

China's Muslims

MICHAEL DILLON

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Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	vii
<i>Chronological Table</i>	viii
1. Muslim China	1
2. The Origins and Characteristics of Chinese Islam	15
3. Muslim Centres	28
4. China's Islamic Architecture	38
5. Daily Life in Muslim China	50
6. Islam and the Chinese State	65
<i>Glossary</i>	67
<i>Selected Bibliography</i>	69
<i>Index</i>	71

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From ancient coastal cities to the fabled oases of Central Asia, Muslims are a part of nearly every Chinese city and town. Their magnificent mosques, richly colourful markets, and distinctive styles of food and dress help the Muslim minorities stand out in the complex ethnic patchwork of modern China.

Today, the influence of Islam is strongest in China's north-west, and it is on this fascinating region that this illustrated introduction focuses. In a text directed at scholars and travellers alike, Michael Dillon examines each of the country's ten Muslim groups, sketching the history of its arrival in China, explaining its languages and customs, and describing its members' work and daily life. He includes portraits of the most important Muslim centres, from the Hui towns of the Ningxia region to the Uyghur city of Kashgar in China's far western reaches.

Short discussions of related topics, from religious architecture to language and belief, combine with the main text to offer new insights into the lives and ways of one of China's most intriguing ethnic groups.

Michael Dillon is Lecturer in Modern Chinese History in the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Durham

'Images of Asia' offers a range of titles covering aspects of life and culture in East Asia. Each book in the series combines an introductory text, written for the non-specialist reader by an authority on the subject, with extensive illustrations both in colour and black-and-white. 'Images of Asia' provides a means of acquiring a deeper understanding and appreciation of the region in all its diversity.

Cover illustration:

*Hui boys studying in the madrasa,
Nanguan Mosque, Yinchuan.*

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