

100 Atrocities of CCP in Tibet

A Handbook on history of CCP's atrocities
on its 100th Year



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Cover Picture: Collage of pictures of 155 Tibetans who have self-immolated in Tibet since 2009.

source: Tibet Museum, Central Tibetan Administration

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A Brief Note

As the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) completes its 100 years, the handbook is offered as a reminder that this continuity is not a mark of success but has occurred rather due to the oppressive rule on the personal liberties of the peoples inside the country. These repressive measures of rule are felt most sharply in areas like Tibet, East Turkestan, Southern Mongolia and other territories under the rule of the Chinese Communist Party.

In this vein, the handbook *100 Atrocities of CCP in Tibet: A handbook on history of CCP's atrocities on its 100th Year* seeks to challenge attempts of CCP to erase its violent history by tracing some of its brutal treatments in Tibet since the occupation. It aims for a strong push to make the CCP reflect on its past and ongoing policies in Tibet that have resulted in loss of countless lives, loss of culture, environment, language, religion, and centuries-old practices of nomadic life. The handbook therefore by its very historical retracing of such events stands against any propaganda that the CCP promotes as part of its "centenary celebrations."

In form, the handbook is a compilation of atrocities perpetrated by the CCP since 1949 drawn from reports, books, and other existing archives. These 100 atrocities listed in the handbook are thus not exhaustive. They have been selected to make the readers familiar with the atrocities in the hopes that they begin to question the CCP and its continuity in light of all the cruel and indiscriminate crimes perpetrated in Tibet and other similar repressive environments in regions under CCP rule.

Parallel to the history of atrocities in Tibet, the handbook is also a story of courage and continued resistance shown by the Tibetans against the CCP. In that, there is a message of hope. There is also the ensuing call to challenge the atrocities beginning foremost with the task of stopping the CCP from conveniently drawing a red curtain over the decades of horror on the ground.

Office of Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama
and the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA)
for Central and Eastern Europe
The Tibet Bureau- Geneva

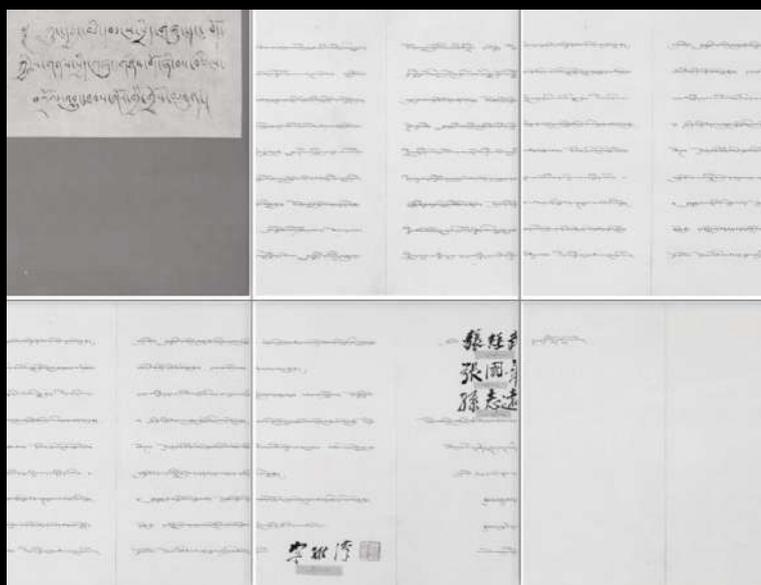
100 Atrocities of CCP in Tibet: A Handbook on history of CCP's atrocities on its 100th Year



*Photo description: The Tibetan army waves the Tibetan flag at a military parade in Lhasa, 1938.
Source: Tibet Museum Archives, Central Tibetan Administration (CTA)*

1. China invaded Tibet with 40,000 troops of the People's Liberation Army of China in 1950 against less than 8000 Tibetan troops in Chamdo. In this unprovoked act of aggression by China against the sovereign state of Tibet, the Tibetan army was brutally crushed by the invading Chinese army killing over 5,700 Tibetans.

2. A delegation from Tibet to Beijing was coerced into signing the *17 Point Agreement* on 23 May 1951 with unauthorised seals. Later, the Tibetan government was forced to accept the agreement due to military invasion and occupation of major cities in Tibet by the People's Liberation Army of China under Chinese Communist Party.



The 17-point agreement signed on 23 May 1951. Source: Tibet Museum Archives, CTA

3. The PLA constructed highway to Lhasa, its first ever road outside of China, and with it brought more arms and ammunitions along with soldiers into Tibet. Tibetans were forced to surrender their food grains and daily necessities for the upkeep of the Chinese army, leading to famine like situation for the first time in the recorded history of Tibet.
4. The Chinese Communist Party started imposing Communist ideologies and reforms on Tibetans in the beginning of 1950s. The CCP forcibly changed the Tibetan traditional self-sustainable way of life and razed hundreds of religious and cultural institutes to ground. Thousands of Tibetans died fighting against the atrocities and many more "disappeared" in the Chinese jails.
5. The Chinese Communist Party Government invited His Holiness the Dalai Lama for a meeting insisting that he come alone without any security guards. Fears of plots to assassinate the Dalai Lama sparked the first Tibetan National Uprising on 10 March 1959 against China's occupation of Tibet. On 12 March 1959 (now commemorated as Tibetan Women's Uprising Day) thousands of Tibetan women gathered in front of the Potala Palace in protest against the Chinese authorities. The uprisings were brutally crushed with thousands of Tibetans getting killed and the roads of Lhasa turning crimson with the blood of the Tibetan men and women, both young and old. Between 10,000 to 15,000 Tibetans were killed within 3 days of the Uprisings.



Left: Gathering of Tibetan people in front of Norbulingka gate on 10 March 1959; Right: Mass uprising in front of Norbulingka on 10 March, 1959. Source: Tibet Museum Archives, CTA

6. His Holiness the Dalai Lama was forced to escape into exile to India. He had to leave the Norbulinka palace on the night of 17 March 1959 in disguise narrowly escaping death. Within days of his escape the People's Liberation Army started heavy shelling on the palace.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama forced to escape into exile. Source: Tibet Museum Archives, CTA

7. Over 1.2 million Tibetans have died between 1949 and 1979 due to the direct result of the China's invasion and illegal occupation of Tibet. According to a 1960 PLA Tibet Military District Political report, between March 1959 to September 1960, 87,000 Tibetans were "exterminated" in Central Tibet alone.

The deaths of 1.2 million Tibetans are as follows:

The manner of over 1.2 million Tibetans died across the three provinces of Tibet

Cause of Death	U-Tsang	Kham	Amdo	Total
Tortured in prison	93,560	64,877	14,784	173,221
Summary execution	28,267	32,266	96,225	156,758
Killed in fighting	143,253	240,410	49,042	432,705
Starved to death	131,072	89,916	121,982	342,970
Suicide	3,375	3,952	1,675	9,002
Struggle sessions	27,951	48,840	15,940	92,731
Total	427,478	480,261	299,648	1,207,387

8. An internal Chinese military document states that from 1952 to 1958, the People's Liberation Army crushed 996 rebellions and killed over 10,000 Tibetans in the northeastern region of Kanlho, Golog, another Amdo area, saw its population halved from an estimated 140,000 in 1956 to about 70,000 in 1964.

Referring to this, the 10th Panchen Lama told Beijing's leaders: "If there was a film made on all the atrocities perpetrated in Qinghai Province, it would shock the viewers. In Golog area, many people were killed and their dead bodies rolled down the hill into a big ditch. The soldiers told the family members and relatives of the dead people that they should celebrate since the rebels had been wiped out. They were even forced to dance on the dead bodies. Soon after, they were also massacred with machine guns."

9. Nearly 6,000 monasteries and nunneries were destroyed. Over 110,000 monks, nuns, *rinpoches* and *ngag-pas* were tortured and put to death, and many more were forcibly disrobed. The late 10th Panchen Lama noted that over 97 percent of monasteries were destroyed and over 93 percent of ecclesiastical population were disrobed and/or killed by 1962. Monasteries were turned into barracks and ancient texts burned or used as a fodder for mules.



Image of Gaden monastery in ruins during the Cultural Revolution. Source: Tibet.Net, CTA

10. The Chinese Communist Party government implemented "divide and rule" policy against Tibet. Tibet with its three traditional regions of U-Tsang, Kham and Amdo was divided and the Tibet Autonomous Region was created in 1965. The regions of Kham and Amdo were integrated into Chinese provinces including Sichuan, Qinghai and Yunan.



Map of Tibet by Digital Cartography and Design Planning Council, CTA, Dharamshala, 2000

"Democratic Reforms" or Unleashing of Death spell? Unending Night of Repression: 1949 to 1979

11. In the name of "democratic reforms" the Chinese Communist Party confiscated the private properties of Tibetans and divided the Tibetans into "mutual aid teams" for "collective production." Instead of ending private ownership, the CCP used it as a pretext to seize large amounts of food-grains, animals and animal-products as "patriotic public grain tax", "surplus grain sales" and "contribution of past grain reserves." This resulted in decline in food production and widespread famine which was unprecedented in the history of Tibet.

12. The Chinese Communist Party replaced the "mutual aid teams" with "communes system" under which Tibetans were forced to work and eat together from "one big pot." Under this the CCP introduced "he who does not work shall not eat" policy which severely affected the families with infants, aged parents and/or persons with disabilities. Thousands of Tibetans were forced to eat rats, dogs, leather from shoes and other personal items, worms, grass, barks, leaves etc., to survive. In a land where even beggars never went hungry, more than **340,000 Tibetans starved to death.**

13. In 1963, the Chinese Communist Party divided the Tibetan populace into different classes and forced them through "class struggle sessions" (*thamzing*). Tibetans were forced to publicly accuse, criticise and beat each other. **Over 92,000 Tibetans were tortured to death** during these struggle sessions.



Left: 66-year-old 10th Dhemo Rinpoche Lobsang Jamphel Lungtok Tenzin Gyatso, a highly revered reincarnate lama of the Tengyeling Monastery of Lhasa, and his 47-year-old wife are led through a "struggle session" by the Red Guards on July 27, 1966. Right: Ribur Ngawang Gyatso Rinpoche of Sera Monastery is led through the streets in front of the Jokhang. The message on the dance hat on his head and his banner on his chest read: "Reactionary Ngawang Gyatso should be eliminated." Source: Tibet Museum Archives, CTA



CCP members hounding Panchen Lama during the struggle session. The Panchen Lama was imprisoned in 1968 and released only in October 1977. Source: Tibet Museum Archives, CTA

14. Tens of thousands of Tibetans were sent to *gulags* or forced labour camps and prisons by the Chinese Communist Party. On the conditions of these forced labour camps and prisons the 10th Panchen Lama wrote: *The guards and cadres threatened prisoners with cruel, ruthless and malicious words, and beat them fiercely and unscrupulously... [The prisoners'] clothes and quilts could not keep their bodies warm, their mattresses could not keep out the damp, their tents and buildings could not shelter them from the wind and rain and the food did not fill their stomachs. Their lives were miserable and full of deprivation, they had to get up early for work and come back late from their work; what's more, these people were given the heaviest and most difficult work... They caught many diseases, and in addition, they did not have sufficient rest; medical treatment was poor, which caused many prisoners to die from abnormal causes.*

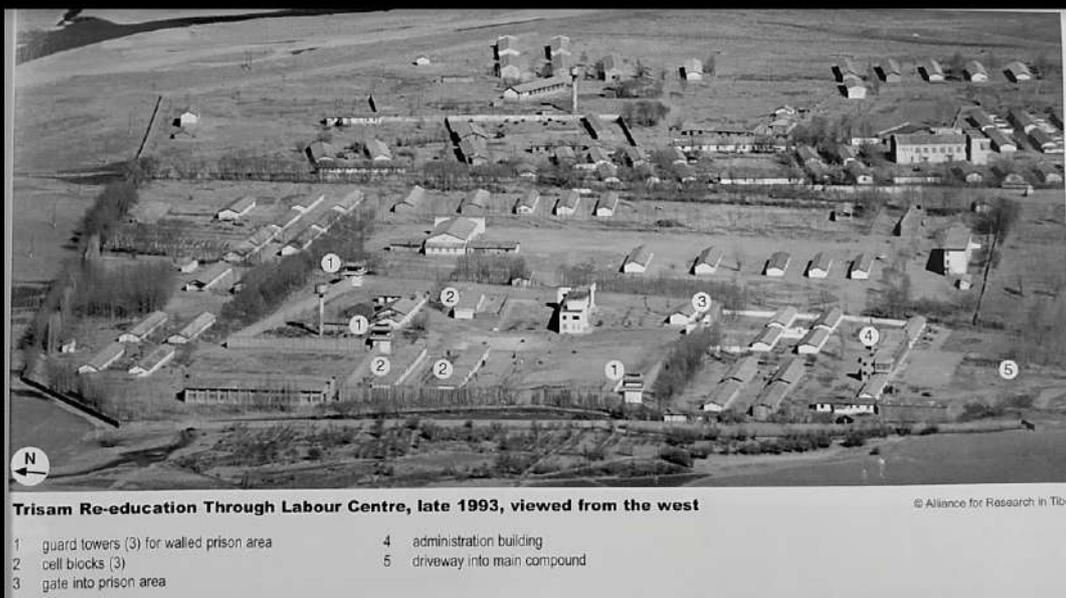


Image of Trisam prison area with re-education through labor centres circa late 1993. Photos sourced from Steven D. Marshall's Rukhag 3 The Nuns of Drapchi Prison. Source: Alliance for Research in Tibet



Image of Gutsa Prison circa late 1999. Source: Alliance for Research in Tibet.

Gutsa Prison (Lhasa Shi Police Detention Centre), late 1993, viewed from the north

© Alliance for Research in Tibet

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Ngachen Lam (Street) | 6 walled work area |
| 2 main compound entrance | 7 guard tower at entrance to walled area |
| 3 main gate into prison area | 8 walled area (possibly holding cells and interrogation rooms) |
| 4 main cell areas (3 are apparent) | |
| 5 guard towers (4) | |



Sitru Prison's "TAR" Police Detention Centre circa 1993. Source: Alliance for Research in Tibet.

Sitru Prison (TAR Police Detention Centre), late 1993, viewed from the southeast

© Alliance for Research in Tibet

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 PSB and staff residences | 5 entry into south area interrogation rooms, clinic, kitchen | 8 south area cell blocks (2) |
| 2 PSB offices | 6 gate into south cell block area | 9 gate between north and south cell block areas |
| 3 gate from PSB offices into north cell block area | 7 interrogation rooms, clinic, kitchen | 10 PAP compound |
| 4 north area cell blocks (2) | | |



Utritru Prison which later came to be Lhasa prison circa late 1993. Source: Alliance for Research in Tibet

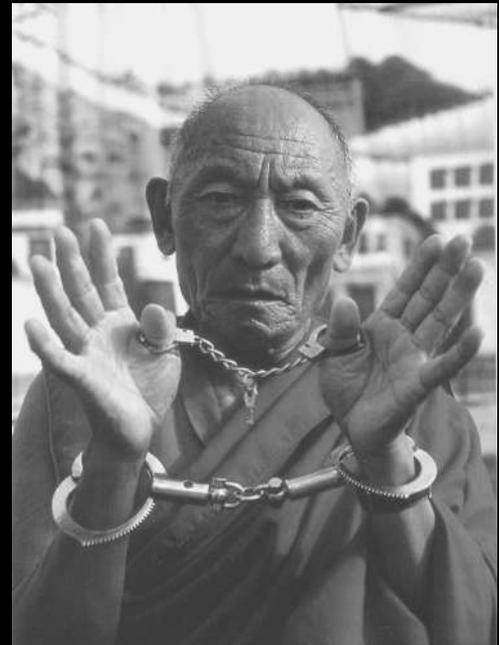
Utritru Prison (later Lhasa Prison), late 1993, viewed from the east

© Alliance for Research in Tibet

15. Over 35,000 Tibetans died in the labour camps of north of Lanzhou, the provincial capital of Gansu, in 1959-1960. Amdo became China's biggest gulag with tens of thousands of Tibetan and Chinese prisoners who were put to road and railway construction, exploitation of mineral resources, building of nuclear research centres and to running of state farms for the People's Liberation Army. Over 200,000 inmates starved to death. Thousands of Tibetans perished in the three major labour camps—a borax mine in Chang Thang (known to the Tibetans as Jhang Tsala-kha), Nachen Thang hydroelectric plant near Lhasa, and lumbering units in Kongpo, near India.

16. Ani Pachen, a survivor of the three biggest prisons in the "TAR" described the deaths in the labour camps in her memoir, *Sorrow Mountain*, as: *The bodies of the dead were dumped in a ravine behind the monastery. The ravine became so filled that the Chinese started throwing the dead bodies into the Zhachu [upper part of the Mekong River] and Ngomchu Rivers. The vultures and the dogs were not able to eat all the bodies remaining in the ravine, and soon the carcasses began to rot. The stench of decomposing bodies was so powerful that for years people could not go near the ravine.*

N.J. Topgyal, a survivor of Kongpo's lumbering camp, noted that *"The Chinese use to pile up corpses and when they reached the size of a small hill the corpses would be set on fire"* Ama Adhe, a survivor of labour camps including the Dhartsedo labour camp in Kham, said *"Every day, they would deliver nine or 10 truckloads of bodies to put there [mass graves opened on the roadside]. Some days less, some days more. Usually, eight, nine, 10 trucks."*



Left: former political prisoner Ama Adhe, a survivor of labour camps including the Dhartsedo labour camp in Kham; Right: former political prisoner Palden Gyatso, a survivor of 33-year term under various prisons and labor camps like the notorious Drapchi prison, from 1959 to 1992. Source: Tibet Museum Archives, CTA

17. More than 10,000 prisoners died in Drapchi prison in Lhasa between 1960-1965. Of the 76 Tibetan prisoners sent to Zhangjiao Agricultural Labour Camp in Jiuquan, Gansu Province, in the early 1960s, only 21 survived.

18. The Chinese Communist Party declared war on Tibetan Buddhism despite promising to protect the freedom of religious beliefs of Tibetans in the 17-point Agreement. It announced, "the Chinese Communist Party considers that its ideology and that of religion are two forces that cannot co-exist and occupy the same spot at the same time..the differences between the two [i.e., science and religion] can be likened to those between light and darkness, between truth and falsehood. There is absolutely no possibility to reconcile the mutually-opposed world views of science and religion."

19. The Chinese Communist Party looted, vandalised, desecrated and destroyed the monasteries, nunneries and other cultural institutes. It was a strategically organised loot. Firstly, the expert teams of mineralogists visited religious buildings and extracted all the precious stones. Next came the metallurgists which carted away metals in trucks requisitioned from army headquarters. Hundreds of tons of valuable religious statues, *thangkas* (scroll paintings), metal artefacts, and other treasures were shipped to China either to be sold or auctioned in international antique markets or to be melted down.



Left: Numerous religious scriptures and religious texts are engulfed in flame near Jokhang Temple, Lhasa; Right: The Jokhang Temple was decimated under the slogan, "smash the four olds" by the Red Guards of Lhasa. The destroyed statues, artefacts and other religious objects piled up in the courtyard are said to have been ransacked from the main chapel and thrown down. Source: Tibet Museum Archives, CTA

20. The Chinese Communist Party publicly condemned Tibetan Buddhism, and humiliated and ridiculed the monks, nuns and religious persons. Sacred Tibetan Buddhist scriptures were burnt and mixed with manure; the sacred *mani* stones (stones or slates with prayers or images engraved) were used for making toilets and pavements; monks and nuns were forced to have sex in public and taunted to perform "miracles"; ruined monasteries and temples were turned into pigsties; starving monks and nuns in Chinese prisons were told to "get food from the Buddha". The Cultural Revolution experienced by rest of China was experimented first in Tibet from the early 1950s when much of Tibet's culture and religion was destroyed.

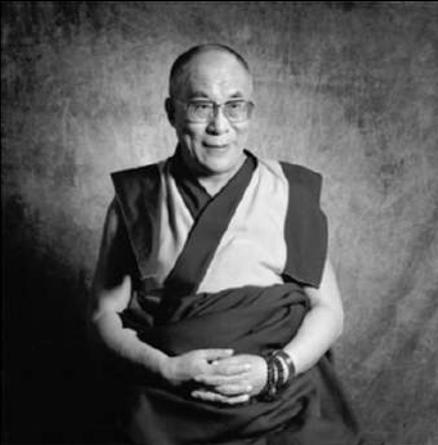
Sinicization in Tibet: Population Transfer and Forced abortion - sterilisation - infanticide



Image of Mao Zedong portrait and Chinese communist propaganda placards and banners around the agricultural lands of a village in Tibet. Mao's portrait and communist flags adorning villages were a common sight during the Cultural Revolution. Source: Museum Archives, CTA

21. Since the invasion of Tibet the Chinese Communist Party has consistently adopted the policy of *Sinicizing* Tibet through mass Chinese population transfer to Tibet in order to create a new majority. In 1952 Mao Zedong pronounced, "Tibet covers a large area but is thinly populated. Its population should be increased from the present two or three million to five or six million, and then to over ten million." In 1960 Premier Zhou Enlai justified the population transfer policy by stating that "underground resources are not as abundant as in the regions inhabited by fraternal nationalities." An internal policy document of 1960 also advised for 1.5 million new settlers in Tibet from China. In 1985, the Chinese embassy in New Delhi estimated population increase of over hundred million in less than 30 years in sparsely populated outlying regions including Tibet. In 1987, Deng Xiaoping admitted that Chinese were being encouraged to move to Tibet. A high-level secret meeting in Sichuan province in 1993 envisaged the population transfer as a solution to the Tibetan problem, stating, it will become "impossible for Tibetans to rise."

22. According to estimates in the 1990s the Han Chinese accounted for one-third of the total population of all areas with Tibetan autonomous status (compared to 6 to 10% in 1949) and for 12 to 14% of the population of the TAR (compared to 0.1%). Despite dubious claims by Chinese Communist Party of benefits of having Chinese population in Tibet, it is viewed as insidious attempts to Sinicize Tibet and also a massive drain on the economy. The 10th Panchen Lama noted, "The expense of keeping one Chinese in Tibet is equal to that of four in China. Why should Tibet spend its money to feed them? ... Tibet has suffered greatly because of the policy of sending a large number of useless people. The Chinese population in Tibet started with a few thousand and today it has multiplied manifold."



"The most serious threat to the survival of the Tibet's culture and national identity is presently China's population transfer program, which is reducing the Tibetans into an insignificant minority in their own land at an alarming rate"- His Holiness the Dalai Lama on 3 December 1996 in an interview with International Commission of Jurists.

23. There are several other negative impacts of the increased presence of Chinese in Tibet including growing unemployment among Tibetans, fear of job loss, shortage of housing for Tibetans etc. The International Commission of Jurists in its 1997 report notes that "Tibetans have expressed anxiety about the rise in crime, prostitution, and other forms of social degradation and social marginalisation and linked these developments directly to the influx of Chinese into Tibet and the unwillingness of the authorities to control such behaviour." In a covert survey by a western tourist in Tibet in 1992, out of 12,227 shops and restaurants in Lhasa city, only 300 were owned by Tibetans. In Tsawa Pasho, southern Kham, only 15 business enterprises were owned by Tibetans compared to 133 owned by Chinese. The similarity extended to other Tibetan towns: 748 to 92 in Chamdo, 229 to three in Powo Tramo.

24. The population influx is further accelerated with the completion of the Golmud-Lhasa railway line completed in 2006 which transported 1.5 million passengers alone in the same year. High speed trains, smooth highways, new airports and other infrastructural projects in Tibet are leading to more population influx in Tibet including increase in the number of tourists. In 2004 the number of Chinese tourists in Lhasa was more than the local Tibetan population.



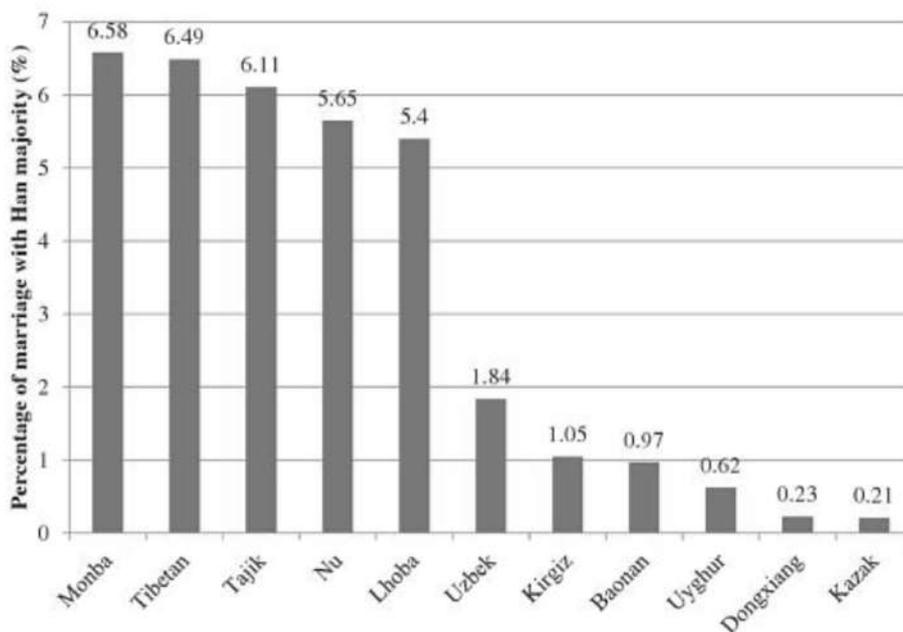
Image of the Golmud-Lhasa train route. Source: China Tibet Train Tours.

25. The Chinese Communist Party is also strongly pushing for Inter-Ethnic marriages in Tibet luring Tibetans. This is viewed as another strategy of colonisation in Tibet. In 2014, Chen Quanguo, then Communist Party Secretary of TAR ordered government departments to steer public opinion in support of inter-ethnic marriages and ordered the party and government officials to act as "matchmakers". He had ordered a run of stories in local newspapers promoting mixed marriages. For weeks government-run newspapers in the TAR had featured happy mixed marriage couples in which the children loved both cultures and equally spoke Tibetan and Mandarin. He said "blood is thicker than water,' we should make our ethnic relationship like that,"

26. A report published in August 2014 by the Communist Party's research office in TAR notes that mixed marriages had increased annually by double-digit percentages every year for the past five years,. From 666 couples in 2008 the number of inter-ethnic married couples increased to 4,795 couples in 2013.

27. Based on the fifth national population census, Chinese professor Rongxing Guo, counts Tibetans amongst "ethnic minorities with lowest percentages of interethnic marriages with the Han Majority." However, for approximate population of 6 million Tibetans 6.49 percentage of interethnic marriage is almost six times higher than 0.62 percentage of interethnic marriages amongst Uyghurs with an approximate population of 13 millions.

The Ethnic Minorities with the lowest percentages of interethnic marriages with the Han Majority



Source: pg.147, *China's Regional Development and Tibet*, Rongxing Guo in 2016, Springer. Figures are derived from the Fifth National Population Census, 2001.

28. Tibetan women were subjected to gross violations of reproductive rights. Massive forced or coerced sterilization, contraception and abortion, including late-term abortions were carried out on Tibetan women. There are also reported cases of infanticides.

Witness accounts:

"They injected a needle where the baby's head was. She was in labor pain for one hour. The baby was born and cried. Then it started bleeding from the nose and died.... She had the abortion because she couldn't pay the fine." - woman who witnessed abortion of her friend.

"They injected a needle in her stomach, and she gave birth. The baby was delivered and put in a bowl. The baby moved for a few minutes and then died. The baby had a hole in its head."

-A woman from Phenpo witnessed a late term abortion in Phenpo in 1992 performed on a woman six months pregnant.



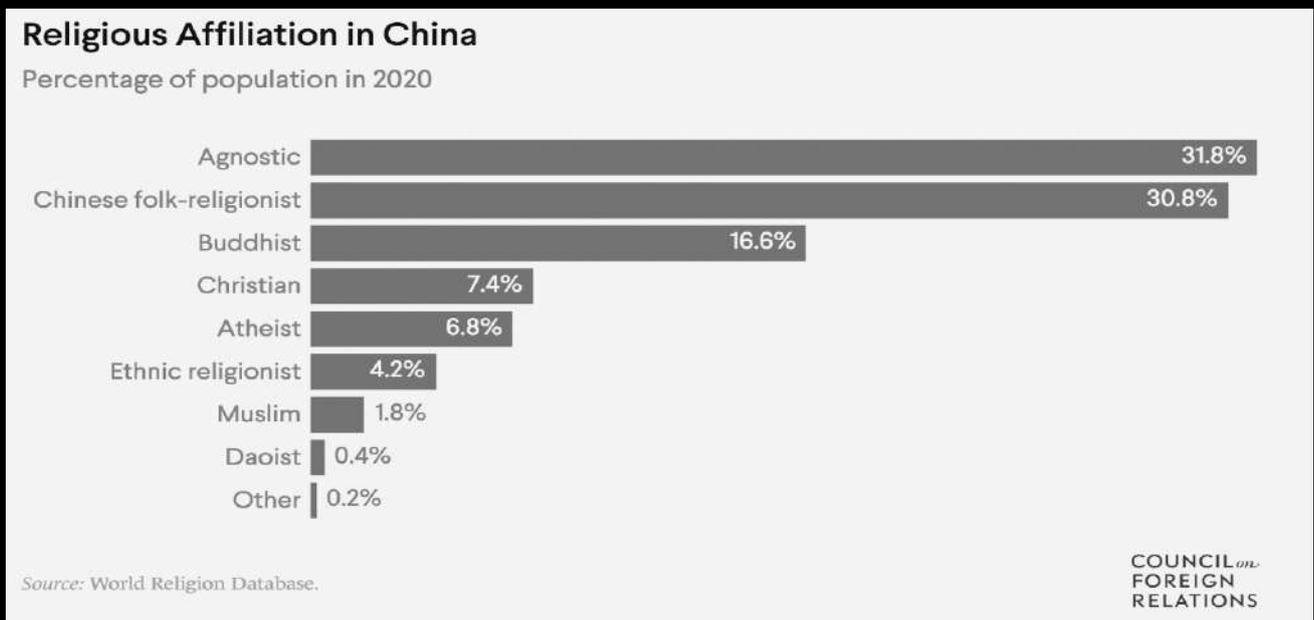
Image is a still from Blake Kerr's, "Eye of the Lammergeier" (2017) in which he visited People's Hospital in Lhasa and remote regions of Tibet to explore China's national policy on coerced abortions and sterilization

29. According to report of Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy, 300 women were sterilized in Nyemo County (TAR) in 1997, 105 in Rebkhong (Amdo) in 1996/97, 113 aborted and 85 sterilized in Tso Ngonpo (Amdo) in 1997, 308 in Chushul (TAR) in 1996, and 190 in Lhasa in 1991/92. According to official announcements in 1990, 10 percent of women of child bearing age had been sterilized in Amdo; 387 women had been sterilized in the remote district of Bhuchung, Shigatse, 1,092 out of 2,419 women in ten other districts were also sterilized. On February 2, 1992 the Lhasa Evening News announced that four sterilization teams had operated on 1,294 women in Lhundup, Nyemo and other counties.

30. Tibetan women who disobeyed summon of sterilisation had to pay fine or would lose their land. Women were brought in trucks like cattle, many were dragged against their will. Nomadic women were brought to sterilize under false pretenses. The sterilisation teams which did not meet quota would receive pay cuts.

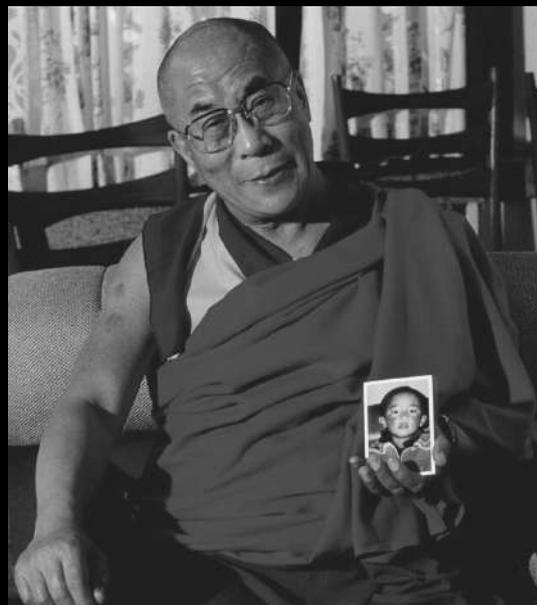
Persecution of Tibetan Buddhism

31. Though the Constitution of People's Republic of China provides for religious freedom under Article 36, it is greatly restricted as the State has the arbitrary authority in deciding what constitutes "normal religious activities." Religious groups are required to register with the State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA, formerly known as the central Religious Affairs Bureau) or its provincial and local offices (known as Religious Affairs Bureaus (RABs)). The five officially sanctioned religions in China are: Buddhism, Catholicism, Daoism, Islam, and Protestantism. Tibetan Buddhists are subjected to arbitrary detentions, tortures, arrests, convictions and sentencing for participating in religious activities by the Chinese Communist Party on false charges of "separatism", "disruption of public order" etc.



32. The Tibetan Buddhist monasteries and nunneries are under the absolute control of the "Monastic Management Committees" (also known as Democratic Management Committee) constituted by the Chinese Communist Party. The Committees alongwith the Religious Affairs Bureau, the Chinese Buddhist Association, Political Education Work Teams, security organs etc. exercised extreme control over the daily functions of the monasteries and nunneries. Even the curriculum of the religious studies and admissions of novices were controlled. The Chinese government directive of 1997 placed an upper ceiling on the number of monks; Sera which had around 8,000 monks were allowed maximum of 300 monks, Drepung with 10,000 monks was restricted to 400 and Gaden with 5,600 monks was restricted to 200. Only candidates with "love" for the country and the Chinese Communist Party from "good political background" were allowed to enter as novices.

33. On 17 May 1995, 11th Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his entire family members were kidnapped by the Chinese authorities within three days of his recognition as the reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Instead in his place the Chinese Communist Party installed a son of communist party members after rigging the so-called religious process (*Golden-Urn*) ordered by the Chinese Communist Party. The Chinese Communist Party government also arrested and sentenced Chadrel Rinpoche who was the head of the search party for the identification of the 11th Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima. The cases of enforced disappearance of 11th Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his family members are still pending at the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The enforced disappearance of the 11th Panchen Lama is a continuing crime not just against the individual but also against the Tibetan Buddhist followers who are deprived of their religious leader and his teachings. China is now trying to repeat the atrocity in the case of the institution of the Dalai Lama as well.



Left: Photo of the 11th Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima; Right: His Holiness the Dalai Lama holding the picture of 11th Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima. Source: Tibet Museum Archives, CTA

34. China is meddling in the centuries-old sacred traditions of the Tibetan Buddhist system of reincarnation. On January 2007, China's State Administration of Religious Affairs issued a new regulatory measure called "Order no. Five" on "management measures for the reincarnation of living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism". The decree makes it compulsory for all the *tulkus* (reincarnated teachers) to get the approval of the Chinese Communist Party government before starting studies and teachings as *tulkus*. The UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion in its communication in 2020 has called this control a violation of religious beliefs and traditions.

35. Tibetans are not allowed to worship or keep images of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama, instead Tibetans are forced to keep the pictures of Chinese leaders on the altars. Night raids in monasteries to search images, books and audio/video recordings of the religious teachings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama are rampant. Monks and nuns are forced to denounce His Holiness. In 1996, six monks were shot and wounded and one died when team went to Ganden monastery to enforce a ban on Dalai Lama pictures. Three months later some 92 monks were expelled from the monastery for refusing to sign an affidavit denouncing the Dalai Lama.



*Image showing how Tibetans are forced to keep pictures of Chinese leaders like Mao Tse-tung and Xi Jinping on altar whereas they are banned from keeping the images of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.
Source: Tibet Museum Archives, CTA*

36. In August 2013 the Chinese government has forcibly shut down Gaden Dhargyeling monastery in Shak Rongpo in Nagchu County, eastern Tibet, (Ch: Nagchu Prefecture, "TAR") over its alleged link with the Dalai Lama. The clampdown began in 2010 when it was alleged that the monastery had consulted the Dalai Lama over the reincarnation of its spiritual head, Rongpo Choejey Rinpoche. Same year, 75 years old Lama Dawa and another important monk of the monastery were arrested and sentenced to 7 years in prison under false charges.

37. The Chinese Communist Party government severely restricts the movement of Tibetans even for religious purposes. Tibetans have to seek permission to go on pilgrimage not just within the Tibet Autonomous Region but even around the adjoining Tibetan areas. In 2017 thousands of Tibetans who had come to attend the *Kalachakra* teachings by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, were compelled to return to Tibet amidst threats of incarceration by the Chinese Communist Party government. Upon return the passports of the Tibetans were snatched and burnt and were subjected to arbitrary detentions, interrogations, torture etc.

38. The Chinese Communist Party government continues to destroy monasteries and nunneries. Larung Gar and Yarchen Gar, two of the largest Tibetan Buddhist Centers in the world were demolished to less than half of its size in 2016. More than 10,000 Tibetan Buddhist monks, nuns and practitioners were forcibly evicted. The forcibly evicted monks and nuns were sent to "patriotic re-education camps". Several nuns committed suicide in the aftermath: Three nuns of Larung Gar, followed by two nuns (Tsering Dolma and Semgha) who died by hanging in their quarters on 19 July 2016 and a day later, another nun by the name of Rigzin Dolma hung herself.



Images of Larung Gar and Yarchen Gar demolition site and forced evictions of Tibetan buddhist monks and nuns in 2016. Source: Tibet Museum Archives, CTA



39. Monks and nuns are routinely subjected to "patriotic re-education camps" where they have to show "love" to the country and CCP by denouncing His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and stamping and spitting on his images. The nuns are also forced to sing and dance as part of graduation ceremony which goes against the basic tenets of being a nun. At "legal education camps" they are subjected to fear inducing tactics by teaching them not about their rights but regarding the severity of punishments for participating in any activity contrary to the narrative of the CCP

40. Tibetans from different walks of life and age groups are subjected to widespread violations of religious freedom. The visits of Tibetans to monasteries and sacred religious places to worship are strictly regulated and limited to only a couple of days in a week. On the other hand, Chinese tourists are allowed to visit the monasteries anytime. The European Parliament's Intergroup on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Religious Tolerance in its 2018 report categorised China under "severe violations" group and ranked China amongst the worst violators of Freedom of Religion or Belief in the World.

Eradicating Tibetan language, Culture, and Identity

41. Tibetans, though considered “ethnic minority” by China, do not have any language rights. On paper the Chinese Communist Party government respects all languages, however, it is imposing monolingualistic policies in practice. The so-called bilingual policy is a garb through which Tibetan language has been replaced by Mandarin as a medium of instruction in Tibetan schools. Learning their own language has become a crime as reported by Human Rights Watch in their comprehensive report titled “China's ‘Bilingual Education’ Policy in Tibet- Tibetan-Medium Schooling Under Threat.”

42. Tibetan language advocates also face severe retribution. Tashi Wangchuk, a Tibetan language rights advocate was detained, arrested and sentenced to 5 years in prison in a closed-door trial by the Chinese authorities for voicing concerns in his interview with the New York Times. Sonam Palden, a Tibetan monk from Kirti Monastery was arrested in Ngaba county in September 2019 for criticizing China’s oppressive policy against Tibetan language on WeChat, a social messaging application. Tsering Dorjee, resident of Peleb village in Tashi Zom Township, was detained and tortured on 20 February 2019 for having a phone conversation with his younger brother-in-exile about the importance of Tibetan language. Wangchuk from Shigatse Prefecture was detained in March 2019 for sharing Tibetan books on Wechat. These are just a few of the cases that have come to light. There are many more Tibetan language rights advocates suffering in Tibet.



Image of language-rights activist Tashi Wangchuk who was detained, arrested, and sentenced for voicing concerns against lack of Tibetan medium of instruction in Tibetan schools to the New York Times. Source: Tibet.Net, CTA.

43. The Chinese Communist Party government is adopting discriminative practices against Tibetan graduates with specialisation in Tibetan language by depriving them of any job prospects. Job preference is given to graduates in Mandarin language. There is no economic or social incentive in learning Tibetan language while not learning Mandarin will cause huge impediment even in the day to day activities like simple bank transactions. Furthermore all official documents are written in Mandarin including judicial documents. The Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination in its 2018 concluding observations noted the discriminative practices of China in terms of linguistic rights.

44. The Chinese government is shutting down majority of the primary schools in the Tibetan areas of Qinghai province and is forcing Tibetan children out of their homes into boarding schools. This appears to be part of larger schemes of total sinicization of Tibetans with these “boarding schools” teaching Mandarin instead of Tibetan language. Moreover, the few local schools that started classes were strictly ordered to replace Tibetan with Chinese language as medium of instruction.

45. Monasteries which were the secondary source for learning Tibetan have been banned from teaching the language to school-going children. The Chinese authorities of Qinghai’s Nangchen County issued an urgent notice prohibiting the monasteries from holding classes and called for “ideological education of parents and children” to quell the “strength of the opposition.”

46. The cultural aspects of Tibetans' lives include participation in religious activities. But Tibetan children are banned from participating in any religious activities even during the vacations. If Tibetan students are found to be participating in religious activities, the parents will be subjected to disciplinary actions and penalties. Tibetan government officials and retired elderly Tibetans are banned from participating in religious activities. Even going on *kora* (circumambulation) of religious shrines and sites are banned. The Chinese Communist Party government has also banned religious practices of offering *sangsol* --burning of religious offerings -- in front of the Jokhang temple. It has also banned hoisting of *lungta* (prayer flags).



Image of Chinese international daily citing bans on religious activities for Tibetan children "in accordance with law". Source: Global Times.

47. 95% of Tibet's cultural heritage has been destroyed during the Cultural Revolution and the ensuing "developmental projects" of the Chinese Communist Party in Tibet. In a systematic process of national and cultural extermination, Tibetans were forced to falsely malign and denigrate Tibetan traditional culture to satisfy ideologies of Chinese Communist Party. Tibetan traditional secular buildings of cultural significance in Lhasa were destroyed by Chinese Communist Party on the pretext of modernisation.

48. As reported by International Commission of Jurists in its 1997 report on Tibet: "Half the houses in Lhasa's Barkhor area were demolished between 1989 to 1993. In 1994-95, the Chinese government demolished the historic Shol area beneath the Potala Palace and evicted its residents to create a plaza and park with Chinese shops for tourists, including a discotheque. Between January and June 1997, an estimated twenty-eight historic buildings were destroyed in Lhasa. In June 1997 the Tromsikhang Palace built in the 17th century by the Sixth Dalai Lama and regarded as one of the most important historic buildings remaining in Lhasa was demolished. Since January 1997, 28 historic buildings in the old city are reported to have been demolished. The Tromsikhang Palace, designated as due for "strict preservation as a cultural relic" by the Communist Party Municipal Development Plan for the Barkhor area was raised to the ground in June 1997. Other buildings of great historic significance, such as the Tibetan historian Shakapba's house (he facade of which remained intact with minor damage), and the Dergye King's Palace, were also demolished in the summer of 1997."



(Anticlockwise) Images the Tromsikhang Palace intact before its demolition in 1997; Tromsikhang Palace undergoing demolition in 1997; Recent conversion into 'former site of the Yamen for the Qing Government Minister stationed in Tibet' in 2013. Source: Tsering Woesser, 2014, *High Peaks Pure Earth*.

49. The Tibetan traditional medicine which was initially "tolerated but ignored" was also brought under direct control of the Chinese Communist Party. It was purged of any elementary Buddhist concepts of healing resulting in the death of many of local medical practices. The traditional monastic Chagpori College of Tibetan Medicine in Lhasa was destroyed in 1959 and the Men-Tse-Khang college was subjected to direct control by Chinese health authorities. Since 2019 China is now claiming the Tibetan traditional medicinal system of *Sowa Rigpa* as intangible cultural heritage of humanity at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). China is contesting the claims of India where *Sowa Rigpa* is practiced in its Himalayan belt promoted by the Tibetan exile community.

50. Tibetan writers, scholars, intellectuals, artists including singers who discuss about human rights of Tibetans including cultural rights are persecuted by the Chinese Communist Party. The editors and contributors of the magazine Shar Dugri (East Conch Mountain) published by a group of Tibetan students in June 2008 were arrested and sentenced to prison. The author of Tsenpoi Nyintop (Courage of the Emperor), Gartze Jigme, was arrested and sentenced, twice in 2013. The author of "The Division of Heaven and Earth: on the Peaceful Revolution of the Earth Rat Year" Tagyal, popularly known by his penname Shogdung (morning conch) was arrested and imprisoned in March 2010. In 1993, the sentences of a group of 14 nuns were extended after they were found recording a song in praise of the Dalai Lama. In 2012, a Tibetan from Amchok township in Ngaba in Sichuan Province was arrested for releasing songs in praise of the Dalai Lama. In 2013, two Tibetan singers from Ngaba were sentenced to two years in prison for including songs about self-immolations and the Dalai Lama. In 2019, lyricist Khadro Tseten and singer Tsego were arrested and sentenced for composing songs in praise of the Dalai Lama. In 2020, Lhundrub Dakpa, a popular Tibetan singer from Kham Driru in Nagchu was sentenced to six years in prison for singing songs criticising China's repressive policies in Tibet.



Images of Tagyal (alias Shogdung) who was imprisoned in March 2010. Source: High Peaks Pure Earth.

Vested Development, Economic Marginalisation and Forced Labour

51. China's development policies in Tibet are aimed at integrating Tibet into China in order to make it indistinguishable from any other Chinese province. China's Seventh Five-Year Plan (1986- 1991) initiated a policy to integrate "hostile border regions", including Tibet, into China's economy. Like any colonizing country, China treated Tibet as a supplier of raw materials and natural resources, and in return Tibet received influx of "skilled" settlers with technical, managerial and business know-how. This caused rampant unemployment amongst Tibetans and acute food shortages. To speed up integration, the Chinese Communist Party government launched 62 projects in Tibet in 1994 in addition to already existing 43 projects introduced in 1984. These projects were aimed developing at "hard infrastructure" such as highways, dams, power stations, and mineral extraction necessary for colonizing rather than on "soft infrastructure" like health, education and human capacity building.

52. China's influx of so-called developmental projects in Tibet were further accelerated due to the Kosovo crisis, which shocked China into accelerating the Tibet's economic integration into China. Developing Tibet is only a pretext to advance China. In November 1998, Beijing established two high-level Working Groups directly under the CCP's Central Committee—one to supervise Beijing's policy towards Tibet and another towards Xinjiang. Simultaneously, the fourth plenary session of the Fifteenth CCP Central Committee decided to launch a massive campaign to "develop" what it sees as China's western region and started new railway projects in Tibet. Chen Dongsheng, one of China's master planners for the Western Development Program, revealed that the aim of the scheme was to "guarantee the inviolability" of the borders and "smash our enemies who want to use the poverty and the contradictions between races to create a Kosovo-style crisis in Asia". A western scholar teaching at Beijing University summed up the objective of China's Western Development Program "as an effort to consolidate imperial and communist conquests." This rings true even today.

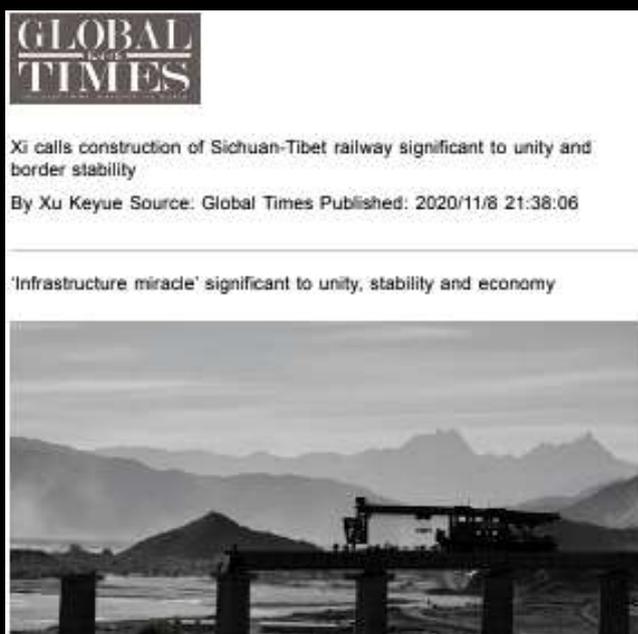


Image of a recent Chinese international daily citing the Sichuan-Tibet railway construction as source of "unity" and "border stability". Source: Global Times, 2020.

53. The focus of economic development on urban areas and particularly for the benefit of the Chinese migrants created huge income gap between urban areas predominantly inhabited by Chinese migrants and rural areas predominantly inhabited by Tibetans. Between 1991 and 1996, the average annual income of rural dwellers in the “TAR” increased by only 50 percent to 975 yuan, while that of urban residents spiralled up by 250 percent to 5,030 yuan. There was a parallel increase in the income gap between the predominantly Chinese employees of State-owned enterprises and the predominantly Tibetan employees in the informal sector.

54. Tibetans are subject to systemic economic marginalization. With the mass influx of ethnic Chinese migrants into Tibetan Autonomous Regions and Tibetan Areas where Tibetans live, Tibetans are left to compete with a migrant population that is better educated, understands the Chinese culture, and speaks the language. State and private Chinese enterprises that make up a large portion of the economy prefer to employ the Chinese migrants and exclude Tibetans from any meaningful participation in the local economy. Under China’s “Western Development Strategy”, Chinese workers and recent graduates are encouraged to move to remote Tibetan area by providing benefits, such as, university loan repayment assistance. Such discriminatory policies exacerbate the marginalization faced by local Tibetans. For example, China claimed that the Gyama mine near the capital city Lhasa would bring employment opportunities to the local Tibetan population. It claimed that the company hired 191 local Tibetans and that 35% of the workers were non-Han Chinese. However, when a massive landslide struck the mining site, 83 miners were killed and only two of them turned out to be local Tibetans, while the rest were Chinese migrant workers.



Image of a Gyama mine near Lhasa that become a local distress. Source:High Peaks Pure Earth.

55. The economic growth in Tibetan Autonomous Region is fueled by state subsidies and subsidised investments, making the local economy increasingly dependent on them. State subsidies were launched in the 1990s and increased over the years under China’s “Western Development Strategy”. In 2012, subsidies reached a high 116% of TAR’s GDP, an amount equal to 4.6 times the household income of a rural Tibetan family. However, the subsidies have had a ‘negative multiplier effect’ on growth with the key driver of TAR’s economy being money provided by the Chinese state. Despite the increasing economic growth in TAR, Tibetans remain the poorest in all of China. According to the UN Development Programme (UNDP), in 2016, the human development index for TAR was only 0.600 – the lowest in China. The UNDP also ranked Tibet the lowest in all of China under the living standard index.

56. The so called “development” has been for the purpose of ensuring the perpetuation of occupation and for China’s imperialistic intentions. Lhasa and Shigatse (CHN: Xigaze) are two of the most so-called “developed” parts of Tibet and as clearly admitted in its 2019 white paper, these have been developed because they are “two important nodes in the Belt and Road” initiative. Just like the highway to Lhasa which was built to bring in the People’s Liberation Army into Tibet, every development project of China be it highways, railways, airways, bridges, hydropower alike have been for one sole purpose- the development and progress of “motherland” China while the colonies like Tibet gets exploited to serve this purpose with incidental benefits of so called “development.”

The 2019 white paper notes that the largest source of income (about 75.45%) for Tibetans in urban areas is salary and for rural residents is farming (about 55.52%). 60 years of occupation and China has not developed any notable secondary sector industries in Tibet. Disempowering the Tibetans by ensuring that they are dependent on subsidies and then cutting off the subsidies for crossing some arbitrary line drawn by the Communist Party of China is not economic boom but a policy for disastrous and dependent Tibetan economy.

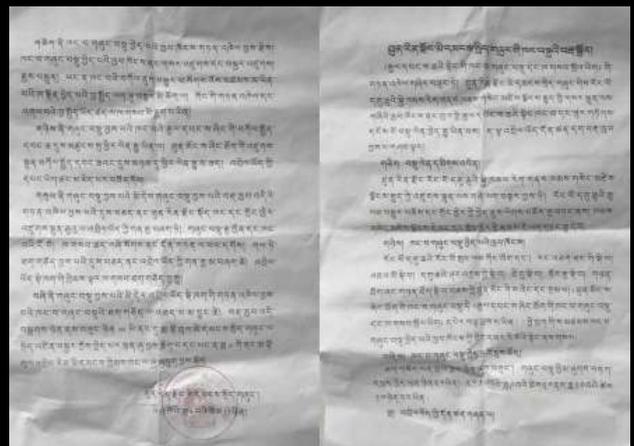


Image of Tibetans protesting against land grabbing for construction of highways in Sangchu County in Gansu (right). Photo sourced from Radio Free Asia, 2014. Image of confiscation notices to Tibetan homes of locals living near Guchu River at Rongpo in Rebkong county for development purposes. Source: Free Tibet, 2017.

57. China's economic development policies and practice are erasing Tibetans' distinct and traditional way of life. Since 2006, over 2 million Tibetans have been relocated under China's effort to "Build a New Socialist Countryside" in so-called TAR, claiming to improve the living standards of rural Tibetans and boosting the local economy. This includes the relocation of thousands of nomads from their centuries-old nomadic lands. As per report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Food in 2012, 50% to 80% of the 2.25 million Tibetan nomads have been relocated. Tibetans are forcibly removed and have no say in the mass relocation policies, which are radically altering their way of life.

58. The forced resettlements of nomads are also caused by the increasing development projects in "TAR", particularly mining activities and damming projects. Despite the widespread grievances it causes, China is vested in gaining access to the nomadic land for the extraction of resources and ending traditional agricultural practices. As a result, there is a growing resentment among local Tibetans because they fear that the forced relocations are eradicating their traditional way of life.

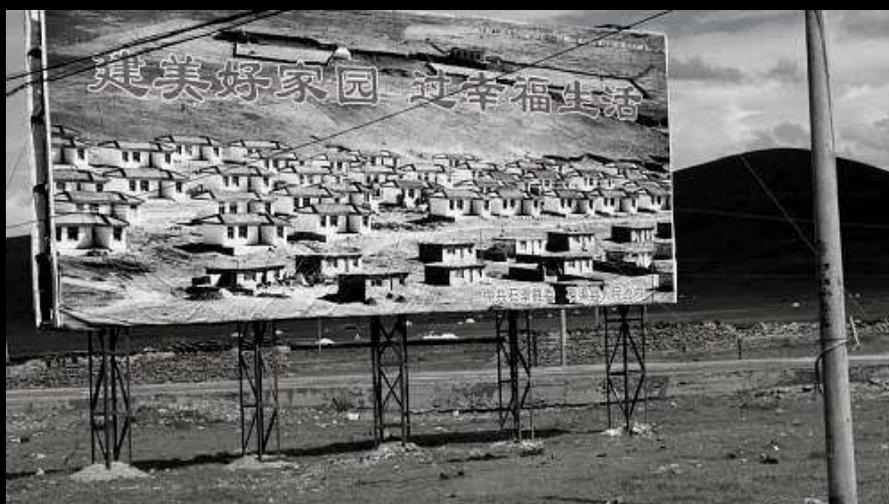


Image of a billboard promoting New Socialist Village in Serzhul county in Sichuan. Photo by Tsering Woesser, source: Human Rights Watch report "They Say We Should Be Grateful": Mass Rehousing and Relocation Programs in Tibetan Areas of China", 2013

59. Large numbers of nomads relocated do not do so voluntarily and that there are no prior consultation or any alternatives provided. The locals avoid openly opposing the policy due to fear of arrest or official retribution. In a latest case, after extensive illegal mining supported by the Chinese authorities, the CCP is now attempting to convert it into a national park. For this, China coerced 4,000 Tibetan farmers and herders living in Themchen county's Muru township and Suru and Drugkhyung villages to move to Golmud city in Qinghai by the end of 2020. This is not only depriving them of their sustainable lifestyle but also making them dependent on government's welfare schemes, which will be used as a coercive measure against them later on.

60. The 2020 report by Adrian Zenz notes that over half a million Tibetans are subjected to forced labour camps which is almost 15% of the population. It is a widespread system of forced labour in Tibetan Autonomous Region with over 500,000 Tibetans being enlisted under various programs including 2019-2020 Farmer and Pastoralist Training and Labor Transfer Action Plan. Over half a million Tibetans are being subjected to coercive labour trainings with enforced indoctrination, intrusive surveillance, military-style enforcements and harsh punishments. The Chinese government deprived the Tibetans of their livelihood by illegal agricultural land grabs and forceful resettlement of the Tibetan nomads, then further in the name of 'poverty alleviation' and 'development' China, is now rounding up Tibetans in labour camps and factories for absolute subjugation.



Images above and below: "Military style" training of Tibetans in Chamdo in 2016, Tibet (top and down) Source: Adrien Zenz's report "Xinjiang's System of Militarized Vocational Training Comes to Tibet" in China Brief, 2020.



Environmental Degradation and Climate Change

61. China's flawed environmental and development policies have turned the resource-rich Tibetan plateau into a hub of mining and dam-building activities. Such activities causing environmental crises in Tibetan plateau, threatening traditional agricultural practices which have sustained and protected the Tibetan environment for centuries. The environmental degradation is most conspicuous in grassland areas, forests, water resources and the wildlife. Also, given that Tibetan plateau has the highest elevation point in the world, the rising temperatures in the Tibetan Plateau makes it both a driver and amplifier of climate change in Asia and across the world.



Image of a mining site polluting river in Gyama valley in Lhasa, Central Tibet. Source: Environmental Justice Atlas.

62. **Excessive Deforestation:** On the eve of China's invasion, Tibet's ancient forests covered 221,800 sq. km. in area. By 1985 they stood at 134,000 sq. km i.e. nearly half. Almost all deforestation on the Tibetan plateau has occurred as a result of planned commercial timber extraction. The authorities encouraged the over-exploitation of forest resources by imposing a State procurement quota, which was not based on ecologically and economically sustainable principles. In the Nyingtri area of south-eastern "TAR", over 20,000 Chinese soldiers and Tibetan prisoners were engaged in felling trees and transporting timber for about two decades till 1980. Outside the "TAR", Amdo's Ngaba region had 2.20 million hectares under forest cover in 1949. Its timber reserves then stood at 340 million cubic metres. In the 1980s it was reduced to 1.17 million hectares, with a timber reserve of only 180 million cubic metres. Similarly, it was observed that by 1985 China had extracted 6.44 million cubic metres of timber from Kanlho, now incorporated into Gansu Province. If the trees were cut into logs measuring 30 centimetres wide by three metres long, and layed end to end, they would encircle the globe twice. By the early 1980s, forest resources in the more accessible Tibetan areas outside the "TAR" had dwindled to such an extent that felling activities had to be moved to more and more remote areas. At the same time, natural forest regeneration has been minimal due to the extreme degree of land slope, low soil moisture, extreme day-night temperature variations and high soil surface temperatures. Forest regeneration in Tibet takes anything between 70 to 100 years. Therefore, the destructive effects of tree-felling on the Tibetan plateau are irreversible.

63. **Glacial Retreat:** There is rapid glacial retreat on the Tibetan Plateau which is home to 46,000 glaciers and popularly called Third Pole of the world. Since the 1950s, a temperature rise of up to 0.3°C per decade has been recorded in Tibet at twice the average rise in the global temperature. This increase resulted not only in the melting of more than 82 per cent of the glaciers but also the heating up of the plateau to the extent that no net accumulation of ice has occurred since the 1950s. Also, summers come faster, forcing the melting seasons on the plateau to begin earlier and last longer. Scientists have warned that if the current rate of melting continues, then 2/3rd of the glaciers on the Tibetan Plateau will be depleted by 2050. This fast melting also led to a surge in river flow and increased incidents of floods across Tibet during summer.

64. **Permafrost degradation and grassland desertification:** Approximately 70 per cent of the Tibetan plateau is covered by various types of permafrost, mostly alpine permafrost (due to its high altitude). When the permafrost melts moderately during the summer months, it nurtures the growth of vegetation on the rain-scarce Tibetan Plateau, a process that has sustained life on the vast grassland across much of north and northeastern regions of Tibet. But according to a 2001 study published in the Journal of Desert Research, it stated that 313,000 square kms. of land in Tibet was degraded in 1995 and that an additional 30,000 sq. km. of potentially newly degraded desert land has been identified. According to a UNDP report (2007), Tibet's grasslands are being turned into desert at a rate of 2,330 sq. km. per year. Desertification at the Zoige wetland in northeastern Tibet is reported (2012 China Dialogue) to be increasing at 10 per cent per year. Alpine grasslands are the most dominant ecosystem on the Tibetan Plateau, occupying over 60 per cent of the total area; the rapidly increased rate of permafrost degradation has led to faster desertification of grassland in many parts of north and northeastern Tibet. If this continues, much of Tibet could become a desert.

Image of protest against mining at sacred mountain in Amchok Gong-ngon Lar, Eastern Tibet in 2016. Source: South China Morning Post



65. Frequent Natural Disasters in Tibet: Since 2016, Tibet has seen unprecedented number of natural disasters with numerous floods and landslides occurring simultaneously across the plateau. Mud floods and landslides on 9 July in Tsolho in northeastern Tibet killed two people and injured more than thirty. Drought in Chumarleb and Matoe in July in northern Tibet left behind dry rivers with hundreds of dead fish. A glacial avalanche on 17 July in Ruthog County of Ngari in western Tibet killed nine people and buried 110 yaks and 350 sheep. A flood in Labrang and Sangchu on 22 August in northeastern Tibet destroyed significant amounts of property. Tibet suffered even more extreme natural disasters during 2017 when 6,000 homes were flooded, affecting 30,000 people in Rongdrak on 15 June; four homes were damaged by floods in Sokzong on 16 June; many homes were damaged by floods in Derge on 6 July; and three people lost their lives and many homes were damaged by floods in Jomda in eastern Tibet in the month of July. Unfortunately, the Chinese government has done little to combat these disasters. The loss of life and damage to property from the floods and landslides could have been greatly reduced had the Chinese government taken more proactive measures and implemented proper policies.



Image of flooding in Po, Jomda county in October, 2018 which locals suggests is connected to the excessive mining and infrastructural work in the area. Source: Free Tibet.

66. China's extractive industry is determined to exploit the rich deposits at the cost of widespread environmental damage, including land erosion and pollution of water sources for both humans and livestock. A number of protests against environment degradation broke in the past years: Anti-mining protest in Dechen County, Dechen Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture or "TAP", Yunnan (November 2016); Anti-mining protest in Sangchu County, Kanlho TAP, Gansu (May 2016); Anti-mining protest in Minyak County, Sichuan (May 2016); Water pollution protest in Dartsedo County, Karze TAP, Sichuan (May 2016); Water pollution protest in Meldro Gungkar County, Lhasa City, TAR (Sept 2014); Anti-mining protest in Nangchen County, Yushu TAP, Qinghai (August 2014); Anti-mining protest in Dechen County, Dechen TAP, Yunnan (July 2014); Anti-mining protest in Dzogang County, Chamdo Prefecture, TAR (April 2014); Anti-mining protest in Darge County, Karze TAP, Sichuan (December, 2013); Water pollution protest in Dartsedo County, Karze TAP, Sichuan (October, 2013); Anti-mining protest in Dzatoe County, Yushu TAP, Qinghai (August, 2013); Anti-mining protest in Driru County, Nagchu Prefecture, "TAR" (May, 2013).

67. **Impact of Destructive Mining Practices:** The Chinese authorities have imposed a destructive and irresponsible mining practices coupled with extensive mining of rare earth materials which have led to large-scale environmental degradation. Tibet has deposits of an estimated 132 different minerals, and these account for a significant share of the world's reserves of mineral resources, including chromium, salt, copper, silver, coal, gold, lithium, lead, zinc, asbestos, oil, gas, magnesium, potash and uranium. Extraction of mineral ores and natural resources has been vigorously carried out by the Chinese government to fuel its growing economy and to lessen its dependence on costly imports. The contradiction between stated policy of environmental protection and lack of actual implementation have led to unchecked exploitation of Tibetan Plateau often resulting in natural disasters like flooding, landslides, pollution of the rivers etc.

68. Tibetan environmental right defenders are persecuted. Anya Sengdra a Tibetan nomad and a well-known environmental rights defender was sentenced to 7 years in prison in 2019. Every attempt of Tibetans to collectively fight for their rights against illegal mining, forceful resettlement of nomads and illegal land grabs are branded as "Black and Evil Crimes." Their attempts to form small groups for conservation of environment is viewed as an "act of separatism."

Nine Tibetans sentenced were sentenced for creating an informal organization urging Chinese authorities to return community land acquired by authorities in Rebgong County, Malho (Tongren) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. They were convicted for founding an "evil organization."



Image of Anya Sengdra, a Tibetan nomad and environmental rights activist sentenced to 7-year prison term in 2019. Source: Tibet.Net. CTA.

69. **Impact of Irresponsible Damming:** Relentless construction of dam on the rivers in Tibet since the 1960s and the new mega dam projects not only destroy the biodiversity of the region but also directly contribute to natural disasters like earthquakes. Probe International warned in April 2012 that 98.6 per cent of the dams being constructed in western China were located in moderate to very high seismic hazard zones. There have been series of earthquakes in China, Nepal, India, Bhutan since 2017 which are directly attributable to the mega dam constructions.

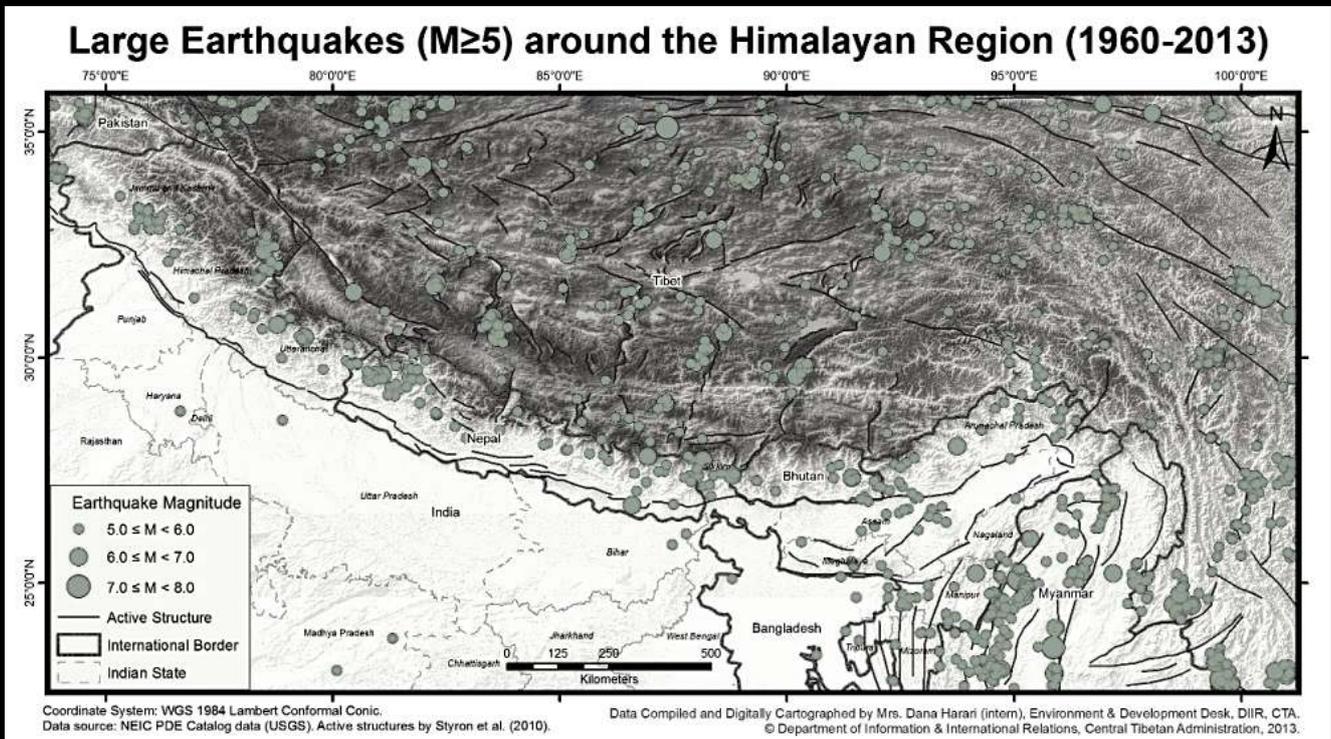


Image of earthquakes of 5 or more magnitude within the Himalayan belt between 1960 to 2013 underlining the growing risks of extensive damming. Source: Environment and Development Desk at DIIR, CTA.

70. **Water scarcity and Water wars:** The role of water scarcity as a trigger for conflict is well-documented, and the risk of climate change in the Third Pole region leading to regional or even geo-political international conflict is high. A 2018 study from European Commission indicated that worldwide the rising temperatures and population growth will increase the chance of cross-border conflicts by between 75 to 95 percent in the next 50 to 100 years. The study identifies that the future wars will be fought over water and illustrates where such “hydro-political issues” might arise. The extensive damming projects by China on Tibetan rivers is also causing serious threat to international peace and security.

Tibetan Political Prisoners and Torture Deaths

71. Tibetans are subjected to arbitrary detention, arrests and sentencing. Arbitrary detention has become the “new normal.” It has often become the case where Tibetans- layperson and monastic people, are picked up from their respective places of residence in the middle of the night and nobody knows their whereabouts for months. The family members are not informed about the reasons for such detention nor are they informed of the location of detention. During the detention the human rights defenders are subjected to torture and other cruel, inhumane and degrading treatments forcing them to confess their “crimes”.

Lobsang Dorje, a monk from Ngaba County’s Kirti monastery was held under “incommunicado detention” since July 2018 and was later sentenced to three years after a hurried “trial” in September 2019. He was picked up from the monastery in the middle of the night on suspicion of contacting the outside world.



Image of Goshul Lobsang, a 43-year-old Tibetan died on 19 March 2014 due to torture sustained while in Chinese prison. Source: RFA Tibetan.

72. Tibetans are often subjected to unfair trial with no possibility of defending themselves. Firstly, all the court documents are in Chinese language and not Tibetan. This was also highlighted by the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination in its observations published in 2018. Secondly, Tibetans are not even given a copy of the court documents nor are they allowed to render any evidence in their defence. Access to lawyers to defend against the charges is a rarity. Often the so-called trials are merely a façade. Even the family members and relatives get to know after they have already been tried and sentenced. Lodo Gyatso also known as Sogkhar Lodo was arrested for staging a peaceful protest in front of the Potala Palace in Lhasa in January 2018. His wife Gakyi was arrested for shooting a video clip of him before going to the protest. Lodo Gyatso was sentenced to 18 years and his wife Gakyi was sentenced to 2 years in prison after secret trials of which the family members only got to know about in November 2018.

Image of Lodo Gyatso, also known as Sogkhar Lodo. Source: Tibet.Net, CTA.



73. **Abuse of Laws:** China has been misusing its laws with vague and overly-broad definition of crimes to frame Tibetans under false charges. The classic example is the misuse of counter-terrorism law. Twelve Special Procedures in their joint communication to China expressed grave concerns of this misuse leading to “arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, absence of judicial oversight and procedural safeguards and restrictions of the right to freedom of expression, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, the right to education and the right to freedom of movement within an increasingly securitized environment, particularly for designated minorities, notably Uyghurs and Tibetans.” In the name of campaign against “organized crimes” and “Evil and Black Forces” many Tibetans are targeted and persecuted. Anya Sengdra who is a well-known environmental activist and anti-graft crusader, was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment on 6 December 2019 for raising his voice against illegal land grabs and calling for the return of community land. He was charged for founding “evil organisation.”

74. **Enforced Disappearances, Torture, and Custodial Deaths:** Often the Tibetans are detained without any official charges for months during which time they are subjected to inhumane treatments and torture. There have also been many cases of torture deaths.

75. In May 1998 at least 10 prisoners in Drapchi, Lhasa, were tortured to death for shouting slogans such as “Long Live the Dalai Lama” and “Free Tibet” during the visit of an European Union delegation composed of Beijing-based ambassadors from Britain, Austria and Luxemburg. Karma Dawa, the leader of the protestors, was executed while the surviving protesters had their sentences increased by 4 to 5 years.

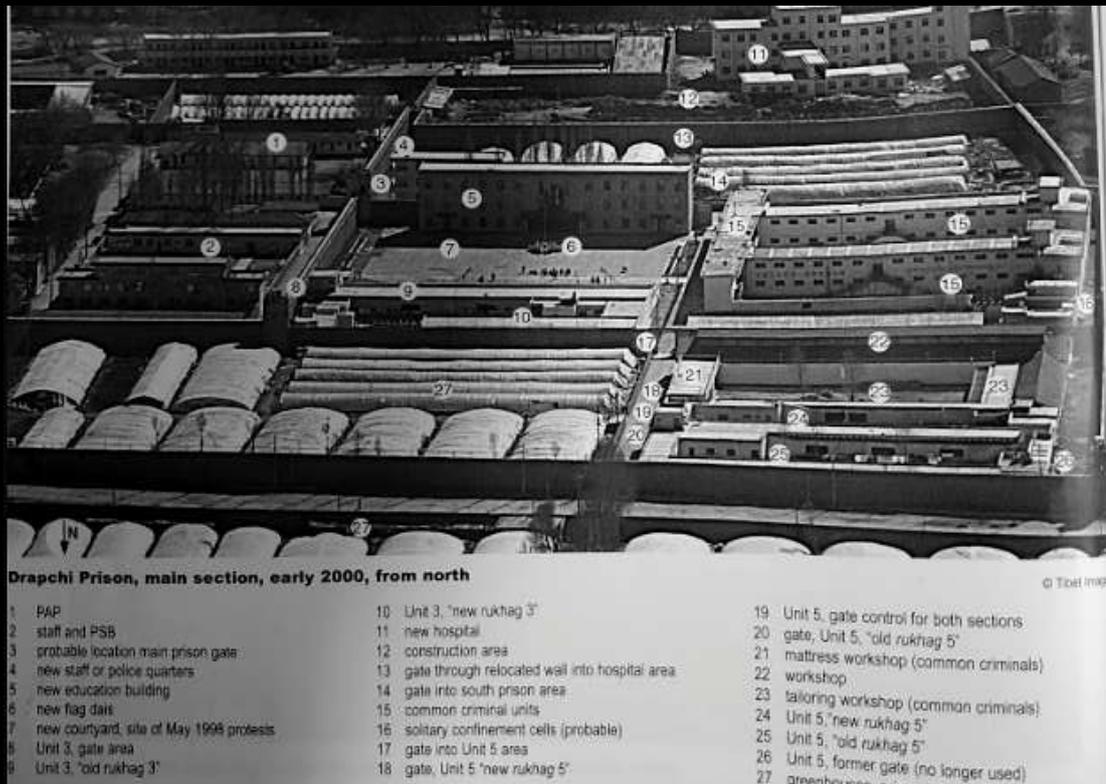


Image of Main section of the infamous Drapchi Prison circa early 2000. Source: Steven D. Marshall's Rukhag 3 The Nuns of Drapchi Prison.

76. Kunchok Jinpa, a 51-year-old Tibetan tour guide, who was serving an arbitrary sentence of 21 years in prison for sharing information about protests in his village, was tortured leading to brain haemorrhage and paralysis. He later died in hospital on 6 February, 2021. His family had no information about him until few days before his death.



Image of an undated file photo of Kunchok Jinpa. Source: Human Rights Watch.

77. A 19-year-old Tibetan monk, Tenzin Nyima from Dza Wonpo died on 19 January, 2021 after being severely beaten and tortured by the Chinese authorities for staging a peaceful protest in November 2019. Tenzin Nyima was arbitrarily detained on 9 November 2019 and was briefly released in May 2020 before being rearrested on 11 August, 2020. While in custody Tenzin Nyima was tortured by the Chinese officials. He suffered severe beatings resulting in serious injuries and was not even given proper food that led to a deteriorated health, so much so that he was unable to even move or speak. In early October 2020, prison authority informed Tenzin Nyima's family of his serious health condition and told them to take him away from the prison. On taking Tenzin Nyima to hospital, the doctors declared his condition critical and the injuries beyond treatment; he later succumbed to his injuries on 19 January, 2021.



Image of 19-year old monk Tenzin Nyima before and after imprisonment, prior to succumbing to his injuries in January, 2021. Source: The Tibet Post.

78. Tibetan political prisoners are often discriminated against under the Chinese prison system. They are subjected to hard physical labour, torture and cannot even utilize the points accumulated through "good behaviour" and "physical labour" towards benefits or reduction in sentencing. The prison food is barely edible yet it puts the family into huge financial burden as they have to pay for any food given to their ward from prison provisions.

79. Upon release from the prison, the political prisoners are subjected to surveillance and monitoring. They are deprived of any welfare benefits. Most of these prisoners are released in flailing health conditions and cannot even avail medical benefits.

80. Due to lack of transparency, there is no concrete information on the total number of Tibetan political prisoners in Tibet. Rough estimates range from 500 to 2000 Tibetan political prisoners languishing in prisons in Tibet.

Other Eggregious Human Rights Violations in Tibet

81. **No Freedom of Expression:** There is absolutely no freedom of expression in Tibet. The human rights defenders are often subjected to incommunicado detention, arbitrary arrests, unfair trial and arbitrary sentencing for expressing their concerns over the deteriorating human rights situation in Tibet. Well-known language rights activist, Tashi Wangchuk was arrested and sentenced to 5 years in prison for “inciting separatism” only because he spoke to the *New York Times* about his intention to march to Beijing to ask for the rights to preserve the Tibetan language in schools. His appeals against the sentencing were dismissed and was even denied of his rights to meet his lawyer to discuss his case. Sonam Palden, a monk from Kirti Monastery was arrested in Ngaba county in September 2019 for posting critical views on China’s policy on Tibetan language on *WeChat*, a social messaging app. Wanchuk from Shigatse Prefecture was detained in March 2019 for sharing Tibetan books on *Wechat*. Tsering Dorjee, resident of Peleb village in Tashi Zom Township, was detained on 20 February 2019 for having a phone conversation with his younger brother who is exile about the importance of Tibetan language. He was subjected to torture in detention.

82. **No Freedom of Movement or Assembly:** Tibetans do have the right to move freely be it within the designated Tibetan areas, so-called Tibet Autonomous Region or across China or abroad. They have to register and seek permission to travel and for travelling abroad their applications for passports are routinely rejected. They also do not have the right to assemble. Even forming of small groups to air grievances against land grabs or destruction of environment leads to framing of criminal charges against the members and are often subjected to severe punishment.



Image of 10 Tibetans -- Tashi Gyatso, Nyingchak, Gyalo, Sonam Gyal, Takthar Gyal, Tswang, Tenpa Gyatso, Tamding Dorjee, Tamding Tsering and Choepa Tsering, who were sentenced from 9 to 14 years of prison terms in Kanlho, Tibet at the Sangchu County People's Court on the grounds of “extortion” and “forced trading”. source: Photo/State media handout.

83. **Organ harvesting:** The punitive climate for Tibetans are also exacerbated by the fear of forced organ harvesting behind the heavily guarded prison walls. China has been condemned as a "criminal state" by the China Tribunal which noted the prevalence of forced organ harvesting including mysterious deaths of Tibetans in custody. The 562 page judgement of the China Tribunal gives detailed accounts of forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners, Tibetan Buddhists, Uighur Muslims etc. The report also highlighted the Nobel Peace Prize nominee and co-founder of the International Coalition to end Organ Abuse in China, Ethan Gutmann's book, *The Slaughter*, that notes how "after the Tibetan uprising of 2008, many prisoners were shifted to Sichuan, a place of much organ harvesting according to Matas and Kilgour, and Qinghai Province. In addition, construction modern hospitals within Tibet increased dramatically." In the book, Guntmann further offered his "best estimate" that organs of 65,000 Falun Gong and "two to four thousand" Uyghurs, Tibetans and Christians were "harvested" in the 2000- 2008 period. On 14 June 2021, 12 UN experts called on China to express their serious concerns on credible reports and information of forced organ harvesting and demanded China to allow for independent monitoring by international human rights mechanisms. They noted that for forced organ harvesting, China is targeting Tibetans, Uyghurs, Falun Gong Practitioners, Muslims, Christians and other detainees who are often arrested arbitrarily.



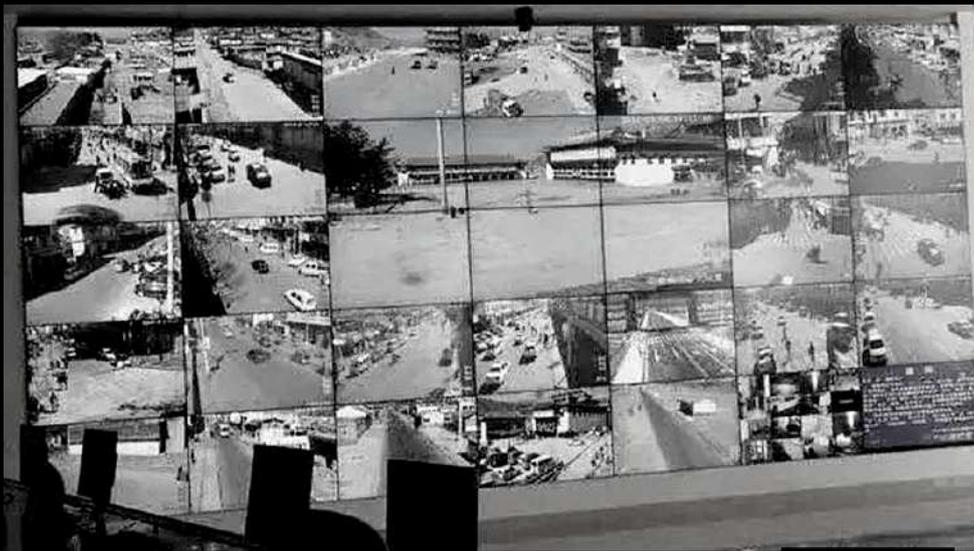
Mass handcuffing of monks from Kirti monastery in 2011 in Ngaba county (incorporated within Sichuan province) on grounds of separatism as displayed by placards tied around their necks. As the author Ethan Guntmann notes, arbitrary detainees face the risk of forced 'organ harvesting'. Source: AsiaNews.



Above are the images of Mass detention and transportation of monks from Kirti monastery in 2011 in Ngaba county (incorporated within Sichuan province) on grounds of separatism as displayed by placards tied around their necks. As the author Ethan Guntmann notes, arbitrary detainees face the risk of forced 'organ harvesting'. Source: AsiaNews.

84. Grid-based Surveillance System: Since 2013, the neighbourhood has been turned into a site of self-policing of any individuals or actions that are seen as challenging the CCP's authority that it deems 'splittist' or 'extremists'. Through its 'double linked household system' otherwise also known as grid system, this grassroots method of surveillance uses grouping of households to tell on each other as an extension of government's eyes, and report to them against a reward or punishments. Such forms of household linkage are far from tools of social well-being, considering the CCP's bans on actual welfare groups *kyidug* that have been traditionally used by Tibetans to take care of community's well-being.

85. High-tech Surveillance system: China has been deploying mass surveillance systems across the country. However, the most affected groups of such surveillance mechanism are often the so-called ethnic minorities like the Tibetans, the Uyghurs, and the Mongols. For the effective surveillance the Chinese authorities collect biometrics including DNA and voice samples, personal information including name, date of birth, height, skin color, color of eyes, dental records, residential addresses, electric meter number, prayer routines, daily schedules, purchasing behavior, video gaming habits, social acquaintances, and adherence to rules in public spaces and so forth. Authorities employ high-tech mass surveillance systems that make use of QR codes, biometrics, artificial intelligence, phone spyware, surveillance cameras, facial recognition, big data etc.



*Image of advanced state surveillance from a control room at Kirti monastery in Ngaba, Sichuan Province.
Source: International Campaign for Tibet.*

86. Censorship: Undoubtedly an open secret, the CCP narrows not only which sites one can visit but also how they are engaged with. Through its comprehensive filtration system that blocks out any searches on 'Dalai Lama', 'Tibet', 'Taiwan', 'Falun Gong' etc. that the CCP deems sensitive, it controls what the users can choose to see. The lack of government transparency is further exacerbated by the lack of independent channels of news inside China including international media presence as well as bans on citizens' access to common social media sites like Twitter and Facebook. China has instituted the Great Red Firewall which prevents such access.

87. **Restrictions on access to information:** The use of internet is mediated heavily by the state through the issuing of 'Internet Browsing Registration Card' that one can avail from cyber cafes against a small amount. The aim of linking the card to an individual -- with punishments for registering with a fake identity -- makes the internet highly traceable back to the Tibetans as in the case of Lhasa where these were issued by the Office of Public Information under the Internet Security of the Lhasa Public Security Bureau. In a noted incident in 2003, a Tibetan internet user was heavily interrogated in two government stations for over 9 hours for communicating with a foreigner who incidentally had a 'sensitive' details in its sender address.

88. **Police state:** During his time as the Party Secretary of Tibet, Chen Quanguo recruited over four times the police between 2011 to 2016 with more than 12,000 police and security recruits to support his immediate rollout of 'convenience police stations' within months of his appointment.



(Top to down) Images of Chinese police patrol before the Potala Palace in Lhasa in June 2008. Source: Radio Free Asia Tibetan.; Then Party Secretary of "TAR" (2010-2015) who experimented tightened control in "TAR" before replicating them in Xinjiang (East Turkestan) as its current "Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region" since 2016. Source: Free Tibet.

89. Violation of Right to Privacy: The extensive surveillance system has caused devastation to the private lives of Tibetans. Nothing they do online or offline is safe and is subject to intrusive surveillance. Their every move is monitored and often restricted. Neighbours are encouraged to spy on each other and students are encouraged to spy on teachers and fellow students and are often rewarded. The social credit system is expected to wreck even more havoc. The Chinese internet and mobile companies *Baidu* and *Tencent* scored the second and third lowest ranks with regard to their commitments and policies to freedom of expression and privacy. In the field of privacy these companies failed to disclose the process adopted for responding to third-party requests for user information, data about third-party requests for user information and user notification about third-party requests for user information. These raise huge concerns about how the right to privacy of the internet and mobile users of these two companies are being protected.

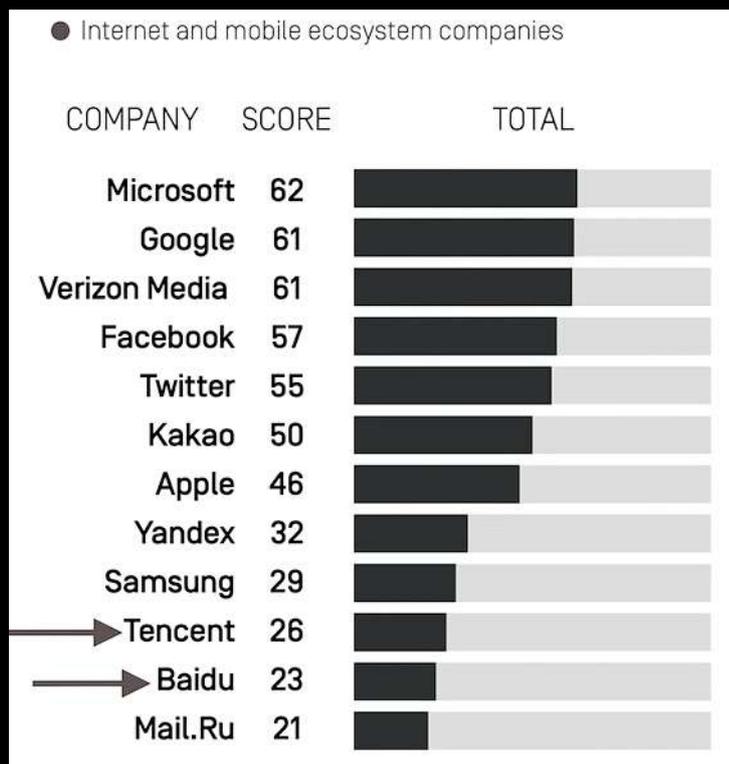


Image of the 2019 Ranking Digital Rights Corporate Accountability Index. Source: Ranking Digital Rights

90. Covid-19 Response: Tibetans in general do not have easy access to healthcare facilities especially when it comes to rural areas. Moreover, former Tibetan political prisoners upon release do not have access to healthcare under welfare benefits. The Chinese government is using the COVID-19 outbreak as an excuse to further suppress Tibetans. Tibetans are in “double lockdown” situation where the objective of the lock-down is not “prevention and cure” but “suppression and subjugation.” Instead of sending health workers the Chinese government is sending military soldiers; instead of sending temperature screening devices the Chinese government is sending guns and grenades; and instead of installing health centres the Chinese government is installing military tents and bunkers. China has also suppressed information about the COVID-19 cases amongst Tibetans including the number of active cases and deaths. COVID-19 is being used by China as a means of further suppressing the Tibetans.

Tibetan Uprisings and Self-Immolations

91. Ever since the unprovoked invasion and illegal occupation of Tibet, Tibetans across the country have raised their voices against the Chinese Communist Party government. Despite brutal crushings, killings, arrests, tortures, custodial deaths, summary executions, Tibetans have stood up time and again protesting the repressive policies of the Chinese Communist Party. There have been several uprisings including the Tibetan National Uprising and Tibetan Women's Uprising in March 1959.

92. **1987 Uprisings:** On 27 September 1987 Lhasa witnessed the first internationally-reported protest demonstration against Chinese rule. The demonstration was led by 21 monks of Drepung Monastery, but was soon joined by around 100 lay people. As they reached the office of the “Tibet Autonomous Region” government, the police confronted and arrested all the monks, along with five lay protestors.

On 1 October 1987 the Chinese National Day, 34 monks, including 23 from Sera Monastery, marched along the Barkhor street encircling the Jokhang temple, carrying the banned Tibetan national flag and shouting slogans for Tibetan independence. About 50 lay Tibetans joined the monks. As they were making the fourth circuit, security personnel started beating the demonstrators. All the monks, along with some 30 lay protestors, were arrested and taken to the police station at the southwest corner of the Jokhang. A crowd of about 2,000 Tibetans stormed the police station to release them. Police then opened fire, killing at least seven protestors. Many demonstrators were subsequently arrested.

On 6 October 1987 there was yet another demonstration, this time by some 50 monks from Drepung Monastery. The monks went to the “TAR” government office and called for the release of their colleagues. They also shouted slogans for Tibetan independence. The police arrived within a few minutes. As the monks were arrested, they were viciously beaten with belts, sticks, rifle-butts and metal rods. The monks were released after two days. In the subsequent months, there were several minor demonstrations in Lhasa.



Image of Tibetan monk Jampa Tenzin and protesters in Tibet capital Lhasa, 1987. Source: Tibet Museum Archives, CTA.

93. **1988 Uprisings:** Beijing's security chief, Qiao Shi, visited the "TAR" and announced "merciless repression" on all forms of protest against Chinese rule. On December 10, 1988 there was a massive demonstration at the Jokhang, during which Chinese security personnel killed at least 15 demonstrators, seriously wounded over 150. Many more were arrested. According to a Western journalist, who was an eyewitness, one officer was heard ordering his men to "kill the Tibetans."

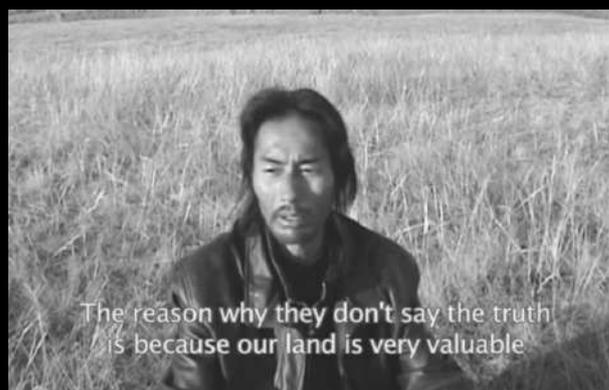
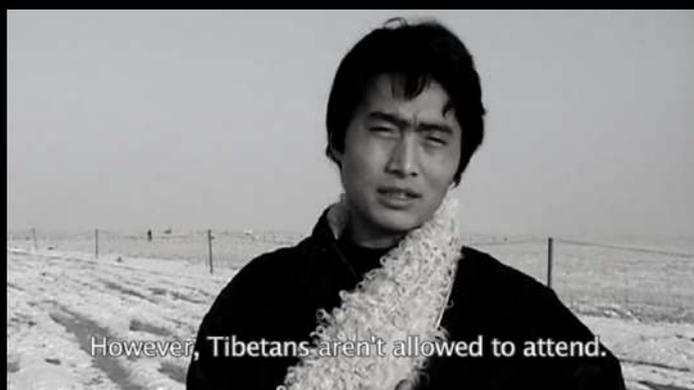
94. **1989 Uprisings:** Between March 5 and 7, 1989 Lhasa was again in turmoil, with demonstrators waving the outlawed Tibetan flag and demanding independence. Automatic weapons were fired during the crackdown including even into some homes. Estimates of the death toll varied from 80 to 400. The official Chinese figure was only 11. According to Tang Daxian, a Chinese journalist who was in Lhasa during this period, some 400 Tibetans were massacred, several thousand injured and 3,000 imprisoned. At midnight, on March 7, 1989, Martial Law was declared in Lhasa

95. **1993 Uprising:** On 24 May 1993 large numbers of Tibetans again took to the streets. Eyewitnesses, including tourists, estimate there were over 10,000 demonstrators massed that day. The demonstration, which continued over a period of two days, was once again quelled with brutal force as the demonstrators made their way home at dusk.



Image of people demonstrating in 1993 first to challenge price increases but later changing to call for the ousting of Chinese from Tibet. Source: Tibet Museum Archives, CTA.

96. **2008 Uprising:** With the upcoming 2008 Summer Olympics placing the international spotlight on China, protests that began in Lhasa on March 10, 2008 the 49th anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising Day - brought to the world's attention the Chinese government's grave human rights violations inside Tibet and the Tibetan people's struggle for justice. The 2008 uprisings were widespread, extending beyond Lhasa and into the Tibetan areas located outside of central Tibet. It is estimated that over 300 protests took place during this period of time and involved Tibetans from all walks of life, including lay persons, farmers, nomads, and students.



(Clockwise, top right corner) Screen grabs of documentary film 'Leaving Fear Behind' by Dhondup Wangchen who captured Tibetan views prior to 2008 Beijing Olympics; a Tibetan monk voicing his lack of freedom as a Tibetan for why he does not want Olympics; a Tibetan nomad sharing how the Chinese state is equivocating Tibetans to relocate from their land against ulterior motives of capturing natural resources; a Tibetan man laments how the Beijing Olympics is not open for Tibetans to attend; a Tibetan woman expressing lack of freedom and independence for not liking the Beijing Olympics; Dhondup Wangchen and his helper Jigme Gyatso were promptly arrested just when the film had been completed. Source: Leaving Fear Behind, 2008.

97. A group of over 300 monks from Drepung Monastery led the 10 March commemoration protest towards Barkhor in Lhasa. When the protestors were stopped by a large contingent of the People's Armed Police (PAP), the monks staged a sit-in protest and recited prayers for the long life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. About half an hour later, monks from Sera monastery also staged a protest, distributing pamphlets and carrying the banned Tibetan national flag. Following the outbreak on 10 March, an estimated 344 protests of varying sizes occurred in 2008. Many Tibetans were killed by the bullets of the Chinese security forces, at least 6,500 Tibetans were arrested, and 190 Tibetans are known to have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from nine months to life imprisonment.



Top image: Chinese armed police blocked the protesting monks of Drepung Monastery 10 March 2008; Below: Tibetan students protest on 16 March 2008. Source: Tibet Museum Archives, CTA

98. **Self-Immolations:** Since 2009, there are 155 known cases of self-immolation by Tibetans in Tibet as a peaceful protest against the repressive policies of the Chinese Communist Party. Tibetans -- young and old, men and women and from different walks of life -- have resorted to self-immolation as an act of resistance against the illegal invasion and occupation of Tibet by the Chinese Communist Party government. The age of the self-immolators range from 15 to 64 years old. The oldest of the self-immolators, Tamding Thar, was a 64-year-old from Amdo Chentsa County, while the youngest, Dorjee, was a 15-year-old from Ngaba Tsodrug village in Gomang Township. Both Tamding Thar and Dorjee died following their protests on June 15 and November 7, 2012, respectively.

The following is the fact sheet of self-immolation in Tibet since 2009. Total number of self immolation is 155 (129 male and 26 female).

Year	No. of Self-immolations	Known Deaths	Current Condition Unknown	Others (CLU= Current Location Unknown)
2009	1	0	0	survived with severe burn injuries but CLU
2011	12	8	0	2 amputations, 1 sentenced to 5 years in prison (both CLU)
2012	85	74	9	1 amputation, 1 sentenced to 5 years in pris- on (both CLU)
2013	26	25	1	
2014	11	9	1	1 critically injured and hospitalized (CLU)
2015	8	8	0	
2016	3	3	0	
2017	6	3	3	
2018	2	2	0	
2019	1	1	0	



(Left to right) Images of Monk Sonam Topgyal self-immolated on 26 year old, 9 July 2015; Nun Palden Choetso self-immolated on 3 November 2011. Source: Tibet Museum Archives, CTA.

99. **Slogans, last words, and testaments:** At the time of setting one's body alight, the self-immolators have raised the slogans: "We want freedom inside Tibet" and "We want the return of Dalai Lama to Tibet." Almost all of the self-immolators raised slogans and some left written notes and recorded messages indicating that their suicides are acts of protest against the Chinese government's "repressive policies" that threaten Tibetan identity, religion and language, and that it is a call for the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet.

3. Tingzin (丹珍措), 23-year-old herdsman living with her parents and her six-year-old son, self-immolated on November 7, 2012 before the 18th National Chinese Communist Party Congress in Tongren Province. She left her last words to her father:

Translation Original Quote

“ Father, being a Tibetan is so difficult. We can't even say our prayer to Dalai Lama's portrait. We have no freedom at all...



Tingzin's portrait. Image from Wooser.

Images of last words of 19 Tibetans who committed self-immolation. Source: Global Voices.

11-12. Soinam (索南), a 24-year-old student. Choephak Kyab (曲帕嘉), a 25-year-old student. The two self-immolated near the Grand Lamasery of Dzamthang, Sichuan Province, at different spots on April 19, 2012. Their last words was released on [YouTube](#). Below is an excerpt:

Translation Original Quote

“ Tibetans have distinctive religion and culture. The nation believes in love and compassion, with respect to others. However, Tibet has been invaded, repressed and cheated by China. We self-immolated for our misery and lack of basic human rights, as well as for world peace. The suffering of Tibetans deprived of basic human rights is much greater than our self-immolation.

100. **The Suffering Continues:** As the world reels under the global pandemic caused by Covid-19 first detected in the Wuhan city of China, Tibetans in Tibet continue to suffer under "double-lockdown" situation. There are no verifiable information about number of infections, deaths, recovery or vaccinations of Tibetans in Tibet. Tibetans continue to be deprived of their basic human rights. The Freedom House Report of 2021 has once again categorised Tibet as the least free region in the world, scoring 1 out of 100 points. The conditions in Tibet are considered to be similar to that of Syria which is facing an ongoing multi-sided civil war. Tibet is ranked worse than Somalia and North Korea.

Despite the severe repressions Tibetans have not given up and continue to resist the *sinicization* and strive to preserve their language, culture and identity. They continue to protest at the cost of their lives calling on the international community to stand for them.

History is Repeating Itself

In conclusion, the CCP is employing the same strategies employed against Tibetans to now repress the Uyghurs, Christians, Southern Mongolians, and Hong Kongers. The CCP is subjecting millions of Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims to concentration camps and forced labour camps, something that was experimented and perfected in Tibet since 1950s. The introduction of the National Security Law in Hong Kong, the breaching of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong and the brutal crushing of the protests are reminders of non-compliance of the 17-point agreement which was thrust upon the Tibet by China and the brutal crushing of the uprisings that have since followed.

The invasion of Tibet brought two giants of Asia- China and India as neighbours sharing common border. With the removal of Tibet as a buffer zone, China's expansionist agenda is threatening the stability of the region. China is now looking at territorial expansion into India, Nepal, Bhutan and other neighbouring countries through border incursions and baseless claims for territories. China is also claiming maritime territory of Phillipines and other countries in South-China sea despite the judgement of the Permanent Court of Arbitration against China.

Through its Belt and Road Initiative, the CCP has adopted a language of growth that has effectively pushed countries to kowtow before Beijing and compromise on their own strong values and sovereignty including on human rights issues, environmental issues etc. Under the CCP, China has become a threat to international peace and security and any trade relations with such country will only serve as economic impetus for repression.

Today, the world is reeling under unprecedented turmoil and catastrophic sufferings because of the human rights violations carried by China with impunity. There is not a single individual in the world who has not been directly or indirectly affected by this global pandemic. Per the 28th June 2021 figures by the World Health Organization worldwide estimates, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases was 2,715,042 and corresponding COVID-19 deaths was 53,944. Also, according to International Monetary Fund 2020 estimates, the cumulative loss due to pandemic between 2020 to 2021 was marked around 9 trillion US dollars.

China had a fundamental duty as a member of the international community to alert the world about the outbreak of the virus. Instead it chose to suppress its own doctors like Dr. Li Wenliang and Dr. Ai Fen in the initial critical stages and continued to lie to the world about outbreak. The Chinese government is definitely responsible for the spread of the Wuhan originated COVID-19 global pandemic if not for unleashing the virus.

Had the world powers taken stronger positions on Tibet, the continuing sufferings of Tibetans and the crackdown on Uyghurs and Hong Kongers could have been averted. To stop more sufferings from spreading, the world should bear vigilance over how China is taking aggressive stance at the international forums often threatening, coercing, manipulating and undermining universal values including peaceful co-existence.



Images of a new detention centre at Poksam facility in East Turkestan (CHN: Xinjiang), reminiscent of the old detention facilities seen above in Tibet. Source: The Xinjiang Data Project.



2019 protest in Hong Kong calling for democracy. Source: Council for European Studies.



(Left to Right) COVID-19 whistleblowers in China who faced clampdown: Dr. Ai Fe who went missing after sharing her dissatisfaction with the state censorship over COVID-19 to media; Dr. Li Wenliang who was silenced and later succumbed to the virus. Photo sourced from Reports Without Borders and AsiaNews.

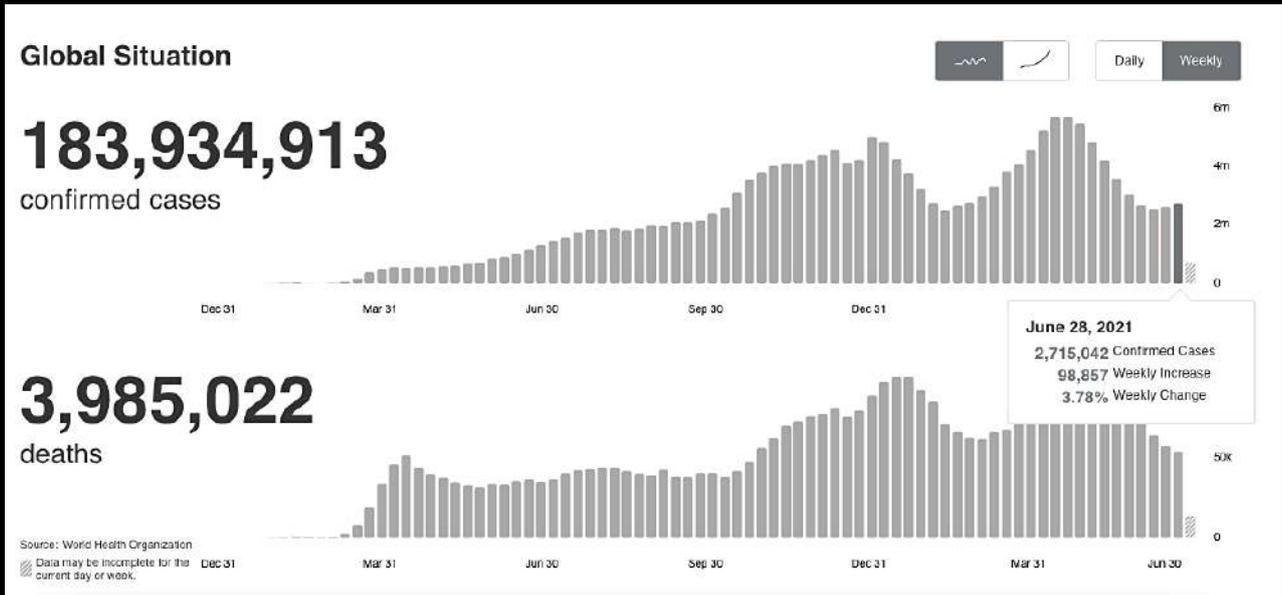


Chart showing total number of confirmed cases and deaths due to COVID-19. As of June 28, 2021, the total number of confirmed cases stood at 2,715,042 while the number of deaths was 53,944. Photo sourced from World Health Organization, WHO.

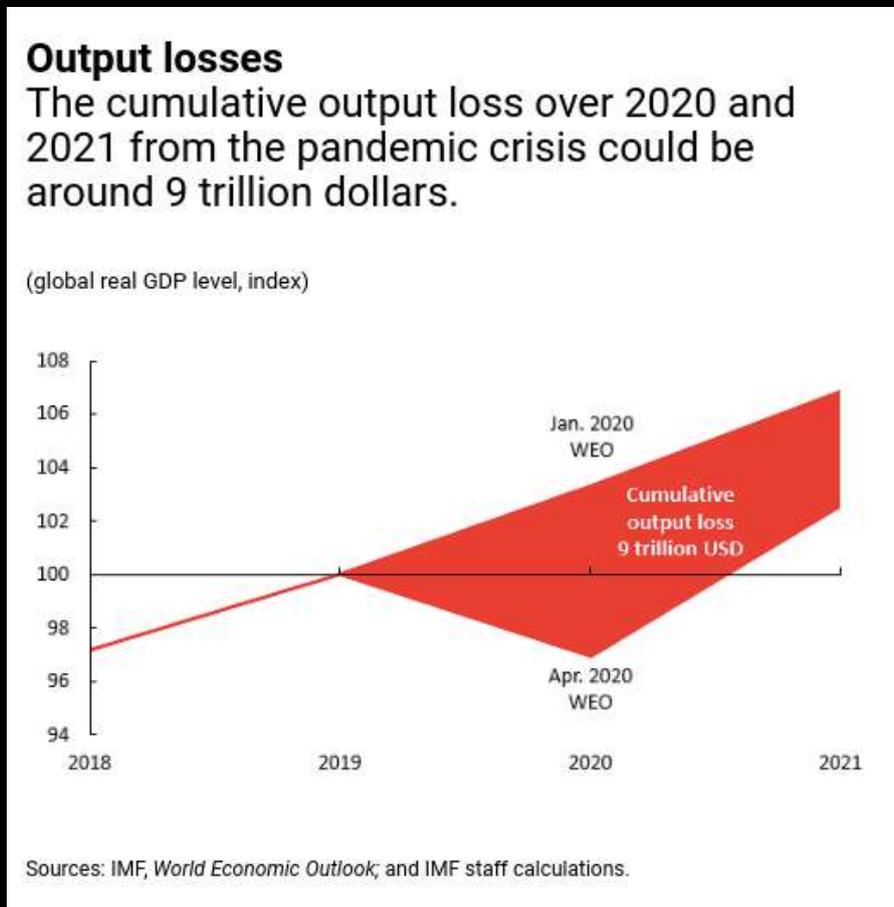
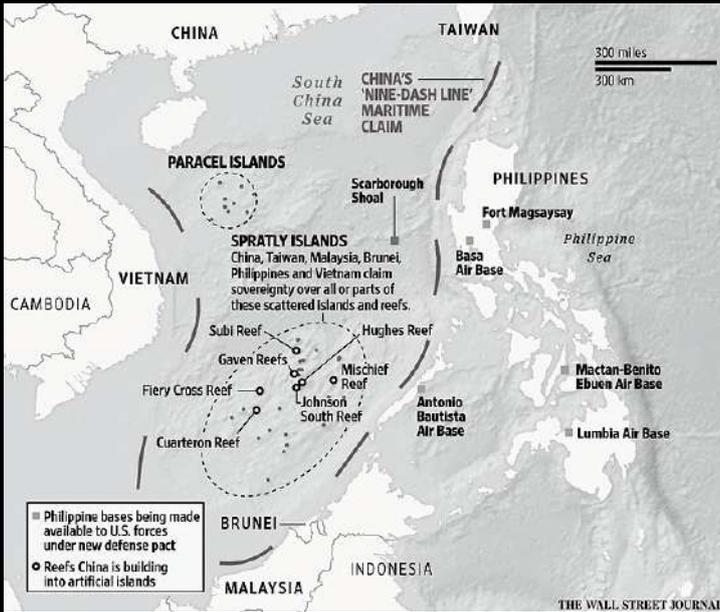
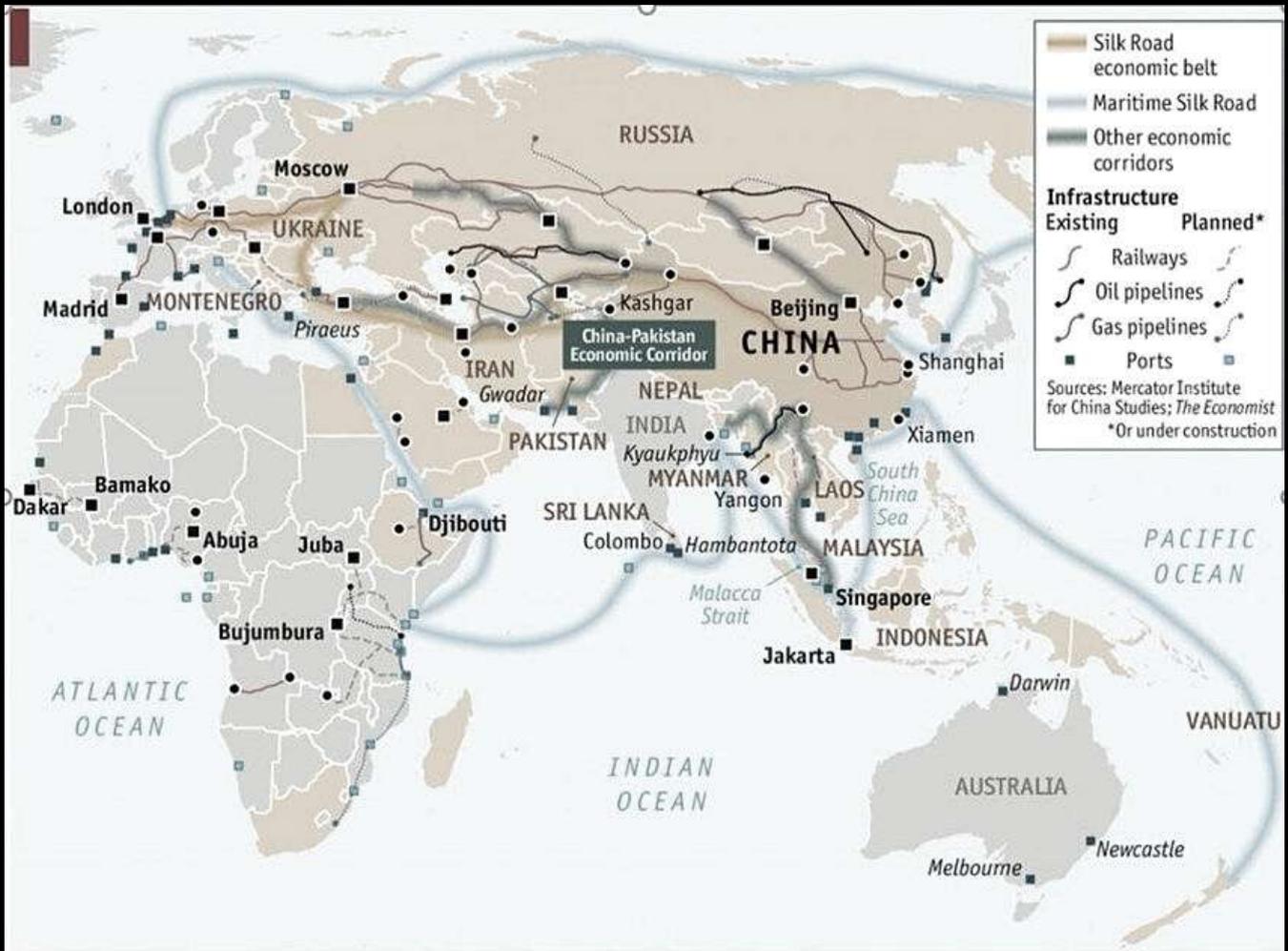


Chart showing estimated 9 trillion US Dollars loss of cumulative output due to pandemic between 2020 to 2021 as projected in 2020. Photo sourced from International Monetary Fund.



(Left to Right) Images of 'Nine Dash Line' marking Chinese maritime claims in the South East China Sea; Protests in capital city of Manila outside the Chinese embassy Photo sourced from South China Morning Post and Council on Foreign Relations.



Images of the extensive areas under the Belt and Road Initiative through land and maritime routes. Source: Mercator Institute for China Studies.

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