Karakoram Highway

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/242550239 Sino Pakistan Relations and Xinjiang%

27s Uighurs Politics Trade and Islam along the Karakoram Highway

Politics in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region and trade and movement along the Karakoram Highway linking Xinjiang with Pakistan have affected the rela-tionships among Beijing, Islamabad, the Uighurs, and the Pakistani traders operating in Xinjiang.



#### 'Once Their Mental State Is Healthy, They Will Be Able to Live Happily in Society'

https://www.chinafile.com/reporting-opinion/viewpoint/once-their-mental-state-healthy-they-will-be-able-live-happily-society

The Chinese government has categorized the Uighur identity as being a mental illness. Along these lines, they have also adapted and expanded the term "targeted population" in the context of "re-education," which conveniently places violent crimes, religious practices, addiction, political activism, and mental illness in the same socio-political and criminal category, virtually quarantining thousands of Uighurs as potential malignant tumors.



#### How TikTok Opened a Window into China's Police State

https://www.codastory.com/authoritarian-tech/tiktok-uyghur-china/

This article overviews how Uyghurs are gaming TikTok's algorithm to find a loophole in Xinjiangs information lockdown.





 $\underline{https://www.icij.org/investigations/china-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-one-for-using-a-mobile-app/linear-cables/how-china-targets-uighurs-one-by-on$ 

# Uyghurs Today Detention Centers and Forced Labor

Human rights organizations, UN officials, and many foreign governments are urging China to stop the crackdown on Uyghur communities. However, Chinese officials maintain that what they call vocational training centers, do not infringe on Uyghurs' human rights. They have refused to share information about the detention centers, and prevented journalists and foreign investigators from examining them. Although, internal Chinese government documents leaked in late 2019, have provided important details on how officials launched and maintain the detention camps.



#### **Xinjiang Documentation Project**

https://xinjiang.sppga.ubc.ca/

The Xinjiang Documentation Project is a multi-disciplinary research project based at the Institute of Asian Research at UBC. The Project collects, preserves, assesses and makes available documentary information on the extrajudicial detention of Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other ethnonational minorities in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and Northwestern China. The scope and priorities of the Project are: making the key documents available, assessing their reliability, presenting the material for the general public, and giving a platform to share the lived experiences, providing regular updates on the ongoing development in the region, and organizing periodic speaker series.



#### China's Repression of Uighurs in Xinjiang

https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-repression-uighurs-xinjiang?gclid=EAlalQobChMImsfcksbZ6QIVIR-tBh1mjAqIEAAYASAAEgLZTvD\_BwE

Some 800,000 to 2 million Uighurs and other Muslims, including ethnic Kazakhs and Uzbeks, have been detained since April 2017, according to experts and government officials. Most people in the camps have never been charged with crimes and have no legal avenues to challenge their detention. Researchers from the Center for Strategic and International Studies say forced labor is an important element of the government's plan for Xinjiang's economic development, which includes making it a hub of textile and apparel manufacturing.

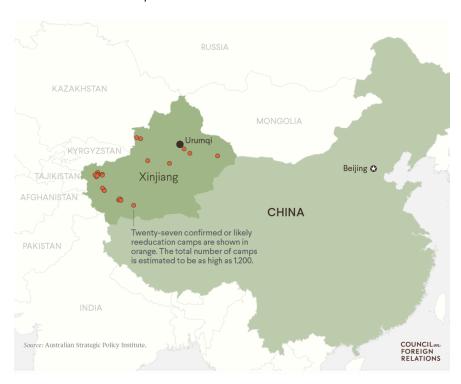


#### Global Brands Wary Amid Reports of Forced Labor in China's Xinjiang

https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/global-brands-wary-amid-reports-forced-labor-chinas-xinjiang

Several international companies say they are taking measures to ensure their goods from the Xinjiang region are not produced by coercive employment of the minority. Some companies considered forced labor to be "modern slavery," and were committed to upholding internationally recognized human rights throughout its global supply chains, including in Xinjiang. Chinese officials have called the allegations "simply baseless," arguing their policies in the region are aimed at countering "the three evils of terrorism, extremism and separatism." Also the coerced labor reports were a part of a campaign to distort the country's image. The officials say Xinjiang camps are merely "vocational training centers" set up to "re-educate" the Uighur community members and teach them "new skills."

#### China's Reeducation Camps





A satellite image taken in September shows an internment camp in Xinjiang. The buildings in the upper left corner appear to be of a design commonly used by factories. Terraserver/Digital Globe



#### China Uighurs 'Moved Into Factory Forced Labour' for Foreign Brands

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-51697800

Between 2017 and 2019, The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) estimates that more than 80,000 Uighurs were transferred out of the far western Xinjiang autonomous region to work in factories across China. It said some were sent directly from detention camps. ASPI said the Uighurs were moved through labour transfer schemes operating under a central government policy known as Xinjiang Aid. According to the report, the factories claim to be part of the supply chain for 83 well-known global brands, including Nike, Apple and Dell. It added that there was evidence of local governments and private brokers being "paid a price per head" by the Xinjiang government to organise the assignments, which ASPI describes as "a new phase of the Chinese government's ongoing repression" of Uighurs.



### U.S. Lawmakers Seek to Tighten Ban on Forced-Labor Goods from China's Xinjiang

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-china-xinjiang-labor/u-s-lawmakers-seek-to-tighten-ban-on-forced-labor-goods-from-chinas-xinjiang-idUSKBN20Y2DQ

Leading U.S. lawmakers proposed legislation aimed at preventing goods made from forced labor in China's Xinjiang region from reaching the United States. The legislation would require importers to obtain certification from the U.S. government that goods were not produced using forced labor by minority Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang. The bill also calls for the U.S. President to impose sanctions on "any foreign person who 'knowingly engages'" in forced labor of minority Muslims. It would also require firms to disclose dealings with Xinjiang.



#### **China's Detention Camps for Muslims Turn to Forced Labor**

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/16/world/asia/xinjiang-china-forced-labor-camps-uighurs.htmL

The detention camps aim to transform scattered Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other ethnic minorities — many of them farmers, shopkeepers and tradespeople — into a disciplined, Chinese-speaking industrial workforce, loyal to the Communist Party and factory bosses, according to official plans published online. Independent accounts from inmates who have worked in the factories are rare. The police block attempts to get near the camps and closely monitor foreign journalists who travel to Xinjiang, making it all but impossible to conduct interviews in the region. And most Uyghurs who have fled Xinjiang did so before the factory program grew in recent months.



Where Did the One Million Figure for Detentions in Xinjiang's Camps Come From?

https://www.chinafile.com/reporting-opinion/features/where-did-one-million-figure-detentions-xinjiangs-camps-come

No precise count of the number of people currently detained in camps in Xinjiang has made its way out of China. Because of this, investigators must rely on estimates that use small samples to extrapolate the camps' overall population of inmates. Two key studies, conducted by Adrian Zenz, a social scientist at the European School of Culture & Theology, and from the Washington D.C.-based nonprofit Chinese Human Rights Defenders (CHRD), independently arrived around the one million mark, by using limited data samples to estimate what percentage of the ethnic minority Muslim population is detained.

### **Trustworthiness Assessment Form**

This form is used in some urban locations by Neighborhood Watch Units to determine which Turkic Muslim residents should be investigated and detained.

The form lists as column headers: Address, name, age, followed by categories of potential 10-point deductions.

## 10 causes of potential deductions:

Being between the	,
ages of 15 and 55	

- Being ethnic Uighur
- Unemployment
- Possession of a passport
- Praying daily
- Having studied religion
- Visiting one of 26 banned countries
- Belated return to China
- Has association with foreign country
- Teaching children at home

## Possible scoring results for each person

- **80-100**: Trustworthy
- **50-70:** Normal
- 0-40: Untrustworthy: Results in investigation and potentially in internment

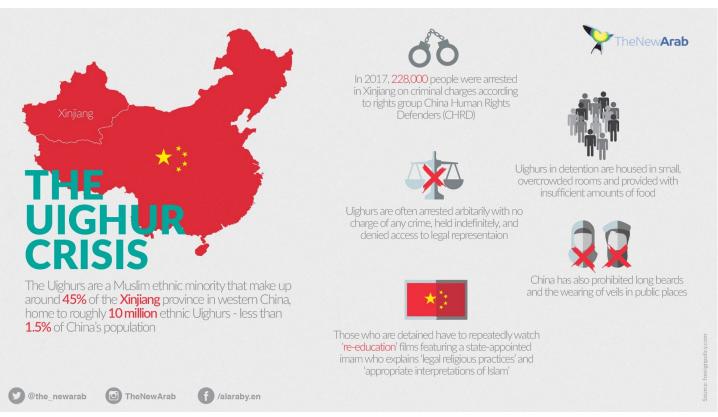
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河北西路社区堂住户民语系打分表

Sources: Ürümchi Hebei West Street Neighborhood Watch Unit, Central Asian Survey, Wall Street Journal Image: Matters News © 2020, Center for Global Policy



FILE PHOTO: Workers walk by the perimeter fence of what is officially known as a vocational skills education centre in Dabancheng in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, China September 4, 2018. REUTERS/Thomas Peter



# Uyghurs Today Re-education



# **List of Re-education Camps**

https://medium.com/@shawnwzhang/list-of-re-education-camps-in-xinjiang-%E6%96%B0% E7%96%86%E5%86%8D%E6%95%99%E8%82%B2%E9%9B%86%E4%B8%AD%E8%90%A5% E5%88%97%E8%A1%A8-99720372419c

Through satellite imagery, lists of re-education camps have been compiled and sorted by city. Photos of the camps are included.



# Xinjiang's Uyghurs Didn't Choose to be Muslim, New Chinese Report Says

https://edition.cnn.com/2019/07/22/asia/china-xinjiang-uyghur-muslim-intl-hnk/index.html In an attempt to justify holding up to 2 million Uighurs against their will, the Chinese State Council Information Office released a 6,800-word document claimed that 'the Uighur conversion to Islam was not a voluntary choice made by the common people, but a result of religious wars and imposition by the ruling class". Beijing defends its position to have re-education camps saying "Xinjiang has taken resolute action to fight terrorism and extremism in accordance with the law."



# The 'Patriotism' of Not Speaking Uyghur

https://supchina.com/2019/01/02/the-patriotism-of-not-speaking-uyghur/

Ethnically Uighur state official wrote that any state employee who spoke Uighur in public "should be classified as a 'two-faced person.' From the perspectives of state authorities, learning the "national language" was important as it aided the fight against religious extremism, allows them to embrace Han cultural traditions, and to "freely pursue a blessedly modern civilized life under the clear sky." In the language of a totalitarian regime, Uighur "patriotism" now requires the active disavowal of the Uighur way of life.



## Xinjiang Education Reform and the Eradication of Uyghur-Language Books

https://supchina.com/2019/10/02/xinjiang-education-reform-and-the-eradication-of-uyghur-language-books/

For the past decade, the education system in Xinjiang has been transformed in another attempt to control Uighur culture. Learning and speaking Chinese full time is forced and essential if Uighur students wish to do well in school and have the opportunity to advance. Fear of being criminalized and/or imprisoned has been a significant motivating factor for this.



# Data Leak Reveals How China 'Brainwashes' Uighurs in Prison Camps

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-50511063

The leaked Chinese government documents include a nine-page memo to those who run the camps. The memo includes orders to: "never allow escapes, Increase discipline and punishment of behavioral violations, "Promote repentance and confession, Make remedial Mandarin studies the top priority, Encourage students to truly transform, and [Ensure] full video surveillance coverage of dormitories and classrooms free of blind spots."

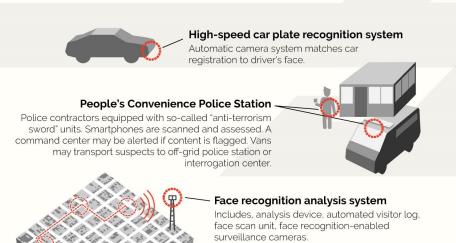
# **Re-education Surveillance System** in Urban Locations

As Turkic Muslims move through face scan checkpoints they have their IDs and phones checked. In some locations, state workers assess Uighurs and Kazakhs using a form that deducts points based on 10 categories. Flagged Muslims are subjected to further investigation. Behavior is analyzed with data collected from banking, social networking and other metrics. Those not initially detained can be detained later.

#### Aspects of surveillance system for Turkic Muslims



human surveillance in homes. Conducts weekly flag-raising ceremonies and political education activities. Makes recommendations for detention.





Tracks people in real-time. Makes human behavior searchable from command center and off-grid police stations in the system.

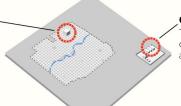
#### Face recognition management entry system

Some systems are equipped with data doors used to match a smartphone SIM card's media access control (MAC) number with persons identification card and face.



#### Police station

A police station has jurisdiction over several grids and watch units and is often associated with an Interrogation Center.



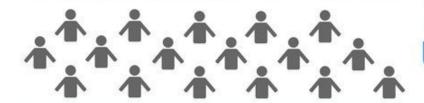
# Camp

The re-education camp is often located at margin of a city.

https://cgpolicv.org/ articles/the-globalimplications-of-reeducationtechnologies-in-© 2020, Center for Global Policy northwest-china/

Sources: Shequ Net, Logic Magazine, Human Rights Watch

# UYGHUR DAILY LIFE IN 'RE-EDUCATION' CAMPS



UPWARDS OF ONE MILLION 'RE-EDUCATION' CAMPS

Detainees Are Not Charged With Any Crime, Have No Access to a Lawyer & Are Held Indefinitely





Uyghurs Wake at 5 AM & Are Permitted to Sleep at 8 PM, but Lights Remain on 24/7

Uyghurs Are Housed In Small, Overcrowded Rooms & Provided Very Little Food





Uyghurs Are Forced to March Inside Cells For Hours Calling Out Chinese Phrases Like 'Train Hard' or 'Study Diligently'

5 The Detained Must Constantly Watch 'Re-Education' Films Explaining 'Legal Religious Practices'





@UyghurCongress \@y



https://menevere.wordpress.com/2018/04/29/uyghur-update-april/



# Behind the Walls: Uyghurs Detail Their Experience in China's Secret 'Re-education' Camps <a href="https://www.rfa.org/english/news/special/uyghur-detention/">https://www.rfa.org/english/news/special/uyghur-detention/</a>

This page gives a platform for people to share their stories of re-educations camps.



# China is Brainwashing Uyghur Children. How much longer will the World Look Away?

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/china-is-brainwashing-uighur-children-how-much-longer-will-the-world-look-away/2019/07/13/3eccef86-a1bf-11e9-bd56-eac6bb02d01d\_story.html

New system of "reeducating" children has been appearing in orphanages in a "centralized" system. The comprehensive effort to create a separate brainwashing and imprisonment system for children deepens the evidence that China is committing a cultural genocide.



# **CGTN Exclusive: Western Propaganda on Xinjiang 'Camps' Rebutted**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wb-MNi8E-TA

China Global Television Network is owned and operated by China and seeks to challenge the narrative of western media through their own propaganda. The man in the video calls detention centers "education centers" and claims disappearances were a result of misinformation.



## **Imagining Re-Engineered Muslims in Northwest China**

https://www.milestonesjournal.net/photo-essays/2017/4/20/imagining-re-engineered-muslims-in-northwest-china

This page overviews the use of mural by the Chinese state in its implementation of the reeducation system.



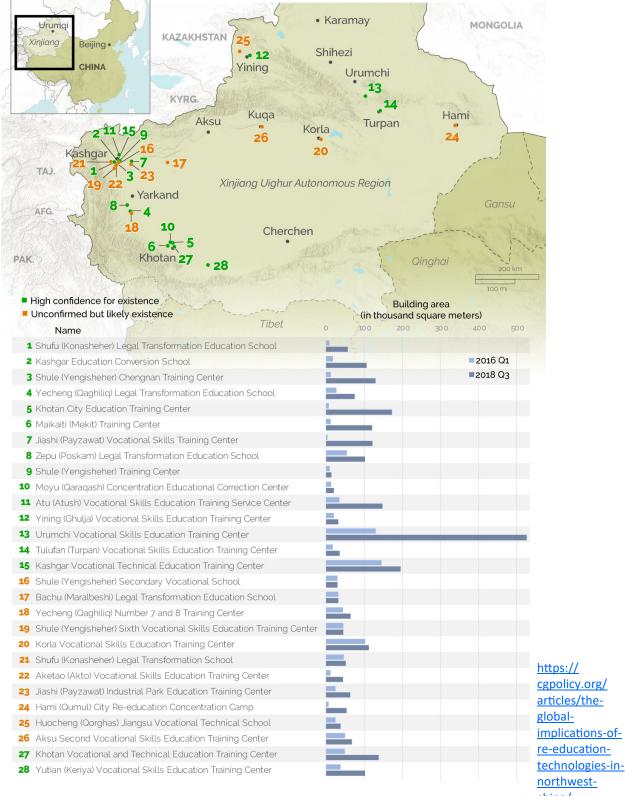
#### Timeline of Re-education System October 2013 - May 2014: The first alleged Uighur-led acts of political violence are reported outside of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR). On Oct. 28, a family of three Uighurs drive a truck into a crowd in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, killing themselves and two civilians and injuring 42. A knife attack in the railway station of Kunming kills 31 civilians and injures over 140. Several more incidents of mass violence occur inside the XUAR. Chinese Premier May 2014 - July 2016: The re-education Xi Jinping promises to initiate a "strike-first" campaign begins when the regional government strategy through a "People's War on Terror." of the XUAR demands that migrants return to their hometowns to obtain a new checkpoint August 2016 - February 2017: Chen Quanguo passcard. This restricts the mobility of the becomes the new Chinese Communist Party majority of the Uighur population, who are not secretary and gives a directive to "round up those able to obtain the passcard. Hundreds of Uighur who need to be rounded up." Islamic speech and civilians are reportedly killed in clashes with Arabic greetings are banned in the XUAR. In police. Several thousand Uighurs are detained select locations spyware apps are forcibly and sent to fortified camps. Islamic clothing and installed on Uighur and Kazakh smartphones, and hairstyles are banned throughout the region. GPS units are installed on cars. Over 90,000 The XUAR government publishes a list of 75 police contractors are hired. Authorities begin signs of Islamic extremism. collecting biometric data such as DNA, voice recordings, and facial scans from the entire ■ March 2017 - July 2017: China begins mass population of the XUAR. Facial recognition evaluations of the Uighur and Kazakh population checkpoints and more than 7,700 "convenience" to determine who is "safe, normal, and unsafe." police stations," or surveillance hubs, are erected Police contractors begin scanning smartphones every 200 meters. using data analytics tools to assess users' digital histories. Over 200,000 people are criminally ■ August 2017: A spokesperson for Chinese prosecuted on charges including terrorism, private security technology company Leon extremism, and disturbing the social order. Technology says close to \$8 billion has been Hundreds of thousands of "unsafe" Muslim invested in technology and information industries civilians are detained without trial in in the XUAR and describes the process of "re-education" camps. clearing the "thick atmosphere" of Kashgar with facial recognition cameras. The spokesperson ■ August 2018: A Human Rights Panel at the says Xinjiang's security technology industry has United Nations says it has credible evidence of "unlimited potential" because China's international as many as 1 million Turkic Muslims being development strategy includes expanding into detained without trial. markets that contain 60 percent of the world's Muslim population. ■ December 2018: The development commission for the XUAR says the camps have become a "carrier" of the economy because they have attracted many factories. Mass transfers of Uighur laborers to factories across the region and country increase. October 2019: The U.S. Department of Commerce bans 28 Chinese government and non-government entities from buying and selling May 2020: The Uighur Human Rights Policy in the U.S. marketplace due to their complicity in Act, which implements sanctions on key leaders the re-education system. Later, the Department and commissions detailed reports from the U.S. adds nine more companies to the list. intelligence community, passes in both houses of the U.S. Congress.

Sources: Associated Press, BBC, China Quarterly, The Economist, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, Leiphone, New York Times, Reuters, SupChina, University of British Columbia Xinjiang Documentation Project, United Nations, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington Post, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region Development and Reform Commission

Photo: Getty Images © 2020, Center for Global Policy

# **Re-education Camps in Uighur Region**

Since 2017, the Chinese authorities have dramatically increased a system of fortified camps to "re-educate" as many as 1 million Turkic Muslims. As of 2018, according to evidence analyzed by the Australia Strategic Policy Institute, there are at least 28 internment facilities in the region. Other reports estimate that there are several hundred such facilities.



# Uyghurs Today Disappearances



'My Soul, Where Are You?': Families of Muslims Missing in China Meet Wall of Silence <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/13/uighur-xinjiang-family-missing-china-kazakhstan">https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/13/uighur-xinjiang-family-missing-china-kazakhstan</a>

The glimpse of Mariam, a 31 year old ethnic Uighur from China's detention, is one of an estimated 1 million Muslim minorities— Uighurs, Kazakhs, Hui, Uzbeks and others— detained in a network of internment camps. Families look for scraps of information about their missing loved ones in China. This paper broadcasts a few of these stories affected by this cultural genocide.



# China's Missing Million: The Search for Disappeared Uyghurs

https://www.newstatesman.com/world/asia/2019/08/chinas-missing-million-search-disappeared-uyghurs

Where assimilation has long been the goal, Muslim Uyghurs seem to be forcibly taken despite their religious attachment. "He never said anything against the government, he was always very loyal", Aiziheer says describing his detained father. Loyalty is not enough however, and greater control is demanded by the Chinese leadership through assimilation.



His Dictionaries Taught Chinese to the Uyghur World. Then He Was Taken Away <a href="https://supchina.com/2020/05/06/his-dictionaries-taught-chinese-to-the-uyghur-world/">https://supchina.com/2020/05/06/his-dictionaries-taught-chinese-to-the-uyghur-world/</a>
The Chinese-Uyghur finance dictionary was immensely valuable for Uyghurs as it offered a way of entering the mainstream Chinese economy, one word at a time. In 2014, an estimated 1,500 active registered, Uyghur-owned companies vanished along with the dictionary. Hüsenjan, a state employee, whose task was to introduce the broader contemporary world to Uyghur society through the Chinese language, was later detained in 2019.



The Disappearance of Perhat Tursun, One Of The Uyghur World's Greatest Authors <a href="https://supchina.com/2020/02/05/disappearance-of-perhat-tursun-uyghur-worlds-greatest-author/">https://supchina.com/2020/02/05/disappearance-of-perhat-tursun-uyghur-worlds-greatest-author/</a> Nearly two years ago, <a href="Perhat Tursun">Perhat Tursun</a>, a renowned Uyghur author, disappeared. The news recently revealed that he was later given a 16 year prison sentence. Growing evidence suggests that many former camp detainees are also being dispersed into the formal prison system. As one Uyghur put it, "People don't recognize how bleak the situation is here now because we don't have dramatic statistics of how many people have died or disappeared."



'The Night Is Thick' Uyghur Poets Respond To The Disappearance Of Their Relatives <a href="https://supchina.com/2019/03/06/uyghur-poets-respond-to-the-disappearance-of-their-relatives/">https://supchina.com/2019/03/06/uyghur-poets-respond-to-the-disappearance-of-their-relatives/</a> There is structural violence taking hold of the Uyghur people. The disappearances of hundreds of poets, musicians, and public intellectuals, and the silencing of Abdurehim Heyit represents a cultural silencing. Many have turned their grief into artforms, such as poetry.







# Her Uighur Parents Were Model Chinese Citizens. It Didn't Matter

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/29/magazine/uyghur-muslims-china.html

A detailed account of one Uyghur's perilous journey with the state to get back her detained parents.



# The Uyghur Woman Standing Up to the Chinese Government

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqHq6NbJpTw

Families speak up about their disappearing family members who believe the Chinese government have rounded them up and forced them into internment camps. "Our children need their father. I will never give up until we can be reunited with my husband."



# Uyghurs Today Interethnic Marriages



# **Uighur Love in a Time of Interethnic Marriage**

https://supchina.com/2019/08/07/uyghur-love-in-a-time-of-interethnic-marriage/

Uighur women are becoming the sexual target of state institutions in their plan to increase marriages between Han men and Uighur women. Coercion is debated, but many accounts reveal the pressure Uighur women face to marry Han men.



# **Chinese Authorities Offer Cash to Promote Interethnic Marriages**

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/02/chinese-authorties-cash-inter-ethnic-marriages-uighur-minority

This article discusses the Chinese government's aims to culturally assimilate Uighur people into the Han Chinese community through interethnic marriages.



# Uyghur-Han Couples Face Pressure from Those Seeking Culture Purity http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/954396.shtml

There are many complications young people face as both the Han and Uyghur communities fight against cultural dilution.



# Bride and Prejudice: Rare Uyghur-Han Marriages Reflect Ethnic Tension in Chinese Society <a href="https://www.scmp.com/article/1811159/bride-and-prejudice-rare-uygur-han-marriages-reflect-ethnic-tension-chinese-society">https://www.scmp.com/article/1811159/bride-and-prejudice-rare-uygur-han-marriages-reflect-ethnic-tension-chinese-society</a>

There is tension in interethnic marriages that stem from inter-ethnic conflict and cultural and religious differences. Some encounter intolerance from their family members due to their choice in partner.



https://supchina.com/2019/08/07/uyghur-love-in-a-time-of-interethnic-

# Uyghurs Today Leaving China



Uighurs Fled Persecution in China. Now Beijing's Harassment Has Followed Them to Australia.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2019/02/07/uighurs-australia/

Intimidation has not stopped for many Uighurs who fled persecution in China to live in foreign soil. In Australia, it has taken the form of WeChat messages or phone calls that often demand sensitive information. Many Uighurs interviewed for this report said they had experienced mental health issues following the detention of their relatives and continuing harassment.



# **China Demands Malaysia Send Back Uyghur Asylum Seekers**

https://www.ucanews.com/news/china-demands-malaysia-send-back-uyghur-asylum-seekers/81614

A group of 11 Uighurs in Malaysia who had escaped a detention center in Thailand are likely to be deported to China following their demands. This expulsion which had similarly happened before in Malaysia would contravene customary international law, which ensures that those in custody are not sent to a place where they would be subjected to major human rights violations.



She Survived a Chinese Internment Camp and Made it to Virginia. Will the U.S. Let Her Stay? <a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2019/11/17/she-survived-chinese-internment-camp-made-it-virginia-will-us-let-her-stay/?arc404=true">https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2019/11/17/she-survived-chinese-internment-camp-made-it-virginia-will-us-let-her-stay/?arc404=true</a>

Zumrat Dawut, her husband, Imran Muhammad, and their three children are of the very few that make it out of the Chinese internment camps. Although they have applied for asylum, uncertainty still hangs and hardships such as awaiting work permits and the ability to travel prevails.



# **Escape From Xinjiang: Muslim Uighurs Speak of China Persecution**

https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/escape-xinjiang-muslim-uighurs-speak-china-persecution-180907125030717.html

Tarim's testimony to escaping the internment camps confirms reports of Uighurs being forcibly held at camps as well as recent UN findings detailing a "mass surveillance" program "disproportionately targeting" the Uighurs and other Muslim minorities. Another account from Belkez shows the horrifying disappearances of family members in Xinjiang.



Muslim Uyghur Survivors Recount Unspeakable Horror in Chinese Internment Camps
<a href="https://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/muslim-uyghur-survivors-recount-unspeakable-horror-in-chinese-internment-camps/">https://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/muslim-uyghur-survivors-recount-unspeakable-horror-in-chinese-internment-camps/</a>

A group of survivors shared their testimonies of torture and barbaric practices at the hands of the Chinese authorities.



# **Uighurs Can't Escape Chinese Repression, Even in Europe**

https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2019/08/china-threatens-uighurs-europe/596347/

Conversations with Uighurs in European countries reveal a systematic effort by China to silence Uighurs overseas with brazen tactics of surveillance, blackmail, and intimidation. Ibrahim and his family who escaped the internment camps paid \$40,000 for a journey through Guangzhou, Malaysia, Thailand, and Turkey, before they could start a new life in Belgium arriving with just \$100 left. Despite their new found freedom, they feared that their advocacy would lead to retribution for their families. In an effort to silence its critics, China has sought out a number of tactics like intimidating Uighur activists and silencing a network of scholars in Europe, who are working with Uighur activists to help tell their story.



# Escaping China: The Perilous Journey of the Uighurs | Channel 4 News https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITv6uH2X6uI

Nearly 300 Uighurs were found sitting in silence on a mountain in Thailand. Human rights groups say they are fleeing from escalating violence from the Chinese government. Thousands of uyghurs use underground routes and secret stopovers to get to Malaysia and in turn attempt to fly to Turkey. A member of the smuggling gang confesses to paying bribes to police officers and immigration to make the escape. Uighurs face the prospect of arrest, imprisonment, and severe persecution if forcibly returned to China.



# Uyghurs Today U.S. Reaction



# **US House Approves Uighur Act Calling for Sanctions on China's Senior Officials**

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/dec/04/us-house-approves-uighur-act-calling-for-sanctions-on-chinas-politburo-xinjiang-muslim

The Uighur Act of 2019 calls on the president to impose sanctions for the first time on a member of China's powerful politburo in condemnation of abuses against Muslims in the northwestern region of Xinjiang.



# House Sends Uyghur Human Rights Bill to Trump's Desk

https://edition.cnn.com/2020/05/27/politics/house-uyghur-bill-passage/index.html

The legislation, titled the Uighur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020, passed with a vote of 413-1. It is currently awaiting President Donald Trump for his signature.



## **US Blacklists Chinese Companies Linked to Uighur Abuses**

https://www.icij.org/investigations/china-cables/us-blacklists-chinese-companies-linked-to-uighur-abuses/

The sanctions included in the listing imposes export license requirements on 33 Chinese firms and universities including eight that are "complicit in human rights violations and abuses committed in China's campaign of repression, mass arbitrary detention, forced labor and high-technology surveillance against Uighurs," according to the US Commerce Department.



# **Big Tech Supporting Blacklisted Surveillance Companies**

https://www.top10vpn.com/research/investigations/big-tech-supporting-blacklisted-surveillance-companies/

As the US government passed a bill that blacklists a number of Chinese companies due to alleged human rights abuses in Xinjiang, an investigation reveals the corporate relationship between US and controversial Chinese companies, some of which play a part in the surveillance of Uyghurs.



# Uyghurs Today International Reactions



# Chinese Actions in Xinjiang Become a Matter of International Dispute

https://www.economist.com/china/2019/07/27/chinese-actions-in-xinjiang-become-a-matter-of-international-dispute

Until the middle of 2018, Chinese diplomats were able to keep down international criticism of the internment camps. Diplomatic opinion has become polarized whereby European countries have spoken against the human rights abuses against Uighurs while Muslim countries have not.



# Muslim Countries' Silence on China's Repression of Uighurs

https://www.france24.com/en/20191127-china-communist-uighurs-xinjiang-muslim-silence-camps-repression

There was a publication of many official documents leaked to The New York Times and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, outlining a systematic policy of mass internment in Xinjiang. In response to the extraordinary revelations about China's program of "re-education" camps for Uighur Muslims, member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation have stayed silent.



More Than 35 Countries Defend China Over Mass Detention of Uighur Muslims in UN Letter <a href="https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/china-mass-detentions-uighur-muslims-un-letter-human-rights-a9003281.html">https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/china-mass-detentions-uighur-muslims-un-letter-human-rights-a9003281.html</a>

More than 35 countries have signed a letter defending China's treatment of Uighur Muslims in the Xinjiang region in response to Western criticism. The states, including prominent members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, such as Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, said China had faced terrorism, separatism, and religious extremism in Xinjiang.



# **U.S. Sanctions Chinese Companies Linked to Uighur Abuses**

https://www.icij.org/investigations/china-cables/us-blacklists-chinese-companies-linked-to-uighur-abuses/

Two United States government bodies have pushed an authorization or imposition of new sanctions against Chinese officials and companies over their role in human rights violations in Xinjiang. If it is signed into law by President Donald Trump it would punish officials responsible for the mass detention of Uighurs and other minorities. The bill approved by the House, the Uighur Human Rights Act, doesn't include language on exports involving the Chinese companies on the so-called Entity List, as originally proposed. But it requires firms and individuals operating in Xinjiang to make sure their activities don't contribute to human rights violations or use forced labor.



# **China Rebuked by 22 Nations Over Xinjiang Repression**

https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/10/world/asia/china-xinjiang-rights.html

A group of 22 countries has issued a statement urging China to stop the mass detention of ethnic Uighurs and other Muslims in Xinjiang. This is the first concerted international challenge to a policy that China has strongly defended at the United Nations.





**Lesson Idea:** Political cartoons are an interesting and effective way to teach about various topics. You could use this particular cartoon to engage students in a discussion of the current challenges facing Uyghurs in Xinjiang. Have students identify elements in the cartoon and discuss in small or large groups what they symbolize. What perspective is the cartoonist trying to convey and how does it help us to better understand what is happening in Xinjiang? You could use this as a warm-up activity and also find other political cartoons on the topic to explore with students. Here is a website from the Library of Congress that is helpful in providing guidance in analyzing cartoons:

http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/activities/political-cartoon/cag.html



# Coronavirus is No Excuse for Companies to Ignore Uighur Exploitation

https://asia.nikkei.com/Opinion/Coronavirus-is-no-excuse-for-companies-to-ignore-Uighur-exploitation

By enlisting sanctioned Chinese suppliers in the fight against COVID-19, American companies run the risk of ignoring human rights abuses and emboldening Beijing. When China entered lockdown due to COVID-19, ethnic minorities were reportedly dispatched to factories as a form of compensation for the decline in productivity during the shutdown. Such workers are ideal in these circumstances, with no rights and no power to challenge the authorities and no accountability mechanisms in place against the employing companies should they grow sick or die.



# **UK Calls For UN Access to Chinese Detention Camps in Xinjiang**

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/25/uk-calls-for-un-access-chinese-detention-camps-xinjiang

The UK has urged China to give the United Nations observers "immediate and unfettered access" to detention camps in Xinjiang. The call from the Foreign Office was in response to the China cables, a leak of classified documents from within the Communist party which appear to provide the first official confirmation that the camps were designed by Beijing as brainwashing internment centers.



# Chinese-Canadians Mount Case Against Chinese Communist Party Tactics, Abuses https://www.tricitynews.com/chinese-canadians-mount-case-against-chinese-communist-

https://www.tricitynews.com/chinese-canadians-mount-case-against-chinese-communist-party-tactics-abuses-1.24134841

Human rights advocates call on Canada to enact legislation to better address foreign influence campaigns. Also, Canadian public opinion of China is at an all-time low. Amnesty International and activists from the Canadian Coalition on Human Rights in China are calling for a review of Canadian laws to address foreign agents and influence campaigns, as it presently relates to the Chinese Communist Party's alleged actions in Canada targeting human rights and prodemocracy advocates.



# Why Aren't More Countries Confronting China Over Xinjiang?

https://www.chinafile.com/reporting-opinion/viewpoint/why-arent-more-countries-confronting-china-over-xinjiang

The relative global silence on the fate of the Uyghurs reflects more than just a reliance on China's generosity. The list of countries to support Beijing's hardline policy in Xinjiang includes states beyond the Asian power's traditional sphere of influence. What draws them together with the others is simpler: authoritarianism. According to Freedom House, each of the countries that in July vouched for China's treatment of Uyghurs rate as "not free" or "partially free," while the 22 countries signed on to the letter criticizing China are all liberal democracies. There are also economic interests factoring into all of this.

# **Uyghurs Today**

# Travel to Xinjiang: How to be a Good "Anthro-traveler?"



# Photo Essay (Patrick Wack, 2019): The Night is Thick\*

https://www.patrick-wack.com/PROJECTS/The-Night-Is-Thick---2019/thumbs

"The Night is Thick" project is an attempt at representing the twofold dystopia that Xinjiang has become where two parallel universes coexist. One aims at showing the weakening pulse of life within in the Uighur community in the face of an ethnocide that tries and hides its name, and the monetized version, a theme park of majestic sand dunes, camels and pretty local girls in flashy dresses. The second totally oblivious to the first. \* The title for this project refers to a verse of the poem Night by Uyghur poet Abdushukur Muhemet. It was written several months after the disappearance of Muhemet's brother. Muhemet explains: "For hundreds of years we have been waiting for the dawn, which is a symbol for liberty and freedom, but the dawn is not here yet." See Darren's essay The Night is Thick: Uyghur Poets Respond To The Disappearance of Their Relatives <a href="https://livingotherwise.com/2019/04/10/night-thick-uyghur-poets-respond-disappearance-relatives/">https://livingotherwise.com/2019/04/10/night-thick-uyghur-poets-respond-disappearance-relatives/</a>

# Photo Essay (Patrick Wack, 2017): Out West

https://livingotherwise.com/2019/04/10/night-thick-uyghur-poets-respond-disappearance-relatives/



Xinjiang...is a place of pluralities of haunting, expansive landscapes, of rough mountains and vivid lakes, of new construction and oil fields, of abandoned structures in decaying towns, of devout faith and calls to prayer, of silence and maligned minorities, of opportunity and uncertain futures. It is a lang of shifting identity. At its core, Out West is a question of perspective: What is the West but the East to another?

# Beyond Guilt Trips: Mindful Travel in an Unequal World

In the book Beyond Guilt Trips: Mindful Travel in an Unequal World, UW faculty Anu Taranath begins at home, unpacking our baggage about who we are, where we come from, and how much we have. She takes us on a journey through engaging personal travel stories and thought-provoking questions, providing us with tools to grapple with our discomfort and navigate differences with accountability and connection.









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# **Curriculum Resources**



# The Uyghurs and Islam in China

https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/slavic/public-outreach/uyghur/index.php

In the West, the Uyghur people are a scarcely known ethnic group. Located in the Xinjiang region of far west China, this primarily Islamic minority is increasingly misunderstood. As geopolitics continue to intertwine and fearfully react to the exploits of extremist terrorist groups such as ISIS, it is crucial that misunderstandings of these little-known people be clarified. This unit attempts to address both the cultural richness and current challenges of the Uyghur people.



# The Targeting of Uyghur Muslims in China

https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events/targeting-uighur-muslimschina

This curriculum covers the Chinese government's policies and actions toward ethnic Muslims in western China through a vast surveillance system and heavy policing. This unit helps students learn more about Uyghurs, Chinese policies, explore personal narratives, and consider the role of the international community. The United Nations, human rights groups, and a bipartisan coalition of U.S. legislators have been alarmed by the operation of internment camps ("re-education camps," according to the Chinese government) in the Xinjiang Province. An estimated 1 million Uyghurs have been detained in the camps, along with other Muslims. In late July 2019, the Chinese government claimed that most Uyghur detainees had been released from the camps, but journalists and researchers have gathered evidence that the camps are still operating.



# Lesson of the Day: '5 Takeaways From the Leaked Files on China's Mass Detention of Muslims'

https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/11/learning/lesson-of-the-day-5-takeaways-from-the-leaked-files-on-chinas-mass-detention-of-muslims.html

Utilize the article "5 Takeaways From the Leaked Files on China's Mass Detention of Muslims" and <u>published leaked documents</u> (November, 2019) released by the NY Times to learn about exposed details of China's mass detention of Muslims in the Xinjiang region. In this lesson, students will learn about the significance of the information in those documents. Then, students will be asked to reflect on the information contained in them and take action in response to the situation in Xinjiang.



# **Exploring Islam in China: New Pathways for Language Instruction**

https://asiasociety.org/china-learning-initiatives/exploring-islam-china

This is a brief article on the Asia Society website that focuses on language in Xinjiang.



# China Undercover (full film) | FRONTLINE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wM1DjkPWtj0

Informative Frontline video: A revealing look at the Chinese government's mass imprisonment of an estimated two million Uyghurs and other Muslims, with undercover footage inside China's secretive Xinjiang region.



# The Silk Road Jona Hall, Marietta Middle School

https://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/u.osu.edu/dist/a/43197/files/2017/02/Hall-China-1fg0evs.pdf

Middle School level lesson plan that would take 2-3 days to complete depending upon class time and student ability. The goal would be to understand the significance of the Silk Road to the economy and ancient civilization.



## **Lesson Plans On China**

https://u.osu.edu/ncta/lesson-plans/lesson-plans-on-china/ A variety of lesson plans on China.



# Geography Lesson Plan: Minorities in China and the Plight of the Uighurs

https://speciety.wixsite.com/speciety/post/geography-lesson-plan-minorities-in-china-and-the-plight-of-the-uighurs

Lesson plan employs an article from Gene A. Bunin and three video reports from the Wall Street Journal, the Atlantic, and BBC. It is used for high school students.



# Inner Asian and Uralic -National Resource Center

https://iaunrc.indiana.edu/resources/lesson-plans/index.html

A resource with lesson plans on the Silk Road for different age groups.

This Indiana University site focuses on ethnic minorities (including the Uighurs) in China. It primarily focuses on three of China's most studied ethnic minorities; Uighurs, Tibetans, and Mongols. The China's Minorities project seeks to provide free, high-quality resources for K-12 educators seeking to incorporate lessons about China's ethnic minorities (shaoshu minzu) into their lessons. It is home to 56 officially recognized ethnic groups, each having distinct cultural practices. There is also a range of academic levels and subject matter.



# China's Vanishing Muslims: Undercover In The Most Dystopian Place In The World

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7AYyUqrMuQ&feature=emb\_title

VICE News' Isobel Yeung posed as a tourist to gain unprecedented access to Xinjiang and captured hidden camera footage in the process. She spoke with members of the Uighur community about their experiences in the camps.



## **Review of Uyghur Language Materials**

http://www.ccapprox.info/uyghurbooks.php

An informal collection of Uighur Language Material from various institutions and publications.



# Re-Education Camps in China: Uighur Minority in Danger | ARTE Documentary

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suMmKxHJ4Ik

A Documentary with English subtitles including footage of interviews with Uighurs.



# Sigal Samuel Answers 8 Key Questions About the Chinese Crackdown on Uighur Muslims

https://www.vox.com/2019/4/30/18523056/china-uighur-muslims-sigal-samuel-ama

Vox reporter Sigal Samuel answers questions about China's campaign against Uighur Muslims. She answers various questions from what goes on in the internment camps to the international community's response to this crisis.  $_{58}$ 

# SOME SOURCES FOR FINDING XINJIANG ARTICLES FROM VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES



### **New York Times**

https://www.nytimes.com/section/world/asia

### The Guardian

https://www.theguardian.com/world/asia



# SupChina

https://supchina.com/tag/xinjiang-column/



### Art of Life in Chinese Central Asia

https://livingotherwise.com/author/lutbulla/

# **China Digital Times**

https://chinadigitaltimes.net/

## **Asia Society: China File**

http://www.chinafile.com/

# **China Daily**

http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/

### **BBC**

http://www.bbc.com/news/world/asia

### **Foreign Policy - Xinjiang**

https://foreignpolicy.com/?s=Xinjiang

#### Made in China Journal

https://madeinchinajournal.com/?s=Xinjiang

#### **Wilson Center**

https://www.wilsoncenter.org/search? page=1&keywords=Xinjiang& limit=10

### **Brookings**

https://www.brookings.edu/search/?s=Xinjiang

#### **USC US-China Institute**

https://china.usc.edu/site-search/Xinjiang

## **RAND**

https://www.rand.org/search.html?query=Xinjiang&sortby=relevance&pub-date=20191211%3A

# **Xinjiang Documentation Project**

https://xinjiang.sppga.ubc.ca/



multi-disciplinary research project based at the Institute of Asian Research at UBC. The Project collects, preserves, assesses and makes available documentary information on the extrajudicial detention of Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other ethno-national minorities in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and Northwestern China. The scope and priorities of the Project are: making the key documents available, assessing their reliability, presenting the material for the general public, and giving a platform to share the lived experiences, providing regular updates on the ongoing development in the region, and organizing periodic speaker series.

# Ways You Can Help

# Stand Up For The Uighur Muslims in China

https://www.change.org/p/stand-up-for-the-uyghur-muslims-in-china-antonioguterres-amnesty-un Sign this petition to use your voice against the human rights violations of the Uighur people.

# China: Respect Uighur Rights Before Hosting 2022 Olympics

https://www.change.org/p/international-olympic-committee-china-close-internment-camps-before-hosting-2022-olympics-uyghurche-%E4%B8%AD%E6%96%87-%E6%97%A5%E6%9C%AC%E8%AA%9E-t%C3%BCrk%C3%A7e-%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A8%D9%89

Sign this petition to urge the International Olympic Committee to take urgent action ahead of the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan to ensure the camps are closed ahead of the Olympics in 2022.

# **Tell China to Stop Targeting Uighurs**

https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/take-action/tell-china-to-close-its-secret-reeducation-camps-for-ethnic-minorities/

Email the Chinese government now and demand that China stop its campaign targeting Uighurs, Kazakhs, and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups inside and outside China.

# **How You Can Help**

# https://www.iuhrdf.org/help

The International Uighur Human Rights and Democracy Foundation has composed email templates to write to local and international officials.

## **Call Congress**

# https://www.saveuighur.org/congress/

A database that will determine your elected representative in Congress and provides a prompt to tell them once connected by phone.

#### What You Can Do

## https://uhrp.org/what-you-can-do

A List of action items developed by the Uighur Human Rights Project.

### **Donate:**

# **Charity Right's Food for Uyghurs**

https://charityright.org.uk/cr-star-campaign/1777/foodpacks-for-uyghur-muslims/

Charity Right is on the ground in Turkey, providing vital food aid to families who have fled torture in China and are now rebuilding their lives in Istanbul. They will be supporting 400 women with children whose husbands are missing or are locked away with nutritious food packs.

# **Campaign for Uyghurs**

https://campaignforuyghurs.org/donation/

The Campaign for Uyghurs is founded to promote human rights and democratic freedoms following the rapid deterioration of the human rights situation for the people of Xinjiang. It represents the collective interest of the Uyghur people both in East Turkestan and abroad

#### Donate to UHRP

https://uhrp.org/support

Financial support to Uyghur Human Rights Project will help to provide emergency humanitarian relief for Uyghur refugees, interview concentration camp survivors and help tell their story to the world, and campaign to end "business as usual" while Uyghurs are suffering crimes against humanity

### **Tax Time Donation - Amnesty International**

https://action.amnesty.org.au/truth

Make a tax time donation before June 30 and help Amnesty International expose the full scale of the Chinese authorities' persecution of Uighur families and bring it to an end.

## **Uighur Muslim Refugee Appeal**

https://uwt.org/emergency-appeals/uighur-muslim-refugee-appeal/

For the fortunate few who have fled the genocide of their homeland, notably to Turkey, Ummah Welfare Trust is beginning a new program to help them start again. You can donate to help Uighur refugees in Turkey with financial and household aid.

# **Uighur Emergency 2020**

https://pennyappeal.org/appeal/uyghur-emergency

Penny Appeal is providing monthly food packages for 500 Uighur families, as well as vital winter clothing to hundreds of Uighur children between the ages of 5-12 years old in Istanbul, and the Kayseri and Eskişehir provinces.