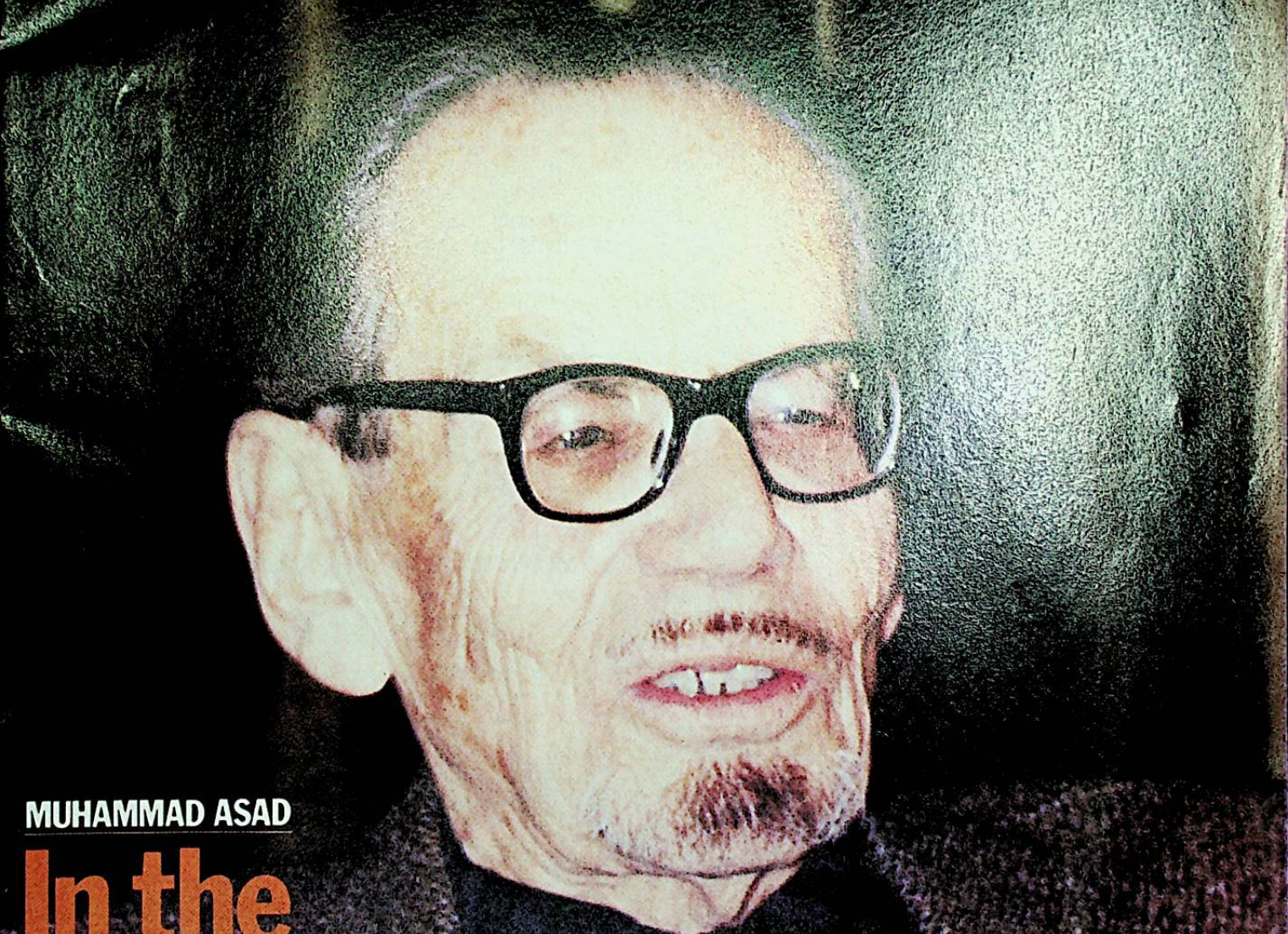


Arabia

The Islamic World Review



MUHAMMAD ASAD

In the service of the Quran

HASSAN-PERES

What's in a visit? The merchants of death

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Algeria AD8 | Hong Kong HS 15 | Mexico P 800 | Sudan SC 1 50 |
| Argentina A1 85 | India IR 15 | Morocco MD 10 | Sweden SK 15 |
| Austria AS50 | Indonesia Rp 2000 | Netherlands G 6 | Switzerland SF 5 |
| Bahrain BD1 | Iran R 150 | Nigeria N 1 5 | Syria SC 10 |
| Bangladesh TK 10 | Iraq ID 0 700 | Oman RO 10 | Tanzania SH 20 |
| Brazil CR 1500 | Italy L 3500 | Pakistan PR 15 | Thailand BT 50 |
| Canada C\$ 1 00 | Japan Y 900 | Philippines P 20 | Turkiah TD 1 50 |
| Cyprus Cf 1 00 | Jordan JD 0 750 | Portugal E 200 | Turkey TL 300 |
| Denmark DK 29 50 | Kenya SH 25 | Qatar QR 8 | U.A.E. DH 8 |
| Egypt EE 1 50 | Kuwait KD 0 750 | Saudi Arabia SR 8 | United Kingdom £ 0 90 |
| France FF 15 00 | Lebanon LB 00 | Singapore S\$ 4 00 | U.S.A. \$ 2 50 |
| Germany West DM 5 00 | Libya LD 0 600 | South Africa RD 1 75 | Yemen (North) YR 8 00 |
| Greece DR 200 | Malaysia M\$ 4 00 | Spain P 300 | Yemen (South) YD 0 750 |

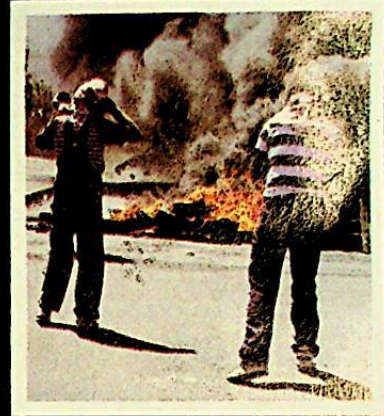
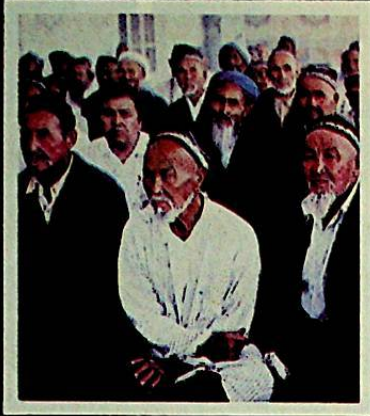
Arabia

The Islamic World Review

6 China

10 The Summit

22 South Africa



CONTENTS

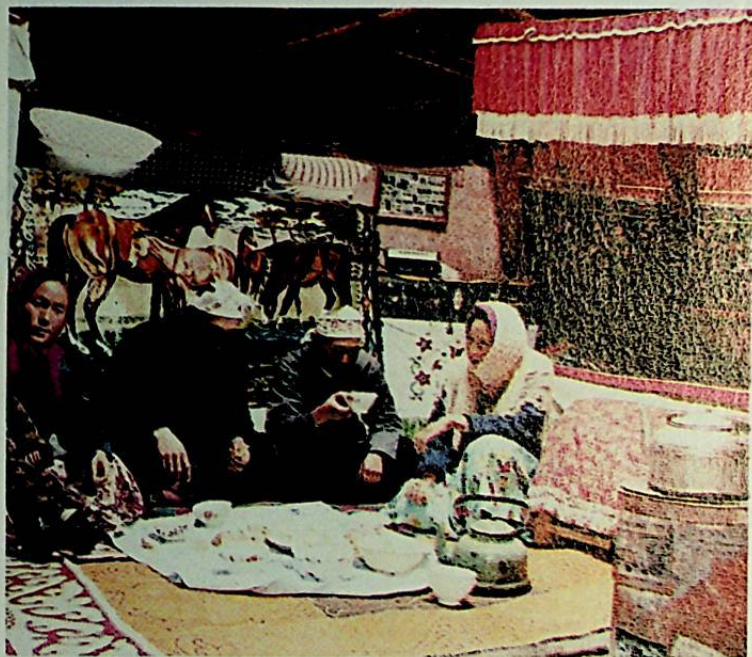
POLITICS

- 6 China: Why Turkic Muslims will not be celebrating the anniversary of the founding of China's Xinjiang Uygur region.
- 10 Hassan Peres summit: A special report on the surprise meeting between the Moroccan King and Israeli Premier?
- 16 PLO: The consequences of the 1982 defeat is still being felt within the movement as divisions continue.
- 18 Palestinian Christians: Their plight in Israel exposes western Christian support for Zionism.
- 21 Sudan: The problems mount for the new government of Sadiq Al-Mahdi.
- 22 South Africa: Despite repression by the racist regime the black masses sense victory.
- 24 Pakistan: The constitutional crisis continues as the opposition presses for early elections.
- 25 Chernobyl: Following the disaster will the Soviets consider moving nuclear plants to remote Central Asia?
- 26 Newsmouth
- 30 On Reflection: Dr Fathi Osman continues his study of the Ikhwan movement.


LIVING HERITAGE

- 49 Muhammad Assad: The doyen of Islamic scholars is in his eighties. *Arabia* assesses his achievement.
- 56 Japan: Muslims in Tokyo are to have a new mosque — but not before overcoming delays and obstacles.
- 59 Education: A scheme in British schools launched to encourage an understanding of Islam.
- 62 Tunisia: A survey of students' attitudes to sex shows the incursion of western values into Bourguiba's Tunisia.
- 66 Music and dance: Should Muslims look on these arts as forbidden? Definitely not, says Samira Sharif.
- 68 Islam on show: A Paris museum and French television play host to Islamic themes.
- 70 Mohammad Ali: The world's most famous ex-heavyweight champion is interviewed in London.
- 71 Books: A stimulating and provocative look into the future of the Islamic world by Ziauddin Sardar is reviewed.
- 72 Profile: The legendary leader of the Filipino Muslims, Nur Misuari, is under the spotlight of our regular profile feature.
- 74 Film Review: *The Book of Names*, a new film which places science in an Islamic context.
- 78 Personal Notebook: Abdulmuhsin Attend analyses the possible reasons for the visit of Peres to Morocco.

back on autonomy



Left: Many Turkic Muslims still pursue a nomadic existence. **Above:** the family gathers in traditional surroundings to drink the no-less-traditional cup of tea

 Next month China celebrates the 31st anniversary of the founding of "Xinjiang Wei Wu Er Zi Zi Chu", or the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. But the Turkic Muslims of Eastern Turkestan have very little to celebrate. The decision to set up the autonomous region rather than fulfilling promises of self-determination made by Mao was against the Turkic Muslim's wishes.

At the sixth Congress of the Chinese Communist Party in 1945, Mao Zedong announced that after a communist takeover in China the peoples of Mongolia, Tibet, and Eastern Turkestan would have the right to self-determination and the choice between full independence or the establishment of federated republics within the framework of a federalist China. But Mao denied the people full independence after seizing power.

Faced with this situation, the Turkic Muslims of Eastern Turkestan asked to form a federated republic. Mao also rejected this request calling it a "demand hostile to history", and he upheld "that

Eastern Turkestan had always been an inalienable part of an indivisible China, even before dividing China into federated republics".

In order to justify their domination of Eastern Turkestan, the Chinese claim that this country was annexed to China 2000 years ago. It is true that China, in order to control the silk road, staged invasions of Eastern Turkestan as early as 104 BC, but they were thwarted by the native populations, and the total period of Chinese rule as a result of six invasions over a period of 855 years was only 157 years. After the defeat of the Chinese in 751 CE, Eastern Turkestan remained independent for 1000 years until its conquest by the non-Chinese Manchu rulers, who gave it the name "Xinjiang". It was officially annexed to Chinese territory on 18 November 1884.

When it became apparent that Mao was taking this hard line on the possibility of republic status, the Turkic Muslims requested that the Manchu name "Xinjiang" be changed to the historical name "Eastern Turkestan", or if that was not acceptable, to "Uyguristan". Mao also rejected this request and decided instead to form an autonomous region for.

The draft programme for the introduction of regional autonomy for non-Chinese peoples in Eastern Turkestan was formulated at the second enlarged session of the Nationalities Affairs Commission in December 1951 and finally ratified by the Central Government Council on 8 August 1952. It foresaw three types of autonomous units; a unit inhabited by a single national minority; a unit with one large majority and several local minority units, having sub-autonomous status, and a unit with several minorities, none of which was in the majority.

In February 1955 a special committee was created to prepare for the regional autonomy of Eastern Turkestan, and in August the provisional government adopted a resolution calling for it. The first Eastern Turkestan Provincial People's Congress approved the resolution in September 1955 and dispatched it to Peking, where the State

Council and the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress approved it on 13 September 1955. As a result the Xinjiang Wei Wu Er Zi Zi Chu, or the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, came into being on 1 October, 1955.

The creation of the region contradicted Mao's former dictum that there is no need to divide China into federated republics, because China has been a single, united land from earliest times. It also allowed for divisive policies aimed at the Turkic Muslims of Eastern Turkestan.

The newspaper *Xinjiang Ribao* wrote in its 14 December 1960 issue: "In the People's Republic of China, the Chinese share of the population is 94 per cent. We are for the fusion of the peoples in China. This process must be based on a single nation. This nation is the Chinese nation. We have to increase the number of marriages between the Chinese and the nationalities. Nobody should try to prevent this process".

Mao accordingly pursued a policy of systematic assimilation of the Turkic Muslims into the Chinese population. Under the pretext of cultural reform the Chinese communists eliminated the traditional Arabic script used for almost 1000 years. Some 370,000 books written in this script, including the Holy Quran, Hadith, and other religious works which Mao claimed to be "remnants of the past", were destroyed. Mao's socio-economic reforms drove almost the entire population of Turkic Muslims into 30,000 communes. They were forced to marry Chinese, and 30 to 40 per cent of children born came from mixed marriages.

Under the pretext of unification of national education schools operating under the Islamic *Waqf* (Islamic endowments) were closed and the children transferred to other schools that taught only Marxism, Leninism, and Maoism. Claiming that attendance at Mosques, Islamic gatherings, and Quran recitations "hindered production", the Chinese communists prohibited the Turkic Muslims from fulfilling their religious duties. Throughout Eastern Turkestan 29,000 Mosques were closed and more than 54,000 imams and religious teachers were arrested and tortured or used for forced labour.

The Turkic Muslims staged revolts against the assimilation policies

