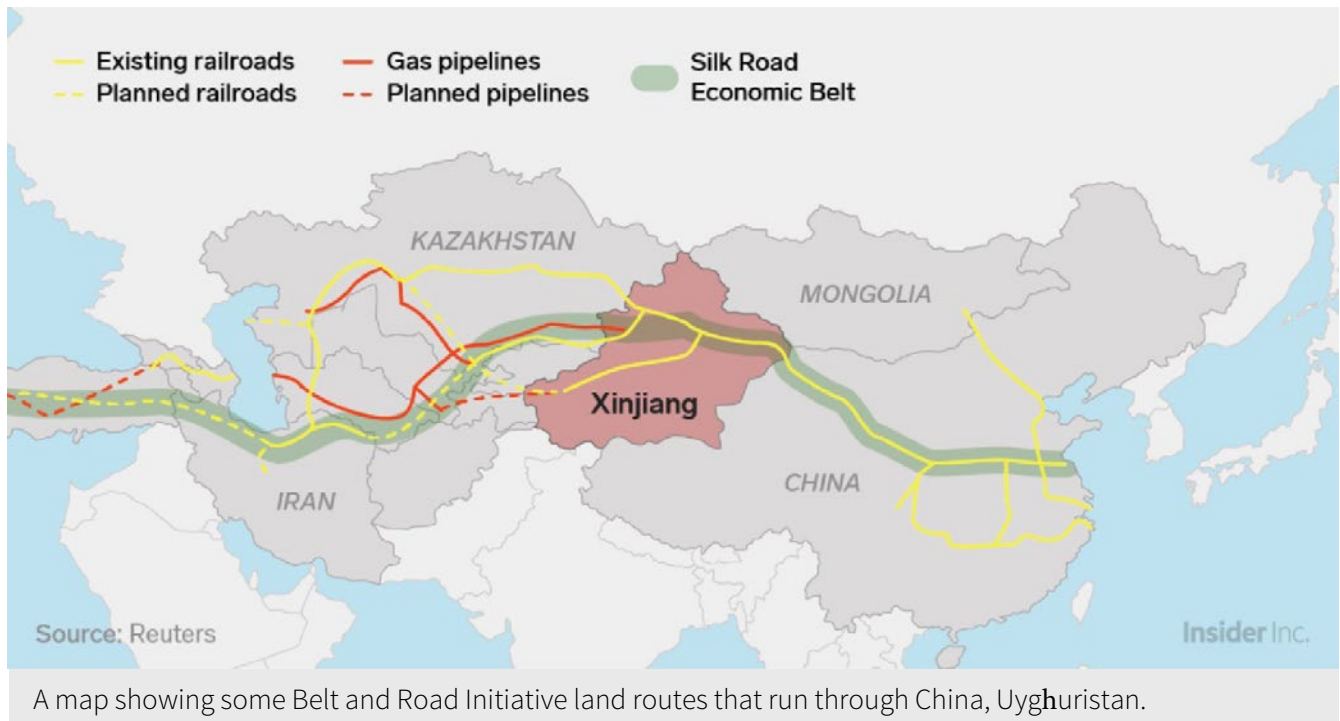


China's Crime Against Uyghurs is a Form of Genocide

By Joseph E. Fallon



ABSTRACT

The importance of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region to China, economically, politically, and strategically, cannot be overstated. Covering 640,000 square miles, Uyghuristan is approximately the size of Iran. Located in the far west, it is Beijing's largest administrative unit encompassing one-sixth of China's territory. Due to an abundance of coal, natural gas, and oil, accounting for roughly a quarter of China's total reserves, Uyghuristan has been described as the country's "national energy strategy base." These energy resources have been indispensable to "growing" the Chinese economy and maintaining the Chinese Communist Party in power. Strategically, Uyghuristan is the vital link for the Chinese economy's increasing need for imported oil from Central Asia and, through the Pakistan pipeline corridor, the Persian Gulf. It is the key to the success of Beijing's ambitious "One Road, One Belt Initiative" to link the economies of Eurasia to China through infrastructure development. The most important strategic value of Uyghuristan, however, resides in its geography. Consisting mostly of mountains and deserts, the sheer vastness of this inhospitable land provides a natural barrier protecting "China Proper", the heavily populated lands in the east of the country lying between the Yellow River in the north and the Xi River in the south, from land invasions.

For these reasons, China will not relinquish control over Uyghuristan, its resources or its people. The people are Uyghurs, a Turkic Muslim nation, who have been seeking their political independence for most of the Twentieth Century. The fall of the last imperial dynasty of China, the Qing, in 1911, was followed by the collapse of the Chinese state. In the ensuing political instability, the Uyghurs declared their independence as the East Turkestan Republic - twice. The first time was in 1933 and endured until suppressed by Nationalist Chinese forces under Chiang Kai-shek in 1934. A second East Turkestan Republic was established in 1944 and lasted until it was overthrown by Communist Chinese forces under Mao Zedong in 1949.

Since the 1990s, Beijing has initiated measures to permanently secure Uyghuristan to China by colonizing the land with Chinese settlers. These policies have succeeded in reducing Uyghurs from a majority to a plurality. The objective appears to be to make Uyghurs a demographic minority in their own homeland. Chinese colonization has provoked riots by Uyghurs, ethnic clashes between Uyghurs and Chinese migrants, and repeated calls by Uyghurs for their right to self-determination. Beijing's response as reflected in its 2014 "strike hard campaign against terrorism, separatism, and religious extremism" has, itself, been extreme. In the words of a UN human rights panel, Uyghuristan now resembles a "massive internment camp that is shrouded in secrecy, a sort of 'no rights zone'...members of the Uighur community and other Muslims were being treated as 'enemies of the state' solely on the basis of their ethno-religious identity." This article will examine these issues and the fundamental question they raise -- are Uyghurs victims of genocide as legally defined by the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide?

Keywords: Uyghuristan, Muslim, colonization, concentration camps, Article 14, Ban Ki-moon, Big Brother, biometrics, blowback, breaking lineage, breaking roots, breaking connections, and breaking origins, Cantonese, Chen Quanguo Chiang Kai-shek, China's Syria, Chinese Civil War, Chinese Communist Party, CIA, colonization, concentration camps, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, cultural cleansing, Cultural Revolution, detention camps, East Turkestan Republic, educational transformation training centers, ethnic conflicts, ethnic minorities, extremism, final solution, five guarantees, forced adoption, forced assimilation, forcible separation of families, genocide, Great Western Development, Han, Hui, Human Rights Watch, intermarriage, internment, Islam, Kashgar, Long March, Mandarin, Mao Zedong, militarization, mind control, Muslim, Naming Rules for Ethnic Minorities, national self-determination, national unity, no rights zone, permanent cure, population transfer, re-education camps, riots, sinicization, South Chinese, Soviet Union, Stalin, strike hard campaign against terrorism, separatism, and religious extremism, surveillance, thought crime, thought police, Tibetans, U.S. Congressional-Executive Commission on China, U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, United Nations Outreach Programme on the Rwanda Genocide, Urumqi, Uyghur, violent separatist groups, Xinjiang, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Regulations on De-radicalization.

In 1934-1935, facing annihilation at the hands of Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese Nationalist forces, Mao Zedong and his Chinese Communist Party fled into the minority populated areas of China for political survival. Termed the "Long March," Chinese Communists trekked 6,000 miles from their besieged base in the southeast to the relative security of the northwest close to the Soviet border. From there, they reorganized and sought "alliances" with Tibetans, Muslims, Mongols, and other ethnic groups in a renewed war against the Nationalists, promising each minority the right to political independence when the Communists assumed power.

Article 14 of the 1931 Constitution of the Communist Party of China had already affirmed "*The Soviet government of China recognizes the right of self-determination of the national minorities in China, their right to complete separation from China, and to the formation of an independent state for each national minority.*"¹

However, after seizing power, the Chinese Communists refused to implement this article. Instead, they aggressively pursued the policies of previous imperial and nationalist governments "to impose ritualistic, linguistic, and political uniformity throughout its border."² The first victims were the Tibetans. Now, it is the Uyghurs of Uyghuristan in northwest China.

The driving force behind this policy is fear. As Professor James Leibold, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia, wrote in "Mind Control in China Has a Very Long History", published in *The New York Times*, November 28, 2018: "It is the regime's fundamental insecurity—the fear of rebellion and eventually China's dismemberment—that drives it deeper and deeper into the private lives

of its citizens, only alienating them. The repression of Uyghurs in Uyghuristan is just the extreme manifestation of the C.C.P.'s virulent—and unsustainable—pursuit of total control."³

To Beijing, the escalation of ethnic clashes in Uyghuristan between Chinese and the local Uyghurs, a Muslim, Turkic people numbering approximately 11 million, confirmed the Uyghurs pose a threat to Chinese "national unity." These clashes, which began in the late 1990s, reached a peak in 2009 with riots in Urumqi, the capital of Uyghuristan, that resulted in 200 deaths. Conflicts continued on a smaller scale in 2012, 2013, and 2014.

The reason for Uyghur unrest is Beijing's "Great Western Development" campaign in Uyghuristan. Uyghurs have seen their land colonized by Chinese. The Uyghur percentage of the population has dropped from 82 percent in 1949 to 46 percent in 2010. Uyghurs have been reduced from the majority to a plurality, facing the prospect of becoming a demographic minority in their homeland. This is physical destruction of an ethnic group and violates Article II, Section C, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide: "Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in

¹ Communist Constitution 1931, November 7, 1931, *Legal Materials on Tibet*, Third Edition, <https://sites.google.com/site/legalmaterial-sontibet/home/communist-constitution-1931>

² "The Question of Minority Identity and Indigeneity in Post-Colonial China", *Cultural Survival*, September 1997, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/question-minority-identity-and-indigeneity-post-colonial>

³ James Leibold, "Mind Control in China Has a Very Long History", *The New York Times*, November 28, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/28/opinion/china-reeducation-mind-control-xin-jiang.html>

whole or in part”.⁴ Physical destruction is separate and distinct from killing members of a group, which is Section A.⁵

The decades’ long dispossession of Uyghurs reflects the words of Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations: “Genocide is not a single event but a process that evolves over time, and requires planning and resources to carry out.”⁶

And acts of genocide are not confined to times of war. As the United Nations Outreach Programme on the Rwanda Genocide declared: “The Convention confirms that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or war, is a crime under international law...”⁷

But Beijing vigorously denies ethnic clashes in Uyghuristan reflect Uyghur anger over dispossession. Instead, it asserts such clashes are the machinations of “violent separatist groups.” In May 2014, the Chinese government launched the “strike hard campaign against terrorism, separatism, and religious extremism”, which Beijing claimed was undertaken to prevent Uyghuristan from becoming “China’s Syria.”⁸ The target is the Uyghur population.

This confirms the observation by Professor Jörg Friedrichs, from St. Cross College, Oxford, that “If

Hui [Chinese-speaking Muslims] loyalty to China is sometimes questioned, Uyghur disloyalty is mostly taken for granted.”⁹

On August 29, 2016, Beijing transferred Chen Quanguo, the Communist Party Secretary of Tibet, to Uyghuristan. “Chen’s system combines hyper-securitization and militarization with efforts to accelerate the political and cultural transformation of local people. Its stated aim is ‘breaking lineage, breaking roots, breaking connections, and breaking origins’ of Tibetans and Uyghurs.”¹⁰

This is the Stalinist model, “National in Form, Socialist in Content”; Marxist ethnocide, whereby the state may allow displays of a people’s traditional dress, dance, and music, while systematically erasing their history, culture, and identity. In Uyghuristan, Uyghurs are being forced to abandon their language, culture, and many aspects of their religion. Business Insider, May 17, 2018, quotes Professor James Millward, China historian, at Georgetown University, “Cultural cleanings is Beijing’s attempt to find a final solution to the Uyghuristan problem.”¹¹

In April 2017, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Regulations on De-radicalization was issued.

⁴ Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CrimeOfGenocide.aspx>

⁵ Ibid

⁶ “Background Information on Preventing Genocide”, Outreach Programme on the Rwanda Genocide, <http://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/rwanda/about/bgpreventgenocide.shtml>

⁷ Ibid

⁸ “Protecting peace, stability is top of human rights agenda for Xinjiang”, Global Times, 2018/8/12, <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1115022.shtml>

⁹ “Ethnic cleansing of Uyghur identity by China” Publications Study Papers, EFSAS, European Foundation for South Asian Studies, August 2018, <https://www.efsas.org/publications/study-papers/ethnic-cleansing-of-uyghur-identity-by-china/>

¹⁰ “The origin of the ‘Xinjiang model’ in Tibet under Chen Quanguo: Securitizing ethnicity and accelerating assimilation”, International Campaign for Tibet, December 10, 2018 <https://www.savetibet.org/the-origin-of-the-xinjiang-model-in-tibet/>

¹¹ Gerry Shih, “‘Permanent cure’: Inside the re-education camps China is using to brainwash Muslims”, AP, Business Insider, May 17, 2018, <https://www.businessinsider.com/what-is-life-like-in-xinjiang-reeducation-camps-china-2018-5>

“The regulations target non-officially sanctioned interpretation, practice and dissemination of Islamic teachings in order to identify them as terrorism and to launch counter-measures.”¹² Signs of extremism now include “quitting smoking...not singing at weddings or crying during funerals of relatives”¹³ and “the refusal to listen to public radio and television broadcasts.”¹⁴

According to Human Rights Watch, Beijing’s counter-measures include requiring Uighurs to provide state authorities with DNA and biometric samples. “Inside political education camps, detainees are forced to learn Mandarin Chinese, sing praises of the Chinese Communist Party, and memorize rules applicable primarily to Turkic Muslims...people are punished for peacefully practicing religion...the government’s religious restrictions are so stringent that it has effectively outlawed Islam The Uyghuristan authorities have made foreign ties a punishable offense, targeting people with connections to an official list of “26 sensitive countries,” including Kazakhstan, Turkey, Malaysia, and Indonesia.”¹⁵

¹² Shih Chienyu, “China’s brutal treatment of Uyghurs is failing: Forcing Muslim minority to become loyal supporters of the Chinese Communist Party is more than a misstep”, UCA News, November 28, 2018 <https://www.ucanews.com/news/chinas-brutal-treatment-of-uyghurs-is-failing/83945>

¹³ “Suspected of Extremism if not Singing at Weddings”, Uyghur Human Rights Project, November 6, 2018, <https://uhrp.org/news/suspected-extremism-if-not-singing-weddings>

¹⁴ “China region gives legal basis for Muslim internment camps”, The Sydney Morning Herald, October 11, 2018, <https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/china-region-gives-legal-basis-for-muslim-internment-camps-20181011-p508y4.html>

¹⁵ “Eradicating Ideological Viruses: China’s Campaign of Repression Against Xinjiang’s Muslims”, Human Rights Watch, September 9, 2018, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2018/09/09/eradicating-ideological-viruses/chinas-campaign-repression-against-xinjiangs>

Beards, headscarves, and studying Islam by children are forbidden. Fasting during the holy month of Ramadan is prohibited. Uyghur names connoting “extremism” are proscribed. The official list of banned baby names appears in “Naming Rules for Ethnic Minorities” and includes Hajj, Imam, Islam, Quran, Mecca, Medina, and even Muhammad.¹⁶

Along with prohibitions, Beijing is employing coercions. According to Radio Free Asia, from February 6, 2019, Xinjiang authorities are “...forcing some Muslims to drink alcohol, eat pork, and display emblems of traditional Chinese culture.” Forcing Uyghurs to drink alcohol and eat pork in violation of their religious beliefs may have a traumatic psychological effect on those individuals and, therefore, would violate Article II, Section B, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide: “Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group”.¹⁸

Uyghurs, individually and as a people, are being “required” to adopt Chinese culture as defined by Beijing and to speak Mandarin. Such policies violate Article 8, Sections 1 and 2, of the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* to which China is a party.

Article 1 affirms: “Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced

¹⁶ “China Bans ‘Extreme’ Islamic Baby Names Among Xinjiang’s Uyghurs”, Radio Free Asia, 2017-04-20, <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/names-04202017093324.html>

¹⁷ “Chinese Officials Force Muslims to Drink, Eat Pork At Festival”, Radio Free Asia, 2019-02-06, <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/festival-02062019140637.html>

¹⁸ Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CrimeOfGenocide.aspx>

assimilation or destruction of their culture.”¹⁹

Article 2 mandates: “States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:

(a) Any action, which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;

(b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;

(c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;

(d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;

(e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.”²⁰

To further undermine Uyghur group identity and cohesion, Beijing is “promoting” intermarriage between Uyghurs and Chinese. This echoes Soviet policies of encouraging mixed marriages to create “a new historical, social, and international community of people”. It is, also, a violation of Article II, Section D, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide: “Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group”.²¹

In violation of the Convention on the Prevention

¹⁹ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CrimeOfGenocide.aspx>

and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Article C: “Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part”²² and Article D: “Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group”²³, Beijing issued new laws limiting Uyghur births. The Guardian reported, on October 10, 2018, “Last year, authorities ended an exception that had allowed Uighur and other ethnic minorities to have more children than their Han Chinese counterparts.”²⁴

The most dramatic action undertaken by Beijing, the one that has led to an international outcry, has been the creation of what the Chinese media describes as “de-radicalization training classes,” “educational transformation training centers,” “re-education camps” and “free vocational training centers that make life more “colorful”.”²⁵ These are euphemisms for internment.

An internment on a vast scale

On August 10, 2018, Reuters reported, “A United Nations human rights panel said on Friday that it had received many credible reports that 1 million ethnic Uyghurs in China are held in what resembles a ‘massive internment camp that is shrouded in secrecy, a sort of ‘no rights zone’... members of the Uighur community and other Muslims were being

²² Ibid

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Lily Kuo, “China ‘legalises’ internment camps for million Uighurs”, The Guardian, October 10, 2018, <https://amp.theguardian.com/world/2018/oct/11/china-legalises-internment-camps-for-million-uyghurs>

²⁵ Alexandra Ma, “China claimed its re-education camps for Muslim minorities are ‘free vocational training’ that make life ‘colorful’”, Business Insider, October 16, 2018, <https://www.businessinsider.com/china-calls-xinjiang-uyghur-detention-camps-free-vocational-training-2018-10>

treated as 'enemies of the state' solely on the basis of their ethno-religious identity."²⁶

Satellite images show there are currently 28 internment camps in Uyghuristan, which have been continually expanding. Between 2016 and the end of 2018, the size of these camps increased by 400 percent.

The U.S. Congressional-Executive Commission on China has called the internment of Uyghurs "the largest mass incarceration of a minority population in the world today,"²⁷ in what US Senator Robert Menendez calls "concentration camps;"²⁸ where, according to Amnesty International, "at best they will be brainwashed but at worst they will be tortured, but there's a real possibility of death."²⁹

In addition, Uyghur children of "internees" are being placed in orphanages where they "are taught in Mandarin and penalized for speaking in their native tongues." The Financial Times reported on July 9, 2018, "Beijing...has forcibly separated families, sending thousands of children to de facto orphanages...One county in Kashgar built 18 new orphanages

in 2017 alone...orphanages are being built under a new 'five guarantees' policy begun in 2017 that aims to provide orphans with state-sponsored care until they turn 18."³⁰ As Darren Byler, researcher of Uyghur culture, University of Washington, explained: "This is an ethnic group whose knowledge base is being erased."³¹ It is also a violation of Article II, Section E, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide: "Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."³²

After originally denying existence of internment camps, Beijing faced a public relations dilemma when the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination called on Beijing to "halt the practice of detaining individuals who have not been lawfully charged, tried, and convicted for a criminal offense in any extra-legal detention center."³³

For there was no legal basis in Chinese law for internment

So Beijing retroactively amended the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Regulations on Deradicalization so that "government agencies at the county level and above 'may establish occupa-

²⁶ "U.N. says it has credible reports that China holds million Uyghurs in secret camps", Reuters, August 10, 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-rights-un-idUSKBN1KV1SU>

²⁷ "Chairs Urge Ambassador Branstad to Prioritize Mass Detention of Uyghurs, Including Family Members of Radio Free Asia Employees", Congressional-Executive Commission on China, April 3, 2018, <https://www.cecc.gov/media-center/press-releases/chairs-urge-ambassador-branstad-to-prioritize-mass-detention-of-uyghurs>

²⁸ "Top US lawmaker compares China's Uyghur internment facilities to 'concentration camps'", CNN, 2019-01-28, <https://www.msn.com/en-ca/video/watch/top-us-lawmaker-compares-chinas-uyghur-internment-facilities-to-concentration-camps/vi-BBSQMGL>

²⁹ Sara Vui-Talitu, "China's disappearing Uyghurs", RNZ, December 3, 2018, <https://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/voices/audio/2018673567/china-s-disappearing-uyghurs>

³⁰ Emily Feng, "Uighur children fall victim to China anti-terror drive", Financial Times, July 9, 2018, <https://www.ft.com/content/f0d3223a-7f4d-11e8-bc55-50daf11b720d>

³¹ Yanan Wang and Dake Kang, "China separates Uyghur kids from their families and treats them like orphans", The Star, September 21, 2018, <https://www.thestar.com/news/world/2018/09/21/china-separates-uyghur-kids-from-their-families-and-treats-them-like-orphans.html>

³² Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CrimeOfGenocide.aspx>

³³ Rosie Perper, "The UN is calling on China to 'immediately release' one million Muslim Uighurs who may be held in detention centers", Business Insider, August 31, 2018, <https://www.businessinsider.com/un-china-immediately-release-one-million-uighurs-xinjiang-2018-8/>

tional skills education and training centres, education transformation organisations and management departments to transform people influenced by extremism through education.’³⁴ This “transformation” is to be achieved by teaching Uyghurs Mandarin and providing them with occupational education. De-radicalization is “therapeutic rehabilitation.”³⁵

To Professor Rian Thum, Loyola University, New Orleans, the internment of Uyghurs is repeating “some of the worst human rights violations in history...The closet analogue may be the Cultural Revolution.”³⁶ “[M]ass murder and genocide do not look like impossible outcomes.”³⁷

Perhaps, a better analogue would be the book 1984 with “thought crime,” “thought police”, and “Big Brother is watching you.” An official research paper published in June 2017 by a Uyghuristan state journal reported that “most of the 588 surveyed participants did not know what they had done wrong when they were sent to re-education. But by the time they were released, nearly all—98.8 percent—had learned their mistakes.”³⁸ Its conclusion:

³⁴ Lily Kuo, “China ‘legalises’ internment camps for million Uyghurs”, *The Guardian*, October 10, 2018, <https://amp.theguardian.com/world/2018/oct/11/china-legalises-internment-camps-for-million-uyghurs>

³⁵ Shih Chienyu, “China’s brutal treatment of Uyghurs is failing: Forcing Muslim minority to become loyal supporters of the Chinese Communist Party is more than a misstep”, *UCA News*, November 28, 2018 <https://www.ucanews.com/news/chinas-brutal-treatment-of-uyghurs-is-failing/83945>

³⁶ Ryan Grenoble, “Who Are The Uighurs? China Is Detaining This Muslim Minority By The Million”, *Huffington Post*, August 29, 2018, https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/who-are-uighurs-china-muslim-detention-million_us_5b7195cee4b0ae32af9a085a

³⁷ Rian Thum, “China’s Mass Internment Camps Have No Clear End in Sight”, *Foreign Policy*, August 22, 2018, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/08/22/chinas-mass-internment-camps-have-no-clear-end-in-sight/>

“transformation through education ‘is a permanent cure.’”³⁹

The policies pursued by Beijing toward the Uyghurs of Uyghuristan are just the most extreme example of a “sinicization” campaign launched throughout China in “pursuit of total control” arguably strong evidence of cultural genocide. While Uyghurs are targeted because they are perceived to be a secessionist threat to China’s territorial integrity, two other groups are targeted because they are perceived as rivals to the power of an atheistic, Mandarin-speaking dominated Chinese Communist Party: religions and non-Mandarin languages.

Beijing is attacking Islam, Christianity, even traditional Chinese Buddhism and Daoism, claiming these religions are not authentically Chinese or not sufficiently Chinese and must be “Sinicized”. This process requires these religions receive official sanction to operate, have their practices dictated by the state, and their holy books reflect the thoughts of President Xi, Chairman Mao, and the Chinese Communist Party.

By implementing such policies, Beijing, having already made enemies of 23 million Muslims⁴⁰ with the repression of Uyghurs, is alienating nearly 70 million Christians⁴¹, approximately 250 million

³⁸ Gerry Shih, “‘Permanent cure’: Inside the re-education camps China is using to brainwash Muslims”, *AP, Business Insider*, May 17, 2018, <https://www.businessinsider.com/what-is-life-like-in-xinjiang-reeducation-camps-china-2018-5>

³⁹ *Ibid*

⁴⁰ “Muslim populations by country: how big will each Muslim population be by 2030?”, *The Guardian, Datablog*, <https://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2011/jan/28/muslim-population-country-projection-2030>

⁴¹ Eleanor Albert, “Christianity in China”, *Council on Foreign Relations*, October 11, 2018, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/christianity-china>

Buddhists⁴², and almost one billion practitioners of Daoism/folk religions.⁴³

The other target of “sinicization” is the population of south China. Mandarin and the languages of south China—Hakka, Gan, Min, Wu, Xiang, and Yue (Cantonese)—are mutually unintelligible. Dismissing these languages as not “Chinese”, Beijing has been imposing Mandarin on the south. Speaking Mandarin is a test of Chinese patriotism. In pursuing this policy, Beijing has shattered the illusion of “Han” unity, and has turned traditional allies into adversaries. An adversarial population that numbers approximately 250 million, roughly one-quarter of China’s population, and is responsible for creating the most productive and prosperous provinces in all of China.

In alienating potentially hundreds of millions of people, many vital to China’s economy or located in strategic, but vulnerable parts of the country, Beijing’s “sinicization” campaign to insure state security and “national” unity may provoke “blowback.”

“Blowback’ is a CIA term first used in March 1954 in a recently declassified report on the 1953 operation to overthrow the government of Mohammed Mossadegh in Iran. It is a metaphor for the unintended consequences....” The “unintended consequences” of the 1953 coup d’état to restore the Shah to power was the 1979 Iranian Revolution and transformation of Iran from Western ally to Western adversary. For China, the unintended, unwanted consequence would be destabilization, if not disintegration, of the Chinese state and the Chinese Communist Party.

⁴² Eleanor Albert, “Christianity in China”, Council on Foreign Relations, October 11, 2018, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/christianity-china>

⁴³ Katharina Wenzel-Teuber, Translated by David Streit, People’s Republic of China: Religions and Churches Statistical Overview 2011, pp. 34-35, https://web.archive.org/web/20170427151725/http://www.china-zentrum.de/fileadmin/downloads/rctc/2012-3/RCTC_2012-3.29-54_Wenzel-Teuber_Statistical_Overview_2011.pdf

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