

China's Forty Millions

Harvard East Asian Series 87

The East Asian Research Center at Harvard University administers research projects designed to further scholarly understanding of China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Inner Asia, and adjacent areas.

China's Forty Millions

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June Teufel Dreyer China's Forty Millions

Minority Nationalities and National Integration in the People's Republic of China.

The problem of melding diverse ethnic groups into a single political entity is as old as human history. Marx's predictions to the contrary, modern socialist states have not escaped the tensions of nationalism. Professor Dreyer, in what will be the basic study in its field, delineates China's determination to deal with its minorities.

The "forty millions" (Mongols, Tibetans, Koreans, Manchus and some fifty other groups) are only six percent of China's total population, but the national government pays special attention to these minority groups. They occupy about sixty percent of China's land area, including terrain which is located on strategic frontiers, is rich in unworked minerals and undeveloped forests, and contains most of the country's meat and milk-producing animals. Thus the People's Republic attaches considerable importance to obtaining the loyalty of, and maintaining political jurisdiction over, the minorities.

The author examines the steps taken to achieve integration. In the process

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