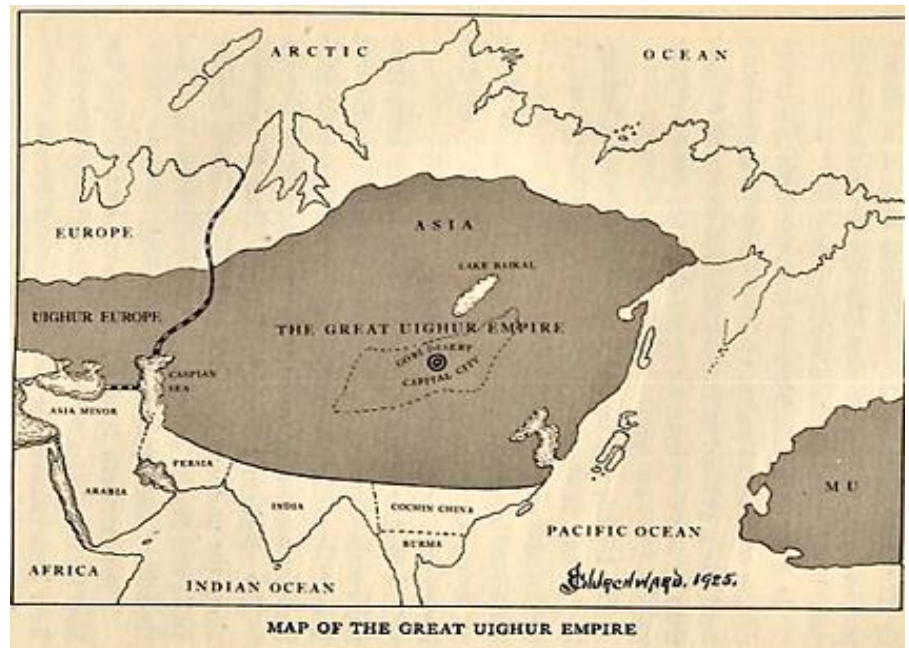


# A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO UYGHURS AND EAST TURKISTAN

## ALL ABOUT THE UYGHURS

- Uyghur (also spelled Uighur, Uygur) means "unity" or "alliance", it is pronounced [ÖY-ghur or Uigu:R]. They are a Turkic ethnic people.
- Pre-history Uyghurs: the name Uyghur (Uighur) appeared for the first time 17,000 years ago in the pre-historic period with The Great Uighur Empire in the Continent of Mu during the Tertiary Era Belonged to the Continent of Mu<sup>1</sup>.

- James Churchward describes in his book "the great Uighur Empire" as the largest and most important colonial empire belonging to Mu, the Empire of the Sun. "Next to Mu herself, the Uighur Empire was the largest empire the world has ever known."



- Uyghur history can be divided into four distinct phases: Pre-Imperial (300 BC – AD 630), Imperial (AD 630–840), Idiqt (AD 840–1200), and Mongol (AD 1209–1600), with perhaps a fifth modern phase running from the death of the Silk Road in AD 1600 until the present.
- Most people know that Tibet was occupied by China in 1950s but how many know that the Uyghurs' country East Turkistan (Xinjiang 'new frontier' in Chinese) was occupied by China in 1949?

<sup>1</sup> These theories are explained in Hans Stefan Santesson's published book in 1970 entitled "[Understanding Mu: The Uighurs](#)" Chapter 10 pages 96-100. Hans Stefan Santesson has proved these theories according to James Churchward's book "[Lost Continent of Mu Motherland of Man](#)" (1926) Chapter 5 pages 105-110. [www.my-mu.com/gue/UnderstandingMu.html](http://www.my-mu.com/gue/UnderstandingMu.html)

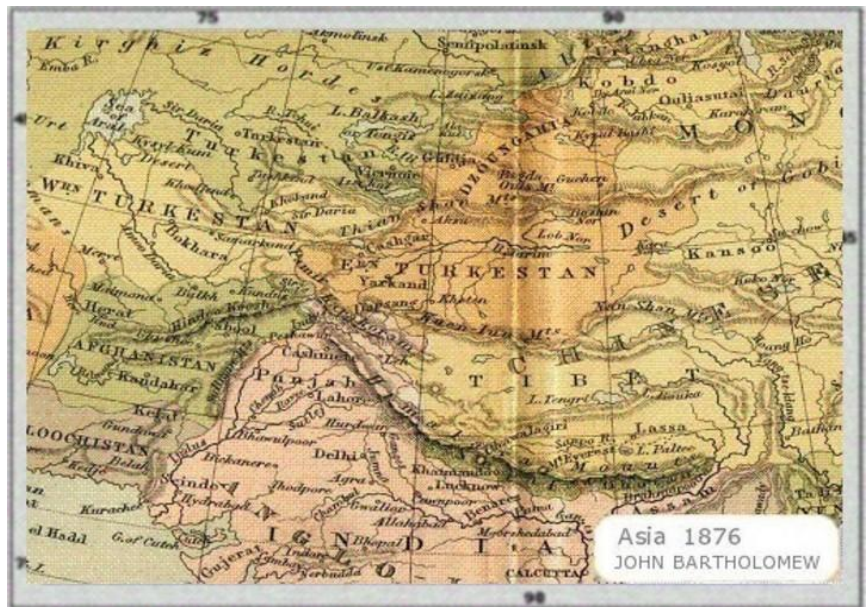
- The present Uyghurs are the native people of East Turkistan (Uyghuristan, Xinjiang - China). The population of the Uyghurs is an estimated 20 million. East Turkistan's current territory is 635,000 square miles (1,646,900 square km), its territorial size is 6 times bigger than the UK.



- Some historical sources indicate that the Uyghurs are the direct descendants of the Huns<sup>2</sup>.

### KNOWLEDGE ABOUT TURKISTAN

- The name of Turkistan is historically used in the political and geographical context to reference the Turkic people who live in the vast land of Central Asia.
- Turkistan covers the whole area of Central Asia (literally meaning "Land of the Turks") in the regions of Central Asia lying between Siberia on the north, Tibet, modern day Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran on the south, the Gobi Desert on the east, and the Caspian Sea on the west.
- It has been referenced in many Turkic sagas and is an integral part of Turan. Oghuz Turks - Turkmens, Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Khazars, Kyrgyz and Uyghurs are some of the Turkic inhabitants of the region who, as history progressed, have spread further into Eurasia forming such Turkic nations as Turkey and Azerbaijan, and sub national regions like Tatarstan in Russia and



<sup>2</sup> Uyghur historian Turghun Almas has suggested a link between the Huns and the Uyghurs. See: <http://www.reference.com/browse/Huns>

Crimea in Ukraine. Tajiks and Russians form sizable non-Turkic minorities.

- After the Russian Empire's invasion of the Western part of Turkistan in the 1860s and China's Manchu invasion of the Eastern part of Turkistan in 1884, the political and geographical independence of Turkistan formally declined.
- It is subdivided into Afghan Turkistan, Russian Turkistan and Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (also known as Chinese Turkistan, East Turkistan or Uyghuristan) in the People's Republic of China. The Tengri tagh (Tian Shan) and Pamir ranges form a rough division between the latter two.
- Based on the Turkic geo-political root the Uyghur people prefer to call their country East Turkistan (Uyghuristan (Uyghur: شەرقىي تۈركىستان , Sherqiy Türkistan, Uyghuriye). This is a term for the eastern part of the greater Turkistan region of Central Asia and is concurrent with the present-day Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China.

## UYGHUR STATES & EAST TURKISTAN

- Records show that the Uyghurs have a history of more than 4000 years in East Turkistan. Situated along a section of the legendary Silk Road, Uyghurs played an important role in cultural exchanges between the East and West and developed a unique culture and civilization of their own.

### Uyghur Empire:

- Uyghurs founded the Uyghur Empire (On Uyghur Toquz-Oghuz Orkhon Khanate). This empire stretched from the Caspian Sea to Manchuria and lasted from AD 745 to 840.



### Idiqut (Karakhoja) Uyghur State:

- The most central of the three Uyghur states, was the Karakhoja Kingdom (created during AD 856–866), also called the "Idiqut" ("Holy Wealth, Glory") state, and was based on the cities of Turpan (winter capital), Beshbalik (summer capital), Qumul, and Kucha. A Buddhist state, with state-sponsored Buddhism and Manichaeism, it can be considered the center of Uyghur culture. The Idiquts (title of the Karakhoja rulers) ruled independently until 1209, when they submitted to the Mongols under Genghis Khan and, as vassal rulers, existed until 1335.

### Kara-Khanids Dynasty:

- (Karakhans/Great Khans/Qarakhanlar Sulalisi) was the westernmost of the three Uyghur states. The Karakhans (Karakhanliks) originated from Uyghur tribes settled in the Chu River Valley after 840 and ruled between 940–1212 in Turkistan and

Maveraünnehir. They converted to Islam in 934 under the rule of Sultan Satuq Bughra Khan (920–956 AD) and, after taking power over Qarluks in 940, built a federation with Muslim institutions. Together with the Samanids of Samarkand, they considered themselves the defenders of Islam against the Buddhist Uyghur Idukt. The first capital of the Karahans was established in the city of Balasagun in the Chu River Valley and later was moved to Kashgar.

- The reign of the Uyghur's Karakhans is especially significant from the point of view of Turkic culture and art history. During this period mosques, schools, bridges, and caravansarais were constructed in the cities. Kashgar, Bukhara and Samarkand became centers of learning.

### Mogulistan (Chagatai Khanate):

- In 1348 Mogul kings changed their religion together with 160,000 subjects, soon after which the word mogul came to denote Islamic people of Turkic origin. This led to their demarcation from other mogul people who were not Islamic, and was the beginning of the foundation of the Uyghur-Turkic Empire called.



- Moghulistan<sup>3</sup> existed around 100 years, and then split into three parts: Yarkand state (mamlakati Yarkand), with its capital at Yarkand, which embraced all the settled lands of Western Kashgaria, still nomad Moghulistan which embraced the nomad lands north of Tengri Tagh, and Uyghuristan which embraced the settled lands of Eastern Kashgaria, Turpan and Qumul Basins.

### Chagatai Khanate :

- Chagatai Khanate was a Mongol ruling khanate that initially inherited part of the Mongol Empire that comprised the Uyghur's land controlled by Chagatai Khan, second son of the Mongol emperor Genghis Khan. Chagatai's ulus, or hereditary

<sup>3</sup> **Moghulistan** or **Mughalistan** (Persian: مغولستان) is a historical geographic unit in Central Asia that included parts of modern-day Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Xinjiang. An independent khanate existed in the area from the mid-14th century until the late 17th century. See: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moghulistan>

territory, consisted of the part of the Mongol Empire which extended from the Ili River (today in eastern Kazakhstan) and Kashgaria (in the western Tarim Basin) to Transoxiana (modern Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan). After the death of his father, he inherited most of what are now the five Central Asian states and northern Iran, which he ruled until his death in 1242. These lands later came to be known as the Chagatai Khanate.

- After the death of the Chagatay ruler Qazan Khan in 1346, the Chagatai Khanate was divided into western (Transoxiana) and eastern (Moghulistan/Uyghuristan) halves, which was later known as "Kashgar and East Turkistan/Uyghurstan".
- Under the Chagatay Khanate's rule in East Turkestan/Uyghuristan, the culture of the Karakhanids (Uyghurs) became dominant of the largely Muslim state.
- The Buddhist populations of the former Karakhoja (Uyghurs) Idikut-ate largely converted into the Muslim faith, and that all Chagatai-speaking Muslims, regardless whether they lived in Turpan or Kashgar, became known by their occupations as Moghols (ruling class), Sarts (merchants and townspeople) and Taranchis (farmers). This triple division of classes among the same Muslim Turkic folk also existed in Transoxiana, regardless whether they were under Timurid or Chagatay, the sense of ethnic kinship between the modern Uyghur and Uzbek peoples remain strong until today.



### **Saidia Khanate :**

- Saidia Khanate<sup>4</sup> (1514-1600s) (Chagatai Yarkand Khanate/Yarkand Khanate /Yarkand State/Seidiye Xandanliqi in Uyghur) - present day Yarkand (Yeken) county of East Turkistan (Xijiang). Sultan Said Khan ruled the state of Yarkand (mamlakati Yarkand) from 1514 to 1533.
- Abdurashid Khan was a descendant of the first moghul khan-Tughluk Timur Khan (1347-1363 AD) and was born in 1508. He came to power in 1533 when his father and predecessor Sultan Said Khan died of asthma during a military expedition in Tibet.

<sup>4</sup> According to Balkh historian Makhmud ibn Vali (Sea of Mysteries, 1640). See: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sultan\\_Said\\_Khan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sultan_Said_Khan)

- Abdurashid Khan was succeeded by his second son Abdukerim Khan (Abdul Karim Khan 1560–1591).



- Amannisa Khan - sometimes called Amanni Shahan, (1526-1560) (Uyghur: ئاماننسا خان ) is credited with collecting and thereby preserving the Uyghur Twelve Muqam<sup>5</sup>, part of the Uyghur musical legacy. Amannisa Khan was the daughter of a forester. When she was thirteen years old Abdurashid Khan was out hunting, heard her singing and fell in love with her. He made her 'Xanish' (Queen) of the Saidia Khanate. She died at the age of 34 due to sickness in childbirth.
- The Saidia Khanate was the last ever survived independent Uyghur state and it finally brought to collapse by Apaq Khoja.
- **Afaq Khoja** was a great-grandson of the famous Naqshbandi Sufi teacher, Ahmad Kasani (1461 - 1542) (also known as *Makhdūm-i`Azam*, 'the Great Master'), and was revered as a Sufi teacher in his own right.
- After Afaq Khoja (1671-72) seized power from the Saidia Khanate of Yarkand by inviting Dzungar invaders<sup>6</sup> (Qalmaq-Oirat/Oyrat/Kalmyk – is the name given to western Mongolic people) in 1678 through the secret diplomacy with the 5<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama whom he met in exile.
- Nowadays East Turkistan reference the Eastern part of Turkistan of Central Asia. It located beyond a logical boundary of China, the Great Wall. Historically, East Turkistan is a part of Central Asia, not of China. East Turkistan's people Uyghurs are not Chinese; they are Turks of Central Asia.

### When did the colonial name of “Xinjiang” has been formally used to call the Uyghur country?

- Uyghurs’ country East Turkistan maintained its independence and prosperity until the Manchu Qing Empire invaded the region in 1876.

<sup>5</sup> Uyghur Twelve Muqam- see: <http://www.uyghurensemble.co.uk/en-html/research-article1-1.html>

<sup>6</sup> **Dzungar** (also **Jungar** or **Zungar**; Mongolian: Зүүнгар *Züüngar*) is the collective identity of several **Oirat** tribes that formed and maintained the last nomadic empire in East Turkestan (now known as **Xinjiang**) from the early seventeenth century to the middle eighteenth century. See: <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Dzungars>

- After eight years of bloody war with Yaqubbek (Bedolet) - the ruler of Kashgaria, the Manchu Empire formally annexed East Turkistan into its territories and renamed it "Xinjiang" (meaning "New Territory" or "New Frontier") on November 18, 1884.<sup>7</sup> Uyghur power, stature and culture went into a steep decline after the Manchu invasion.



- After Chinese Nationalists overthrew the Manchu Empire in 1911, East Turkistan fell under the rule of the nationalist Chinese government.
- On November 12, 1933, Uyghurs in the southern part of East Turkistan established the Islamic Republic of East Turkistan. The independence following a military revolution. In the ensuing years and until 1937, Stalin sent Russian troops to put East Turkistan into the hands of a Chinese warlord, Sheng Shicai.
- Eleven years later, on exactly the same day - 12 November 1944, Uyghurs rose up to drive Chinese troops out of Ghulja prefecture and established the "East Turkistan Republic". This short-lived Uyghur republic was ended by the "Sino-Russian Friendship Agreement" signed during the Yalta Summit, 1945. The Second East Turkistan Republic existed between 1944-1949<sup>8</sup>.
- On August 27, 1949, the leader of East Turkistan Republic Ahmatjan Qasimi was reportedly killed in an air crash (the report came from Beijing and Moscow). In actuality, Ahmatjan Qasimi was the target of a political conspiracy set up by Mao Zedong and Stalin. He was killed in the Soviet Union at a secret KGB camp by Lake Baikal.
- The Chinese communist army invaded East Turkistan on October 1, 1949. Then ten years later on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1955, China communists announced the formal establishment of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

## UYGHUR BELIEF

- Uyghurs have followed several different religions throughout their long history, including Shamanism, Manichaeism, Nestorian Christianity, Buddhism and Islam.

<sup>7</sup> Visit : <http://www.uyghurensemble.co.uk/en-html/kashgar-road.html>

<sup>8</sup> See: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East\\_Turkistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Turkistan)

- Early Uyghur branches included the Buddhist "Yellow Uyghurs" of Kengsu (Gansu), the Buddhist Kara-Khoja Idiqut Uyghur Kingdom (856-1389) (present day Turpan), and the great Islamic Qarakhan dynasty that ruled over much of modern-day Kyrgyzstan, eastern Kazakhstan and East Turkistan (present day-Xinjiang, China).
- Uyghurs officially adopted Islam in 960 C.E. under the Sultan Sutuq Bughra Khan but many didn't convert until the 1450s, long after they adopted Arabic script for writing the Uyghur language. Uyghurs are known for practicing a moderate form of Sunni Islam with a mystical Sufi tradition.

## UYGHUR CULTURE

- After embracing Islam in 9<sup>th</sup> century, the Uyghurs continued to preserve their cultural dominance in Central Asia. Uyghur earned world renowned-scholars in many fields.
- Most of the early Uyghur literary works were translations of Buddhist and Manichean religious texts, but there were also narrative, poetic, and epic works.
- In Kashgar around 1077, a scholar of the Turkic languages, Mahmud al-Kashgari published a Turkic language dictionary and description of the geographic distribution of many Turkic languages, *Divān-ul Lughat-ul Turk* (English: *Compendium of the Turkic Dialects*; Uyghur: تۈركى تىللار دىۋانى).



The book is described by scholars as an "extraordinary work."

- Uyghurs' traditional folk music - the 12 Muqams are the national oral epic of the Uyghurs. The Uyghur Muqams are large-scale suites consisting of sung poetry, stories, dance tunes and instrumental sections. The Uyghur 12 Muqam was designated by UNESCO as part of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2006.

## DEMOGRAPHIC GENOCIDE

- A 2003 Chinese government census set the number of Uyghur-speakers at nearly 9 million, making them the fifth-largest of China's 55 officially recognized ethnic minorities, although unofficial estimates set the figure higher (estimated 20 million). Before 1949, Uyghurs accounted for 95 percent of the population in East Turkistan. After 60 years of Chinese Communist rule, Uyghurs officially represent 45 percent of the population. Han Chinese account for more than 40 percent of the region's



population of 23 million, up from 5 percent in the 1940s as a result of large-scale Chinese migration.

## GROSS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

- The nearly 60 years of occupation by the Peoples Republic of China, the Uyghurs suffer gross human rights violations. General discrimination against the Uyghurs in a range of ways, both official and unofficial.
- In February 1997, a peaceful protest by Uyghurs in Ghulja city of the Ili valley was brutally crushed by the Chinese army. The city was sealed off for two weeks and thousands of Uyghurs were arrested. There were reports of torture and summary executions.
- Chinese law guarantees equal treatment and autonomy for ethnic minorities, these principles in many instances aren't honoured in practice.
- Human rights groups accuse Beijing of taking advantage of the U.S.-led "war on terror" that followed the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks to pursue a rigorous crackdown on suspected Uyghur separatists.

## 5<sup>th</sup> JULY ÜRÜMCHI UYGHUR PROTEST

On 5 July 2009 thousands of Uyghur youth demonstrated in Urumchi, the regional capital of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). In the aftermath of the protests, the authorities detained more than 1,400 people. Amnesty International has called on the Chinese authorities to allow independent and impartial investigation into the events.<sup>9</sup>



<sup>9</sup> See Amnesty International's report in English: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/new-testimonies-reinforce-call-china-investigate-xinjiang-riots-2010-07-02> Bu doklatni Uyghurche towendiki ulunushtin koreleysiz: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA17/027/2010/en/6d1f0a1a-f04e-49ee-9c8b-7559c080ca93/asa170272010ug.pdf>



<http://www.uyghurensemble.co.uk>

Online version of this material available at:

- <http://www.uyghurensemble.co.uk/en-html/introduction-to-Uyghurs.pdf>