

Xinjiang Game Guidelines

Learning Objectives

- Gaining awareness of what is happening to Muslim minorities in Xinjiang/Eastern Turkistan
- Identifying similarities and differences between various Muslim minorities, including Uyghurs, Huis and Kazakhs
- Understanding perspectives from both Muslim minorities and the Chinese authorities
- Putting contemporary issue of Xinjiang in historical perspectives
- Practicing primary source analysis and public speaking

Primary Sources

You should critically analyze these Chinese government documents:

- “Documents: What Chinese Officials Told Children Whose Families Were Put in Camps,” *New York Times*, November 16, 2019
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/16/world/asia/china-detention-directive.html> (For other leaked documents, see <https://xinjiangdocumentation.sites.olt.ubc.ca/?p=21995>)
- Historical Matters Concerning Xinjiang, July 2019
https://web.archive.org/web/20201005142750/http://www.china.org.cn/government/white_paper/node_8013442.htm (For other white papers, see <https://xinjiangdocumentation.sites.olt.ubc.ca/?p=23683>)
- Learning and Identifying 75 Religious Extreme Activities in Parts of Xinjiang, 2017
<https://xinjiangdocumentation.sites.olt.ubc.ca/?p=24288>

You should watch these documentaries for better understanding of Xinjiang:

- China Undercover, Frontline, 2020
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wM1DjkPWtj0&t=12s>
- What Happened to Our Parents in Xinjiang? Uygur Sisters Seek Answers, South China Morning Post, 2019 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbbJMzkn-AA>

For news reports on individual Muslim minorities groups, check out sources in the role sheets.

For secondary sources (academic publications, critical government and human rights publications, and Chinese academic discourse), see <https://xinjiangdocumentation.sites.olt.ubc.ca/?p=24916>

Game Procedure

1. You should choose one of the three Muslim minority student groups: Uyghurs, Huis and Kazakhs. Each is associated with one approach to the Chinese government’s re-education camps in Xinjiang: pursuing international attention, staying silent, and going abroad. You will receive a role sheet for each group.
2. Read primary sources and watch documentaries before presenting in class. You will present as a group during the game, and each group should cover all the objectives listed in the role sheet. A Q&A will follow after each group presentation.
3. After all the presentations, everyone will throw a dice. If the die roll is 1-3, you will be reincarnated as Chinese government officials, and be given a new role sheet detailing what to do next. If the die roll is 4-6, you will be arrested! Arrested students will collectively choose the best response to the Chinese government based on the previous presentations, and explain why they should not be arrested.