

## Historical Witness to Ethnic Equality, Unity and Development in Xinjiang (September 2015)

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### Overview

This paper focuses on ethnic unity in Xinjiang and highlights the need to promote regional autonomy in regions with ethnic minorities and gives an overview of historical developments in the region. The overview begins from the Opium Wars (1840-1842) and goes over major events such as the enforcement of Measures for Exercising Ethnic Regional Autonomy, which initiated the process of establishment of an autonomous region in Xinjiang.

The paper has nine main sections:

- I. Implementing the System of Ethnic Regional Autonomy
- II. Upholding Ethnic Equality and Unity
- III. Constantly Strengthening the Foundations of Development
- IV. Improving Standards of Living for All
- V. Promoting cultural prosperity
- VI. Maintaining Social Harmony and Stability in Accordance with the Law
- VII. Respecting and Protecting Freedom of Religious Belief
- VIII. Promoting the Unique Role of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps
- IX. State Support and Assistance to Xinjiang

The establishment of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) is declared as the “*full implementation of the system of ethnic regional autonomy in Xinjiang*”.

Some key numbers that were mentioned in the white paper include the number of total officials that belonged to an ethnic minority (51.4%). The number of mosques in Xinjiang, in 2014, was 24,400 with 28,600 clerical personnel.

The paper identifies “*three forces (ethnic separatism, religious extremism, and violent terrorism)*” from within and outside of China as responsible for terror and violence in the region.

In 2014, re-amended Regulations of Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region on Religious Affairs were issued to protect citizens’ freedom of religious beliefs. However, the regulation emphasized that all religious activities must be carried out within the boundaries prescribed by law and must not harm national security and interest.

The paper also highlights the role of Xinjiang Production Construction Corps (XPCC) has played in the development of the region and safeguarding national unification. It also highlights the support given to the region by the Central Government and lists the state’s financial grants to the region to total almost RMB 1.7 trillion. It concludes by emphasizing the importance of Xinjiang to the “*Silk Road Economic Belt*” by acting as a window to the West.

### 15 most common words:

Word	Count
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development	72
areas	65
religious	60
state	60
minority	45
uyghur	44
regional	41
national	39
total	39
unity	39
cultural	38
rural	37
system	37
million	36
social	36

**Word cloud:**

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