

Anwar Rahman

Sinicization Beyond the Great Wall

**China's Xinjiang Uighur
Autonomous Region**



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Map 1 Xinjiang's position in the People's Republic of China

Characteristics

- *An immense territory of more than 1.6 million square kilometres, 2,000 kilometres long from east to west; 1,600 kilometres from south to north;*
- *An international border-line of more than 5,600 kilometres long, with Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kirghistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.*
- *Largest Chinese province and constitutes one sixth of China's total territory.*
- *A population of some 20 million people, divided into 47 ethnic groups.*
- *China has exploded 46 nuclear bombs in this province since 1961.*
- *Unique province where political prisoners, mostly Uighurs, are to be executed.*
- *China's largest fruit and melon producing centre,*
- *Produces 118 kinds of minerals, out of 145 found in China. Oil reserve is the most spectacular, found in almost the entire province and is likely to become the largest oil-producing base of China in the years to come.*
- *Urumchi, the provincial capital, is said to be the farthest city from the seacoast in the world.*



Map 2 Xinjiang with important cities, counties, rivers and lakes

SINICIZATION BEYOND THE GREAT WALL

Anwar Rahman

China's increasing acceptance as a world super power has done little to help address its appalling human rights record. Fearing their bid for independence, the rights of people living in regions such as Xinjiang have been repressed and violated by the Chinese Government. Individuals have been imprisoned and tortured for their beliefs.

Anwar Rahman was born in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, the largest and most remote Chinese province in Central Asia. He has witnessed at first hand the effects of discriminative Chinese policies towards its minority nationals, and the way in which the Government has used the phenomenon of sinicization under the pretext of developing the region's economy.

Sinicization Beyond the Great Wall provides a unique and personal insight into the repression faced by the inhabitants of Xinjiang. It is filled with first-hand accounts, official documents and statistics about the Uighur people, which make it a valuable point of reference and a useful handbook for those who are interested in Central Asian Studies and, in particular, China's Ethnic problems.



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