



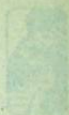
Great Wall Books

CHINA'S MINORITY NATIONALITIES

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PREFACE

China has people of many nationalities. The Han is the most numerous, but there are 55 others. In the long centuries of common development they have created China's history, culture, politics and economy, and formed the unified family of the Chinese nation.

The minority nationalities number 67 million — about 6.7 percent of the country's population of a billion, yet they inhabited over half of China's 9.6 million square kilometers. Their main concentrations are in Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Tibet, Guangxi, Ningxia, Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning, Gansu, Qinghai, Sichuan, Yunnan, Guizhou, Guangdong, Hunan, Fujian and Taiwan.

Since 1949 the people's government has maintained a policy of equality for all nationalities, large or small. Wherever minority nationalities live in sufficiently compact communities, they possess autonomy. There are 5 autonomous regions (equivalent to provinces), 30 autonomous prefectures, and 72 autonomous counties. Over the past 34 years these areas, supported by the state, have steadily developed in economy, politics, culture, education and health. Since 1978 when the policy on nationalities was reaffirmed and strengthened, many new changes have taken place.

From the beginning **China Reconstructs** has reported the life and progress of the country's various minority nationalities. This present volume collects 34 articles published after 1979, introducing the situation of a number of minority nationalities in Tibet, Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan.

Over 30 minority nationalities totaling 34 million people live in compact communities in China's south and southwest. This first volume of a series reveals only a part of their colorful life. All articles are as they appeared originally in **China Reconstructs**. Other volumes will follow.

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Dai women by the Lancang River in Yunnan province.	<i>Liu Jun</i>
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Back Cover:

Tibetan horseman.	<i>Xie Jun</i>
Miao wedding festivities in Guizhou province.	<i>Zhou Youma</i>
Lusheng player of Dong nationality in Guangxi.	

