

# INVISIBLE CHINA

A Journey Through  
Ethnic Borderlands

COLIN LEGERTON and JACOB RAWSON



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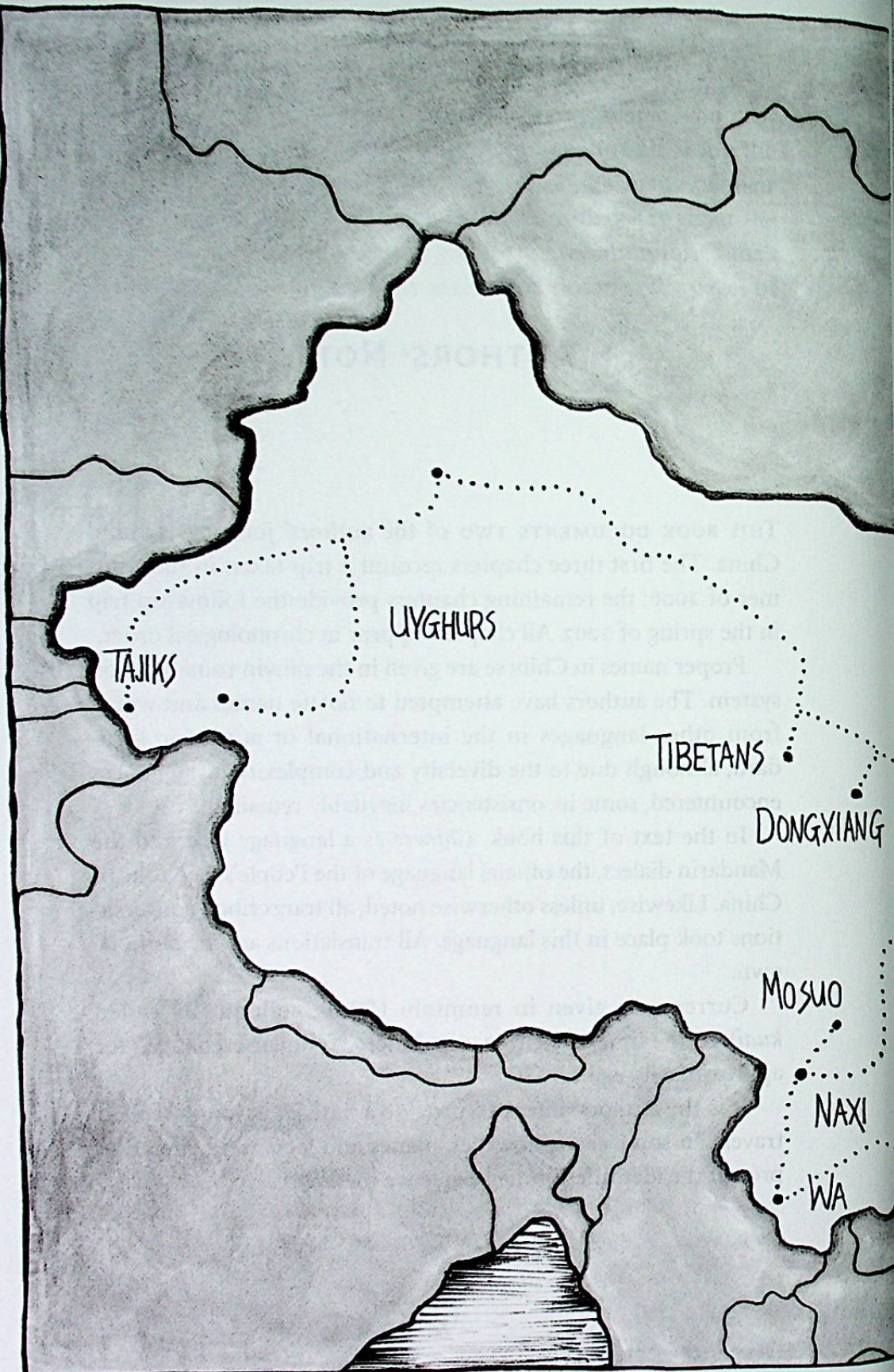
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In this eloquent and eye-opening adventure narrative, Colin Legerton and Jacob Rawson, two Americans fluent in Mandarin Chinese, Korean, and Uyghur, throw away the guidebook and bring a hitherto unexplored side of China to light. They journey over 14,000 miles by bus and train to the farthest reaches of the country to meet the minority peoples who dwell there, talking to farmers in their fields, monks in their monasteries, fishermen on their skiffs, and herders on the steppe.

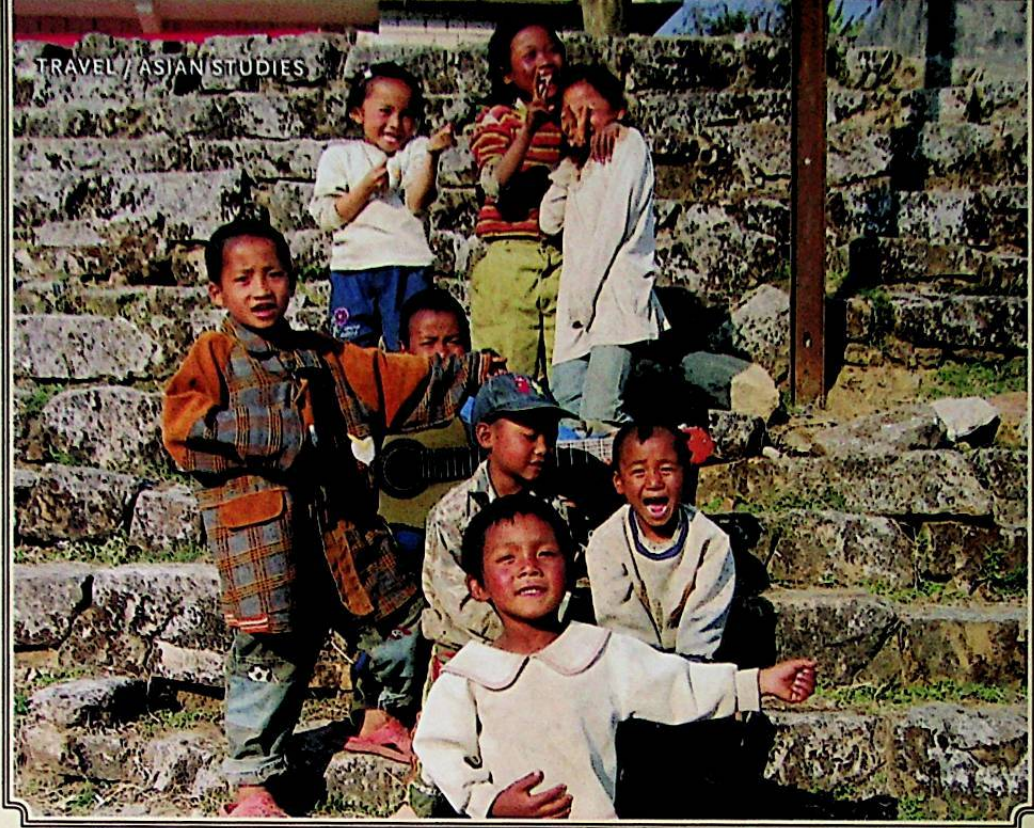
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“He’s SINGING ABOUT HOW happy he is to be home,” Teacher Ye explained as we sidestepped together. She had given up her cymbals to one of the children, and now was in the circle with the rest of us, leading the singing with her powerful voice. “He’s a postman in the county seat. He and the others just came back from there on the electric mule.” We swung our joined hands as we circled around the postman. “They aren’t able to come home very often, so they’re always very excited when they do get here. This song is very loose, so he can sing about anything he wants, and then the rest of us respond to him. That way the song is always from the heart.”

Finishing his song of joy, the postman invited us to join the music. He took a drum from his friend and a pair of cymbals from one of the children, and gave the instruments to us. Demonstrating on the gong, he encouraged us to imitate his rhythm. We struggled to keep the beat, but the dancing circled around us anyway. The children continued their refrain unaffected even when the percussion paused for a quick lesson. “Just keep trying,” the postman encouraged. “You’ll get it.”



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