

## CHINESE RULE IN EASTERN TURKESTAN TODAY

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The liberalization put into affect are still beyond satisfying the Turkic Muslims, because many armed clashes, disputes, and Turkic Muslim student demonstrations are reported to have taken place in Eastern Turkestan since 1979.

Thousands of Turkic Muslim students who demonstrated in Urumchi, Peking and Shanghai in December 1985 demanded self-rule, democratic election of Turkic Muslims to replace Chinese officials assigned by Peking, economic self determination, increased opportunities for Turkic Muslim education at home and abroad, and an end to practice of sending convicted Chinese criminals to Eastern Turkestan, and an end to nuclear testing in this Turkic Muslim country.

Eastern Turkestan is called an "autonomous region". But in reality no right of self-rule is granted to the Turkic Muslims. The reins of government is completely in the hands of the Chinese. . . . Despite Eastern Turkestans natural wealth, the Turkic Muslims still live in a bare substance level. The Chinese leaders claim that great importance has been given to education, but but the number of illiterate persons is more than 60 per cent. . . . Previously, while the Chinese were restricted to one-child family, no birth restrictions were enforced among the Turkic Muslims. However, as of 1984, the Chinese leaders have embarked a policy of coercive birth control among the Turkic Muslims, under the pretext of "eliminating economic inequalities", "ensuring a steady growth in the minority population" and "improving the quality of the population". Most of the convicted Chinese criminals are sent to Eastern Turkestan. During the last three years 37,000 convicted Chinese criminals have been sent to the hard labor camps in Eastern Turkestan. After their term they are not allowed to return to their native countries and they are resettled in Eastern Turkestan under the name 'bintuan' or "reformed farmer". The total number of the convicted Chinese criminals sentenced to the hard labor camps in Eastern Turkestan are estimated to be more than 1,000,000. . . . The radioactive fallout from the Chinese nuclear test site in Lop Nor, in Eastern Turkerstan, is causing an increase in the rate of human life, deformed births, human cancer and malformation in fruits and vegetables. . . . Some Turkic Muslim residents of Turkey have reported after visites to relatives in Eastern Turkestan that between February and March, 1987, almost 800 have died in the city Hoten, and in its surroundings' According to the visitors to Eastern Turkestan, the Chinese authorities first suspected infectious jaundice and treated the disease accordingly. This treatment was unsuccessful, and until now doctors have been unable to diagnose the disease. But the Turkic Muslims in Eastern

Turkestan suspect that the doctors know the real cause but are reluctant to admit that it is radioactive fallout from the nuclear testing site at Lop Nor. The Chinese leaders boost that they have introduced religious freedom, but they still view religion as a "negative force" in China.

At present, the introduction of Chinese education in Turkic Muslim schools, the mixed marriages encouraged by the Chinese Communists and the steady flow of Chinese settlers pose the biggest threats for the survival of the Turkic Muslims in Eastern Turkestan.

Until recently the Turkic Muslims had an opportunity to study in their mother tongue up to the 10th grade. Chinese was taught as a foreign language. Only in the higher educational institutions were all text books in Chinese. 74 per cent of the teacher in higher educational institutions are Chinese. And the entrance examinations must be written in Chinese. Claiming that the graduates from Turkic Muslim schools are having difficulty passing the entrance examinations for higher educational institutions, the Chinese Communists have now introduced Chinese education in Turkic Muslim schools beginning in 5th grade.

General Secretary said that Northwest China could easily absorb 200,000,000 Chinese settlers. There is no doubt that most of this 200,000,000 Chinese will be settled in Eastern Turkestan. This is the ultimate aim of the Chinese. The Turkic Muslims of Eastern Turkestan are under great fear that they will be overwhelmed by such a large number of Chinese settlers and lose their national identity.

In the conclusion it can be said that the political, economic cultural and religious freedoms by the Chinese leaders are nothing but a show-case for the world public.

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If the free world will not take immediate preventive steps the Turkic peoples<sup>Muslims</sup> of Eastern Turkestan will disappear from the historical scene in the coming decades.