

Lambert M. Surhone, Miriam T. Timpledon,
Susan F. Marseken (Ed.)

Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps

**Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region,
People's Republic of China, Xinjiang**

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Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps

新疆生产建设兵团

Xīnjiāng Shēngchǎn Jiànshè Bīngtuán

Headquarters	Urumqi
First Political Commissar	Zhang Chunxian
Political Commissar	Che Jun
Commander-in-chief	Hua Shifci
Area of jurisdiction	74,300 km ²
Population (2003) - Density	2,542,000 34/km ²
GDP (2002) - per capita	RMB 26.9 billion RMB 10582
Major nationalities (2002)	Han - 88.1% Uyghur - 6.6% Hui - 2.6% Kazakh - 1.7% Mongol - 0.3%
Divisions	14

The **Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps** (simplified Chinese: 新疆生产建设兵团; traditional Chinese: 新疆生產建設兵團; pinyin: *Xīnjiāng Shēngchǎn Jiànshè Bīngtuán*), also known as **XPCC** or **Bingtuan** or **Bing Tuan** for short, is a unique economic and semi-military governmental organization existing in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in the People's Republic of China. The XPCC has de facto administrative authority over several medium-sized cities as well as settlements and farms all across Xinjiang. It has its own administrative structure, fulfilling governmental functions such as healthcare and education for areas under its jurisdiction. The Government of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region does not usually interfere in the administration of these areas.

The stated goals of the XPCC are to develop frontier regions, promote economic development, ensure social stability and ethnic harmony, and counter the East Turkestan independence movement. In its 50-year history, the XPCC has built farms, towns, and cities, and settled millions of migrants, mainly Han Chinese, into Xinjiang. As such, the XPCC is lauded in China as a cornerstone of stability and prosperity in an otherwise troubled region, and characterized as a vehicle of colonization and sinicization among supporters of East Turkistan independence.

The XPCC also participates in economic activities, and is known as the **China Xinjian Group** (simplified Chinese: 中国新建集团; traditional Chinese: 中國新建集團; pinyin: *Zhōngguó Xīnjiàn Jítuán*). It has a number of publicly traded subsidiaries.

The XPCC was founded by Wang Zhen in 1954 under the orders of Mao Zedong.^[1]

History

The XPCC draws from the traditional Chinese *tuntian* system, a policy of settling military units in frontier areas so that they become self-sufficient in food. Construction corps were set up for several sparsely-populated frontier regions, including Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia, and Xinjiang. The newly founded People's Republic of China also had the problem of what to do with many former non-Communist soldiers who had been removed from economic production for many years. Ideas about settling such soldiers on the land had been common in China for many years.

Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps

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