

The Xinjiang Tour May 2021

What's going on in Xinjiang ?

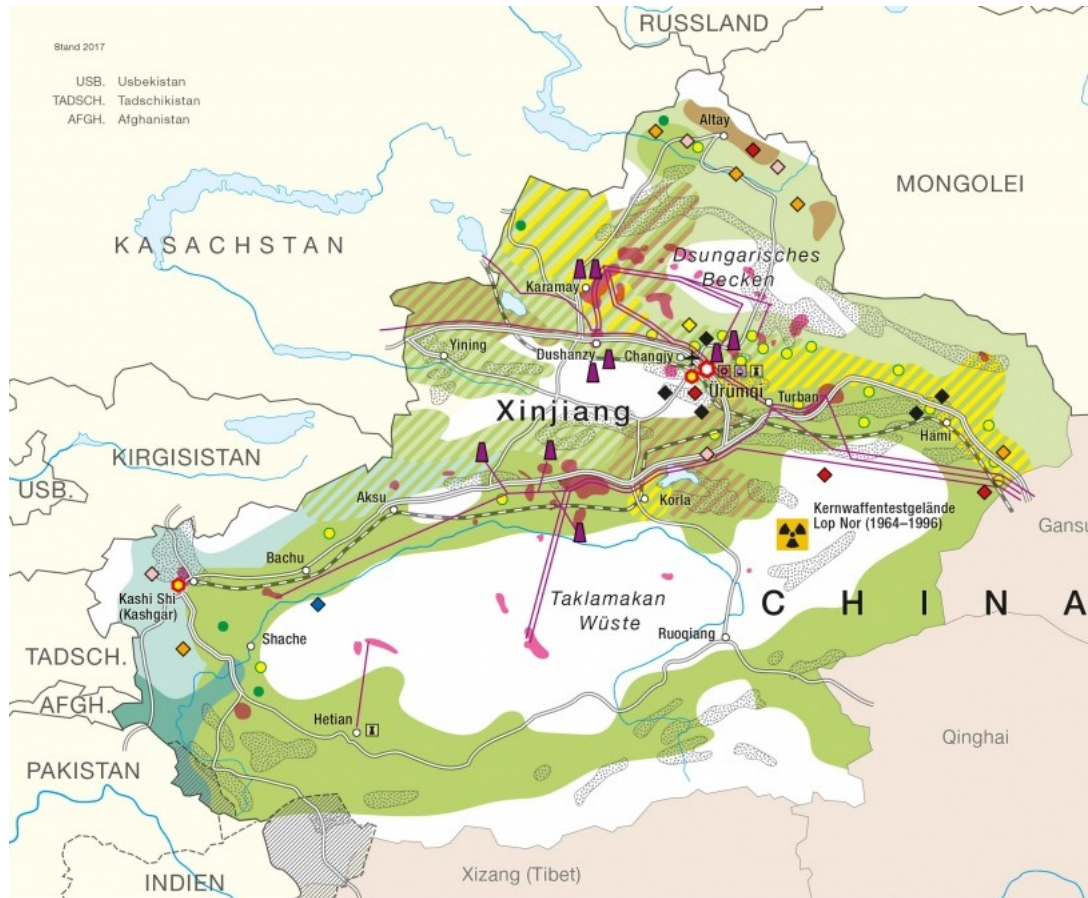
Was ist dran am Vorwurf des Genozids an den Uiguren ?

China - Europa

	China	EU
People	1,4 bln.	746 mio.
Area	9,6 mio km ²	10,5 mio km ²
provinces/countries	31	48
GDP 1980	305 bln. USD	
GDP 2005	2.308 bln. USD	13.267 bln. Euro
GDP 2020	13.842 bln. USD	~13.900 bln. Euro

The People's Republic of China is the second largest economy in the world after the USA and, measured in terms of purchasing power parity, has been the largest economy in the world since 2016

Xinjiang - Geographie



The Xinjiang Uigur Autonomous Region in western China is the largest province in China with an area of 1.66 million km² (~ France, Spain, Germany).

Capital: Urumqi (Wulumuqi)

Border with 8 neighboring countries (Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India)

Approx. 25 million inhabitants

Muslim majority of the population:

45.8% Uighurs

40.5% Han Chinese

6.5% Kazakhs (Muslims)

4.5% Hui (Muslims)

2.7% others (Mongols, Lope, etc.)

approx. 24,000 mosques

Xinjiang - rohstoffreiche Provinz Chinas mit muslimischer Bevölkerungsmehrheit

Grenzen und Verkehr

- Staatsgrenze
- - - Staatsgrenze, umstritten
- Provinzgrenze
- ▨ umstrittenes Gebiet
- == Autobahn, Schnellstraße
- sonstige wichtige Straße
- wichtige Eisenbahnstrecke
- ✈ internationaler Flughafen

Ethnolinguistische Gruppen und Religion

- Altäische Sprachfamilie**
- Türkvolker:
 - Uiguren (mehrheitlich Muslime)
 - Kasachen (mehrheitlich Muslime)
 - Kirgisen (mehrheitlich Muslime)
 - Mongolen (mehrheitlich Buddhisten)
 - Tataren (mehrheitlich Muslime)

Indogermanische Sprachen

- Tadschiken (mehrheitlich Muslime)

Sinotibetische Sprache

- Han-Chinesen (chinesische Volksreligion oder keine Religion)
- Hui (muslimische Han-Chinesen)
- weitgehend unbewohnt

Bergbau, Rohstoff

- Erdöl-, Erdgaslagerstätte
- Erdöl-, Erdgaspipeline
- ▲ Erdölraffinerie
- ◆ Steinkohlelagerstätte
- ◆ Steinkohleabbau
- ◆ Eisenerz
- ◆ Nichtfermetalle
- ◆ nichtmetallische Mineralien
- ◆ seltene Erden

Industrie

- Maschinenbau
 - chemische Industrie
 - Textil- und Bekleidungsindustrie
- Dienstleistung**
- Dienstleistungszentrum, Provinzhauptstadt
 - touristisches Zentrum

0 500 km

Day 1: Shihezi, Shawan County



My wife's family lives in Xinjiang, Shawan County. About 1000 people live in the village, the majority of them Han Chinese. Kazakhs (Muslims) have always lived in the direct neighborhood of the village. Around 1800 people live in the neighboring village, around 70% of them Uyghurs and the rest is divided between Hui, Han, Mongols and possibly other ethnic groups. The new Shihezi Airport was recently put into operation in the immediate vicinity of the villages. Everything is described in Arabic and Chinese at the train station and airport.

Day 1: Shihezi, Shawan County



3.5.2021

Exploration tour in the Uyghur neighboring village.

Village scenes in Xinjiang. People on the streets, children playing, skeptical, curious glances. Easy to crack with a friendly Ni Hao and an open smile.



Day 1: Shihezi, Shawan County

3.5.2021

On the corner where the mosque provided by the local authority used to stand, there is now a community center and children play there. The mosque was closed by the authorities after firearms were found in the place of the most successful entrepreneur, a brick manufacturer. The entrepreneur is in custody. Some of the residents were then allegedly sent to a training camp.



Day 1: Shihezi, Shawan County



3.5.2021

Exploration tour in the neighboring village.

We get into conversation with people. Playing soccer with a little boy (talented) was the icebreaker. I was invited into the house of a villager. Chinese-Uighur hospitality! There were watermelons, dried fruits and photos.



Day 2: Shihezi, Shawan County



4.5.2021

Private visit to my wife's uncle in Shawan County. At the end of the visit we visit the local egg factory. The owner thinks he has a great modern facility. The fact is, in my view it's an ugly battery.

He proudly declares that instead of 7 chickens he only packs 6 in a cage ... Shawan County has also had a prison for many years. A system like the one found in every country. Taking pictures is officially prohibited



Day 3: Urumqi



5.5.2021

In the morning we meet our support team from Xinjiang:

Liu Haijun, Deputy Secretary General and Director of the General Office of XUA Regional Party Committee

Li Mingguowa, translator

You should open all doors for us on the way.

Without a big greeting, the Urumqi Terrorism and Extremism Theme Exhibition starts.

The visit is shocking. At the beginning we are greeted by Mr. **Li Xuejun**, a senior party cadre in XUA, head of the center.

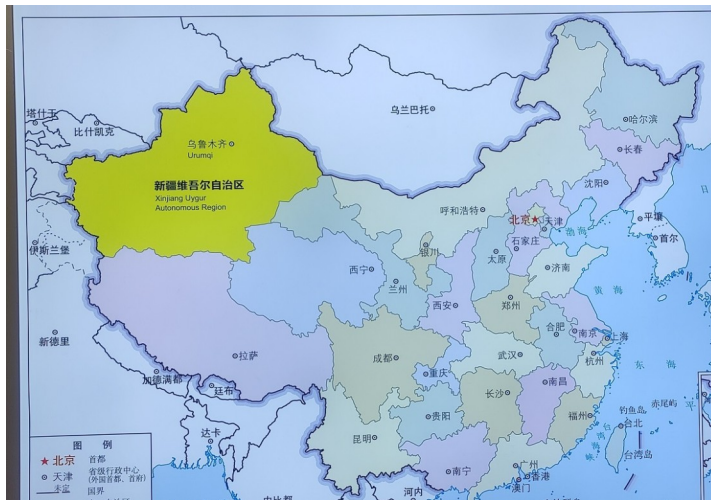
Day 3: Urumqi – Exhibition Center



5.5.2021

Mr. Li explains during the tour that he has also been to several crime scenes himself.

The guide gives me a translator button. She is directly connected to a simultaneous interpreter. At first a female, then a male voice.



Various ethnic groups in Xinjiang are part of the Chinese nation

Historically, the Chinese nation was formed and developed through cultural communication, exchanges and integration between peoples in the Central Plains and in other regions. The Huaxia people who appeared in the pre-Qin period, after years of integration with various other peoples, and especially after 500 turbulent years of cultural convergence in the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods, further integrated with other peoples in the Qin and Han dynasties to form the Han people, a majority group in the Central Plains and the major people in Chinese history. In the period of the Wei, Jin, and Northern and Southern Dynasties, different peoples, especially the northern ethnic minorities, migrated on a large scale to the Central Plains, resulting in further ethnic merging. In the 13th century, with the founding of the Yuan Dynasty, an unprecedented level of political unification gave rise to unprecedented ethnic migration, leading to various ethnic groups living together within the Yuan territories. After this long historical process, different ethnic groups of China eventually settled among each other, with compact communities here and there. Multiculturalism is a prominent feature of China. Together, the ethnic groups of China have explored the country's rich resources and vast territories, and have created a long history and a splendid culture.

Xinjiang has been in close contact with the Central Plains since ancient times. As early as the Shang Dynasty, the Western Regions traded jade with the Central Plains. In the Han Dynasty, imperial envoy Zhang Qian opened up the Silk Road, along which emissaries and merchants traveled. In the Tang Dynasty, merchants from the Central Plains and the Western Regions traded silk and horses, and a grand thoroughfare connected the Western Regions directly to Chang'an, the Tang capital, with courier stations along the way. Music and dances from Khotan, Gaochang and other places in the Western Regions were performed in the Tang court, and the exotic cultures of the Western Regions were popular in Chang'an. The music of Guici (today's Kucha, Xinjiang) enjoyed great fame in the Central Plains, and became an important component of court music in the Sui, Tang and Song dynasties. In modern times, at critical junctures of the Chinese nation, the ethnic peoples in Xinjiang have fought alongside the rest of the country with great patriotism. Since the founding of the PRC, ethnic relations in Xinjiang have entered a new era characterized by equality, solidarity, mutual help, and harmony. Currently inhabited by 56 ethnic groups, Xinjiang is one of the provincial-level administrative regions with the most ethnic groups in China. The Uygur, Han, Kazak and Hui have populations of one million and above, and the Kirgiz and Mongol have populations exceeding 100,000. Today, Xinjiang, home to various ethnic groups, is an integral part of the Chinese nation.

Day 3: Urumqi – Exhibition Center

Xinjiang (XUAR) is colourful Home of 56 ethnicities!



Day 3: Urumqi – Exhibition Center

Xinjiang is a key battlefield in the fight against terrorism and extremism in China. In the name of ethnicity and religion, religious extremists deceitfully used people's ethnic identity and religious belief to instigate religious fanaticism, spread religious extremism, and incite the common people to join in violent and terrorist activities. They brainwashed people with the “Jihad” , abetting them to “die for their belief in order to enter heaven” . Some of the most susceptible followers, no longer possessing any self-control, became extremists and terrorists who heartlessly slaughtered innocent people.

For some time Xinjiang has been plagued by terrorism and religious extremism, which pose a serious threat to the lives of the people in the region. Addressing both the symptoms and root causes and integrating preventative measures and a forceful response, Xinjiang has established vocational education and training centers in accordance with the law to prevent the breeding and spread of terrorism and religious extremism, effectively curbing the frequent terrorist incidents and protecting the rights to life, health, and development of the people of all ethnic groups. Worthwhile results have been achieved.

5.5.2021

The exhibition does not question that Vocational Education Centers were set up in Xinjiang and operated until the end of 2019.

Is it really an education center or is it, as the 5-Eye states, with the exception of NZ, claim, about the systematic suppression of an entire Uyghur ethnic group?

The aim of my trip was to get to the bottom of this question.

Day 3: Urumqi – Exhibition Center



5.5.2021

The exhibition also shows pictures and videos that are difficult to digest. Each poster is dedicated to an assassination attempt and provides information about the day, place and victim, accompanied by terrible original footage of the crime scene.

Would something like that be shown in Germany? In China, portrayals of accidents and assassination victims are sometimes part of public education. But you pay attention to anonymization

Day 3: Urumqi – Exhibition Center



5.5.2021

The Arsenal of Terror on display shows collected weapons of all kinds. Firearms from all times of the last century, explosives and even a self-made howitzer.

You stand in front of it and ask yourself what people are capable of. I asked the young woman who led us through the terrible exhibition about her feelings.

She's been doing the job for almost 5 years now. I have no idea how she processes all of these images.



Day 3: Urumqi – Exhibition Center



Day 3: Urumqi – Exhibition Center



5.5.2021

The final part of the exhibition is again concerned with the Vocational Education Centers.

In the final conversation, Mr. Li explained the idea of the centers. There were three main areas of training:

- Chinese language
- Legal understanding
- A freely selectable professional training

He also emphasized again that China and Xinjiang are open to all guests.

Day 3: Urumqi – BRI Hub



5.5.2021

Urumuqi has developed from a city at the western end of China to the central hub of the BRI. The city is overflowing with construction activity.

When I was there for the last time about 6 years ago, everything still seemed a bit incomplete. Back then there were countless construction sites and the city looked like a large demolition site



Day 3: Urumqi – BRI Hub



5.5.2021

The model of the new district that has been built up is fascinating. Visible are the Volkswagen factory, the train station and also the large marshalling yard for the BRI hub



Day 3: Urumqi – BRI Hub



5.5.2021

Outside appointment at the BRI hub. In addition to the size, the time in which this construction site was built is also impressive. On the picture below left Liu Huijin who accompanied us during the whole trip and opened all doors.

Day 3: Urumqi - White Mosque



5.5.2021

The White Mosque

The first mosque on our trip to Xinjiang. It was opened in 1923 and has been a center for devout Muslims from the area and for visitors ever since. It extends over 3 floors.

The imam explains the story to us. Preaching is only in Uyghur. The Imam himself only speaks broken Mandarin.

The equipment of the mosque is financed by the municipality. The new air conditioning systems are a particular highlight.

Day 4: Turpan



6.5.2021

Turpan is located west of Urumqi, the main attractions are the Karez sewers and the Flaming Mountains (see my homepage)

approx. 650,000 Ew. 70% Uighurs
Around 500 different grapes
Known for its raisins.

For some years now, the company has relied fully on regenerative energies, building solar settlements and huge wind parks in the open air. The electrical energy generated there from wind is distributed throughout Xinjiang.

Day 4: Turpan, Exhibition Center



6.5.2021

Turpan is also the hottest point in China in summer. Temperatures over 60 degrees Celsius are sometimes measured on the Flaming Mountains.

Turpan has also set up a terror and extremism information center.

A little smaller than in Urumqi but just as irritating and frightening.

But also in Turpan they are proud and satisfied that there have been no more attacks in the past 5 years.

Day 4: Turpan – Report of a vocational student



6.5.2021

Ou Bai tells us his story. He only attended middle school (9th grade) and hardly spoke any Chinese. His friends of the same age reacted more and more aggressively to so-called unbelieving Chinese. Zero perspective. At some point his girlfriend put pressure on him and gave him the decision to either leave him or start an apprenticeship. He then accepted the offer of the new vocational school in January 2018 and took part in a training course until April 2019.

Day 4: Turpan – Report of a vocational student



6.5.2021

He learned Chinese, Chinese law and how to start, develop and operate an e-commerce business.

With the help of the “local village committee” he organized a building and the start-up financing. Farmers from the surrounding area trusted him and initially made their products available without a down payment. So he was able to open his online shop in 2019. Today he is the boss of Turpan Grape, employs 15 people and has around 50 farmers from the area as suppliers.

He proudly reports that he turned over 11 million RMB in the past year. In the previous year, his income was several thousand RMB a year.

Day 4: Turpan – Uighur primary school



6.5.2021

The relatively small primary school was founded in 1951.

323 students, 6 Hui all other Uighurs
23 teachers

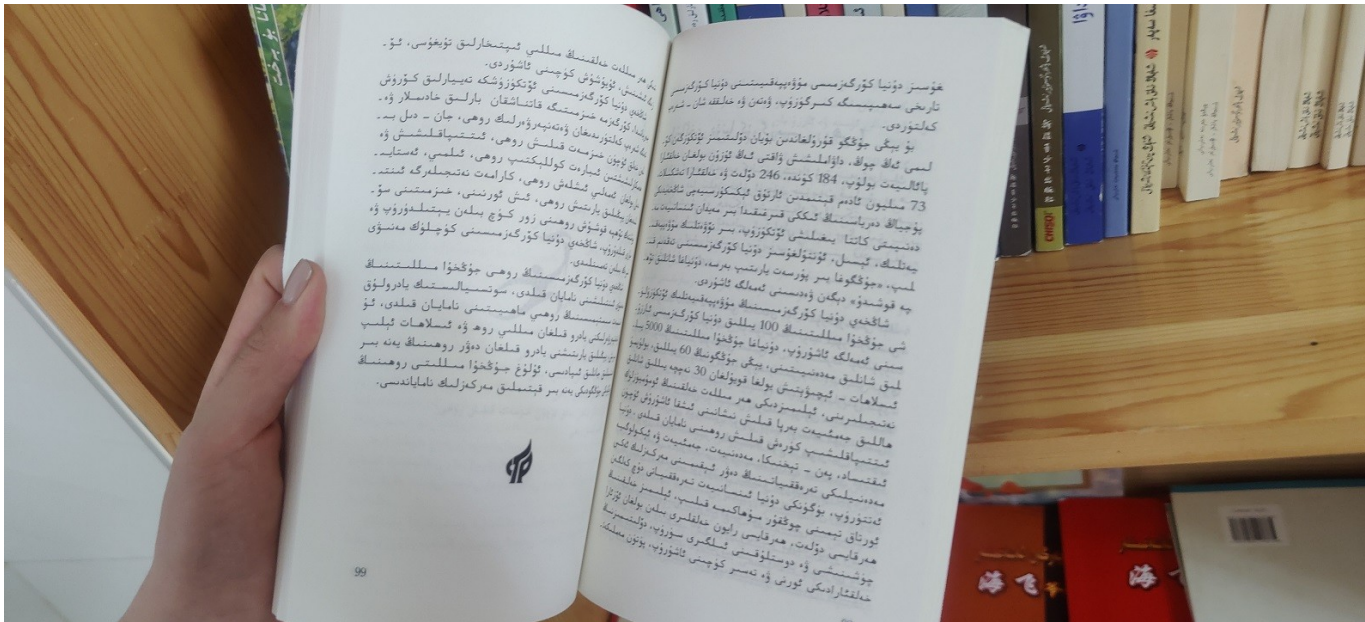
Bilingual Chinese lessons
and Uighur (Arabic)

English from 3rd grade

Parents choose the school in China themselves. School attendance is free, families in need receive additional support from the school authorities



Day 4: Turpan – Uighur primary school



Day 4: Turpan – Nan bread Industrial Park



6.5.2021

The Nan Bread Industrial Park was created near the world famous Karez underground irrigation system. It is a typical project to fight poverty, as there are in China in relatively large numbers. Creative and highly efficient.



The community has developed a large area and built three nan bread factories on this area, a marketing area and a culture area. The latter offers space for parties and daily encounters.

Day 4: Turpan – Nan bread Industrial Park



6.5.2021

The park is run by a 23-person management team deployed by the municipality. The boss belongs to the Hui ethnic group.

The three bread-baking factories are rented to entrepreneurs who can have their bread baked there and sell it.

In total, around 500 people work in the park, which opened in October 2020, mainly Uyghurs, but also Han or Hui.

The average income of the employees is 4000 RMB / month. Specialists come to 6000. The employees are employed by the municipality.

Day 4: Turpan – Nan bread Industrial Park



6.5.2021

The entrance and outside area are aimed for tourism and marketing of the Nan bread.

There is a sales area, test areas, outdoor restaurant and stories about Nan bread.

In the evenings, people eat there, perform music and dance.

Every day the park produces 200,000 nan breads which are sold all over China.

Marketing takes place either directly by the manufacturer, through the park or through internet sales, which can also be carried out from within the park



Day: Turpan – Nan bread Industrial Park



Day 5: Bayingole – Bosten Lake

7.5.2021

The largest prefecture in Xinjiang, in terms of area, extends from north to south over almost 800 km and west-east over 600 km. Roughly the area of Germany.

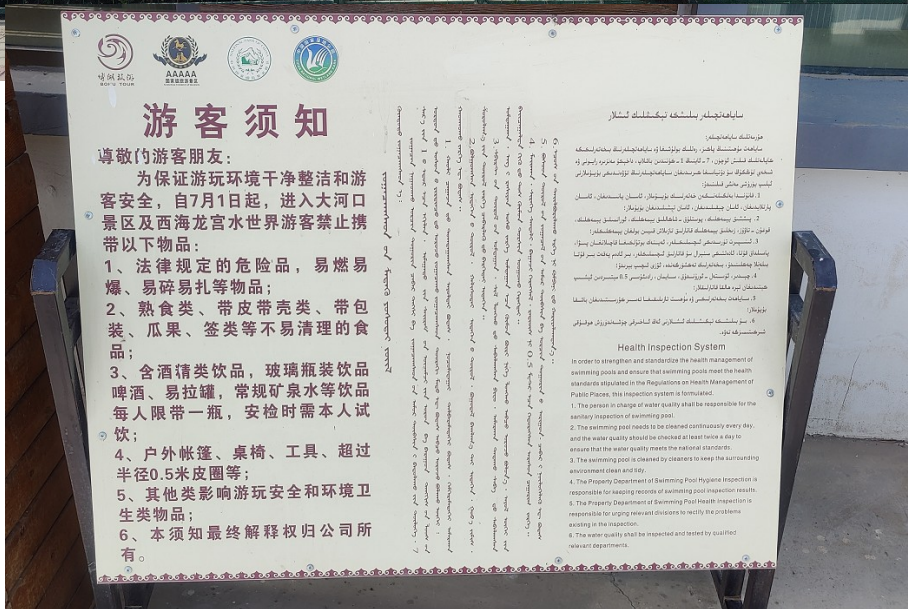
However, only 1.3 million people live here. A large part of bayingole is desert (Taklamakan).

The prefecture has a total of 46 ethnic groups, the largest group are Han Chinese. But there are also 460,000 Uyghurs and around 60,000 Mongols living there

Our destination is Bosten Lake, the largest freshwater resource in Xinjiang.



Day 5: Bosten Lake



7.5.2021

History tells that during the time of the Russian Tsarina Catherine the Great, the Mongols were expelled from Russia and then settled on Bosten Lake with the permission of the Chinese emperor.

That is why this region is considered Mongolian.

As everywhere in Xinjiang, you will find information boards in Chinese, Uighur but here also in Mongolian and sometimes even in English language.

Day 5: Bosten Lake



7.5.2021

There is an information board in 4 languages at the entrance area. Before Covid-19, around 3000 visitors / day were counted at the lake.

The lake has been open as a tourist center since 2010.

We are guided through the park by a Uighur woman who tells us her story in Chinese.

9 years ago she married an Uyghur who had problems with drugs. She worked as a housewife. A daughter is now 9 years old from the marriage. When she talks about the daughter, her whole face shines.

Day 5: Bosten Lake



7.5.2021

Her husband's family was according her description, religiously extremist. She then separated from him and took part in a training camp from 2017 to 2019. Until then, she hardly spoke any Chinese.

After completing her apprenticeship, she took the job at the Tourism Center on Bosten Lake, works from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and earns 3,000 to 4,000 RMB a month, plus social and pension insurance.

She met her new husband at the center and now has a little son with him

Day 5: Tibetan Temple in Bosten Lake County



7.5.2021

During the trip I learned that there is a Tibetan temple built in 1860 in the region and that it was temporarily added to the itinerary. We were greeted by a monk who showed us through the entire complex and also showed us the Tibetan prayer books used in the temple, as I already knew from my visit to Tibet.



Day 5: Tibetan Temple in Bosten Lake County



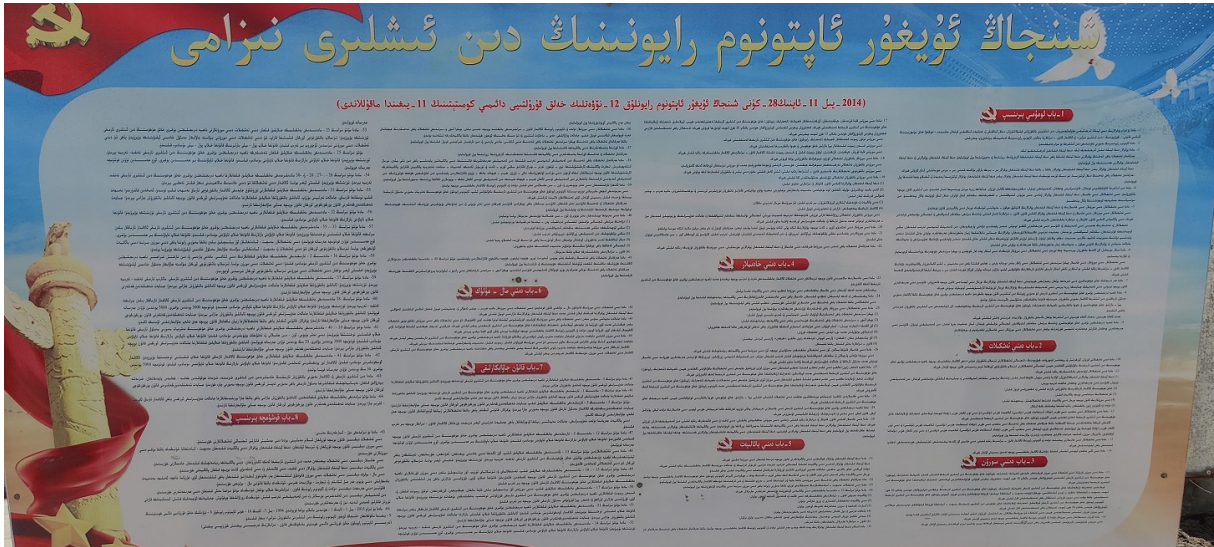
7.5.2021

The temple is well preserved. In the vicinity of the temple (about 150 m away) there is an information and cultural center where music and dancing are performed. Exhibitions are also organized here.

Although unannounced, we were received as special guests, given a Buddhist scarf and organized a traditional performance.



Day 5: LingGu Mosquee in Korla



7.5.2021

The Baiyngule County has a total of 22 mosques.

The LingGu Mosque in Korla City, built in 1895, is operated by the Hui. Their architectural style resembles the mosques from the neighboring province of Gansu.

According to the friendly imam, there are regularly around 20 men in the mosque in the mornings and evenings, and on Fridays there are even around 50 people.

The indispensable rules in China are only posted in the Uighur language. The mosque, like the others, is equipped with air conditioning and is financed by the community.



Day 5: LingGu Moschee in Korla



7.5.2021

As I leave the mosque, I am introduced to the local school authority employee. I ask if there is a so-called in town Vocational



Education Center in the town. Yes, not far from the mosque. But it has now been converted into a technical school. I ask if I can see it
Answer: yes

Day 5: Korla - Vocational Education Center



7.5.2021

The former Vocational Education Center will now be a school. This visit was unannounced and the guards at the entrance were immediately nervous when they saw a "Lao Wei" taking pictures of the facility.

Only when my companion intervened did she calm her down.

The facility itself was quite new. The school was only built about 4 years ago.

I point out that western journalists could interpret the bars in front of the windows as a coercive device.

Day 5: Korla - Vocational Education Center



7.5.2021

For me, after 18 years in China, the bars are not an indication that it is a coercive institution. The subsequent workshop building next to the school has exactly the same grid as the high-rise buildings in the neighboring residential area



My suggestion is enough to dismantle the bars at short notice. What we were then proudly demonstrated 5 days later on the return trip!

This only happens in China!

Day 5: As guest at the Luopo People in Lop Nur



7.5.2021

Dealing with minorities today:
Lop Nur is an idyllic oasis on the edge of the Taklamakan desert. From the 1960s to 1980 it was the only known Chinese nuclear weapons test base to date in which underground tests were carried out. The young guide who led us through her paradise exudes an enthusiasm that I rarely see anywhere else. Obviously she doesn't know the past or has suppressed it. The lake is fed by a small river, the Karim River, which receives its water from the Tianshan Mountains

Day 5: As guest at the Luopo People in Lop Nur



7.5.2021

A small community of around 10,000 people, the Luopo People, with their own customs and homes still lives on the site in archaic, natural conditions.

Today it is a fantastic vacation destination. Essentially, however, this applies to all of Xinjiang



Day 5: Bayingole – Korla(Kuerle Shi)



7.5.2021

Dinner then at a night market in Korla.

A completely normal night market as you can see it all over China, especially in the southern provinces, with dancing groups, including Uyghurs,.

These night markets can only be found in the northern provinces during the summer months



Day 6: Kuche(Kuqa) – Cotton farmer



8.5.2021

We reach a farmer (Uighur) in his thirties in a village in Aksu prefecture.

He has 300 mu (200,000 square meters) of fields on which he grows his cotton. Fully automatic The entire management takes place without any further helpers.

In addition, he runs some cattle breeding with sheep.

The large harvesting machine on the left in the picture above was purchased from the municipality and is used by several farmers throughout the season. He needs them about 3 days per harvest.



Day 6: Kuche(Kuqa) – Cotton farmer



8.5.2021

He bought all of the other agricultural machines himself. The community helped with the acquisition (> 30%) and the Rural Bank gave him very cheap loans. Today he earns around 200,000 RMB annually with his business and works effectively for maybe 2 months. His 2 children go to the Uighur primary school. He himself only attended middle school and he acquired his know-how through an education offered by the community.

Day 6: Mosque in Kuqa - Arbaitai



8.5.2021

The small village mosque in Kuqa was not on our travel program. Upon entering the Uighur village, I asked about the local mosque and whether it would be possible to visit it. While I'm still talking to the cotton farmer, our visit is being organized. The imam was waiting for us until we arrived.

As in every mosque that has been visited so far, this one is also equipped as usual: air conditioning, loudspeakers and water connection. It was renovated like this in 1996

Day 6: Mosque in Kuqa



8.5.2021

Surprise: the mosque even has underfloor heating!
The imam hardly spoke any Chinese. His interpreter informs my translator and she passes his statements on to me. On a normal day about 50 believers pray there and on Friday around 120 come to the mosque. There is no youth work, and young people under the age of 18 are not allowed to be trained by religious communities in China. Young people come less often because they mostly study or work outside.

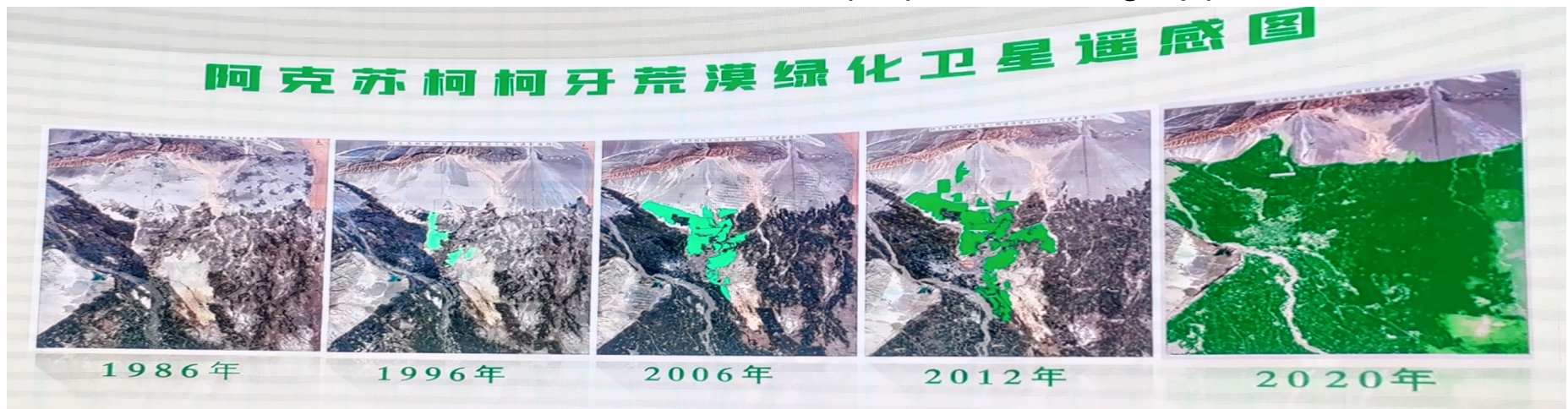
Day 7: Aksu – Green Cliff Kekeja [kukuja]



9.5.2021

In Aksu I was received by the 2nd highest party member of Xinjiang in the evening. The attention paid to me shows how much my visit was appreciated and welcomed!

The following day I was introduced to a huge greening project that has been going on for many years (probably also because I arrived as a member of the german greens). It is one of the 500 largest and most successful desert greening projects in the world and the people there are rightly proud of it!



Day 7: Aksu – Green Cliff Kekeja [kukuja]

9.5.2021

Since the start of the project in 1986, generations of residents, with the support of the CPC (this is particularly emphasized), have replanted the actually uninhabitable area around Aksu. The success could only be achieved due to the number of inhabitants and the enthusiasm for this project and from my point of view is an unbelievable energy achievement. Today, an almost uninhabitable desert country, has become a pulsating city in the country. The apples from Aksu are now known all over the world and are really extremely tasty.



Day 7: Aksu – Green Cliff Kekeja [kukuja]



9.5.2021

After the visit we drove to the Wetland Park, which was started about 35 years ago. Today the population can enjoy this amusement park for free. That cannot be taken for granted in China!



A total of around 4 million mu = 666 million square meters were planted with trees in the course of the greening program in Aksu prefecture

Day 7: Aksu – Talk to administration

9.5.2021

A highlight was the meeting with top officials of the Aksu administration. See photo

The participants of the administration on the right from front to back:

- Ailjang Tunjaz, Police
- Arigual Mamut, Health Commission
- Shi Hong, Statistic Department
- Amina Yatex, Training Education
- Amerjang Awut, Deputy Director of People Congress



Aksu Prefecture (Aksu) is divided into 7 districts with 4 cities. It has about 2.44 million inhabitants. The proportion of Uighurs is almost 80%. The location is fantastic from a tourist point of view. On one side of the province borders the Tianshan Mountains with the second highest mountain in China, the 7443m high Tomür Feng, on the other is the desert.

Day 7: Aksu – School Department

Mrs. Amina Yatex, Director Training Education

694 schools in the prefecture

529,000 students, of which more than 85% are not Han

186,000 boarding students (students who are fed and stay overnight at school)

Within the past 5 years, 20.57 billion RMB (~2.64 billion euros) have been invested in the school sector.

Xinjiang has a Free Education Policy, i.e. school attendance is free. In Shanghai, for example, school fees have to be paid in many institutions.

In addition, needy students are supported with annual grants in levels of 1000, 2000 and 3000 RMB

Day 7: Aksu – Statistic Department

Mrs. Shi Hong, Director Statistic Department

approx. 80% Uighurs

20% are divided between Han, Hui, Kazakhs and other minorities

Since 1980, the proportions of the population of the minorities (Uighurs, Hui, etc.) have increased significantly compared to the Han population.

Total development: 1980 – 2019 1.488 million inhabitants to 2,565 million inhabitants

Of which Uighurs: + 84% 1.113 million to 2.047 million

And Han: +35% 355 thousand to 482 thousand 3000 RMB supported

Day 7: Aksu – Health and Family Planning

Mrs. Azigul Mamut, Director Health and Family Planning Commission

In 2019, 20,336 children were born,
Ethnic minorities: 13,462

Boys 10,377
Girls 9,956

In 2020, 19,153 children were born equivalent to – 5.82%
Ethnic minorities: 13,077 corresponds to – 2.86 %

Boys 9,966 - 3.97 %
Girls 9,187 - 7.63%

Abortion is free for every woman, gender testing is prohibited !
Is there a legal situation where a forced abortion or sterilization is provided?
Answer clearly no !

Day 7: Aksu – Security Organization (Police)

Mr. Ailjang Tunjaz, Uigur, Public Security Management

He worked for the police for 14 years. Was involved in 5 terror cases.

No data how many attacks in the past 15 years. Probably higher levels have this data...

He has dealt with the analysis of offenders. The perpetrators were all from the region and were "brainwashed" and disoriented. Age group 22 – 28 years. Assassinations did not follow a plan but were carried out where it was easiest.

Avoidance strategies:

Propaganda of Law in the villages. To do this, you regularly (2 times / month for 2 days) send people to villages where they themselves have relatives or friends. Liu Heijun also has to look after such villages. The people then live there for a few days and help the villagers. It's about building trust and maintaining relationships and explaining rules to the villagers.

Many police stations are now abandoned and no longer in operation.

Day 7: Aksu – Cotton factory Huafu



9.5.2021

Huafu has been operating in Aksu since 2010 with its own factory on a site of 2000 Mu (332000 sqm)

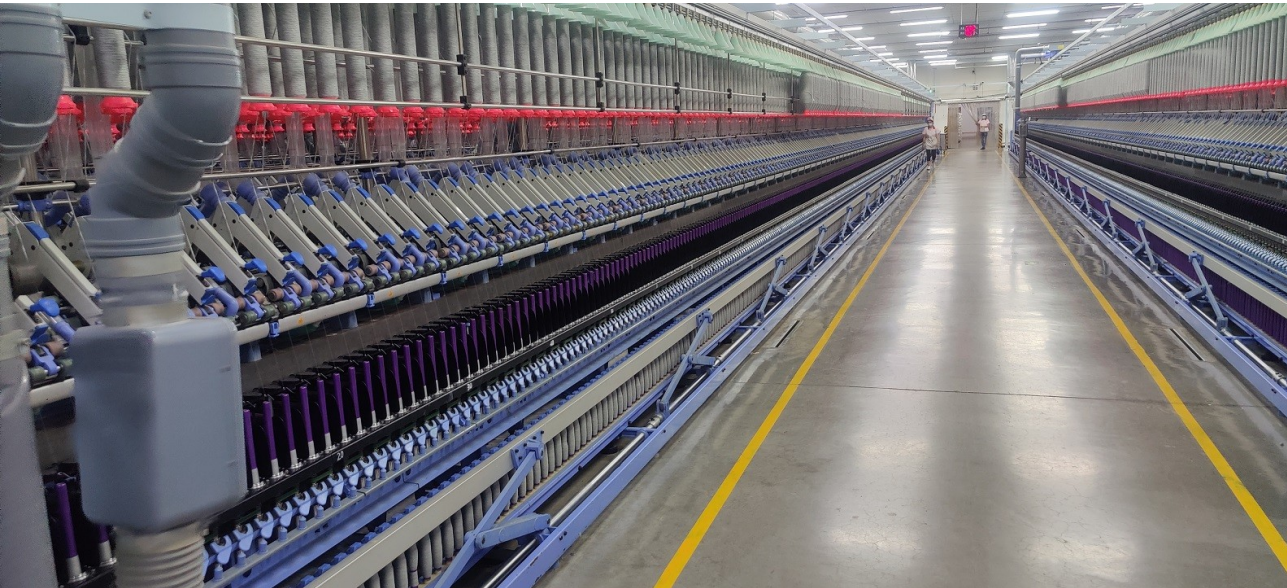
According to BBC and US sources, Huafu is blamed for using "Forced Labor" in his production process
<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-50312010>

If you look at the production by the cotton farmer in Kuqa and the production of twists at Huafu, you get more than doubts.

The employees receive a salary of 3500 RMB/month, are socially insured, are taken to work by bus as in many Chinese companies.



Day 7: Aksu – Cotton factory Huafu



9.5.2021

Huafu employs 5,000 workers, 90% of whom are not Han Chinese. The company has 65,000 spindles in use, one spindle corresponds to a conventional old hand spinning wheel. However, these spindles work significantly faster than a spinning wheel.

Annual sales are RMB 3 billion.

From my point of view, it is simply a state-of-the-art, fully automated factory for the production of cotton thread. A residential area for employees is being built in the immediate vicinity



Day 7: Aksu – Cotton factory Huafu



Day 7: Aksu - Uyghur Quarter



9.5.2021

We are greeted by the party secretary of the Uyghur quarter and get an insight into the Social Village service.

This is definitely a prime example.

Here you will be helped ...

Modern city administration.

The district has around 2800 inhabitants



Day 7: Aksu - Uyghur Quarter



9.5.2021

Then it goes on foot across the street to a residential area, following the inviting music in a picturesque Uyghur restaurant. As a tourist, I would settle there. The landlord says that he worked as a farmer until 2006. He then got 70,000 RMB from the Gov and started his restaurant.

Today he has 30 employees, all of them from the neighborhood. His customers come from Aksu and the surrounding area. Sometimes from further away, as he is very well known on the Internet.

Day 7: Aksu - Uyghur Quarter



9.5.2021

The restaurant is picturesquely located in an organic garden that is maintained and used by the people themselves.

A typical Uighur restaurant. You can often find them in Xiinjiang. The landlord explains that he is very satisfied with his decision to open a restaurant. As a proof of his prosperity, he invites us to his house.

On the lower floor there is a homestay apartment that he rents out to guests.

The furniture is probably a matter of taste.



Day 7: Aksu - Uyghur Quarter



9.5.2021

Another fascinating development project in which poverty reduction, culture and tourism are brought together. An old Uighur quarter is being completely renovated and modernized with the help of the community. Old residential buildings are being converted into hotels and Home Inns, and there are markets and cultural activities in the immediate vicinity.

This creates an attractive tourist area and a sustainable economic revitalization. All of this under the "leadership of the CPC"

Day 7: Aksu - Uyghur Quarter



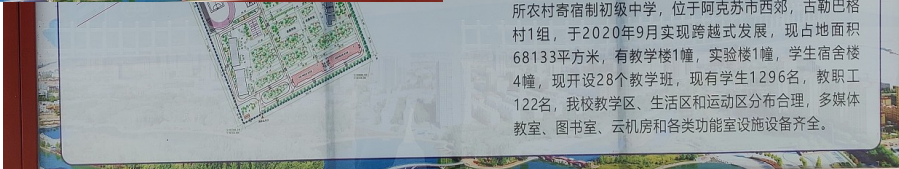
Day 8: Aksu – Middle School



ئاقسۇ شەھىرى ئىككىچى يېزىلىق ئوتتۇرا مەكتەپى 依干其乡中学简介

ئاقسۇ شەھىرى ئىككىچى يېزىلىق ئوتتۇرا مەكتەپى 1971-يىلى 5-ئايدا قۇرۇلغان بولۇپ، ياتاقلىق ئولتۇرۇش ئوتتۇرا مەكتەپى، ئاقسۇ شەھىرىنىڭ غەربىي شەھەر ئەتراپىدىكى كوناغ كەنتى 1-كۆزىيىغا جايلاشقان، 2020 - يىلى 9-ئايدا ھالقىما تەرەققىياتى ئىشقا ئاشۇرغان، ھازىر ئىككىلىگەن يەر كۆلىمى 68133 كىۋادرات مېتىر كېلىدۇ، ئوقۇتۇش بىناسى بىر كۆرۈنۈش، تەجرىبە بىناسى بىر كۆرۈنۈش، ئوقۇتۇش پاتاق بىناسى تۆت كۆرۈنۈش، ھازىر 28 ئوقۇتۇش سىنىپى تەسىس قىلىندى، ھازىر 1296 ئىلگىرى ئوقۇغۇچى، 122 ئىلگىرى ئوقۇتقۇچى ۋە ئىشچى - خىزمەتچى بار. مەكتەپنىڭ ئوقۇتۇش رايونى، تۇرمۇش رايونى ۋە تەدبىرگەت رايونىنىڭ بۆلۈنىشى مۇۋاپىق، كۆپ ۋاسىتىلىك سىنىپ، كۇتۇپخانا، كومپيۇتېر ئۆيى ۋە تۈرلۈك ئىقتىدار ئۆيىنىڭ ئەسلىمە - ئۆسكۈنىلىرى تۇلۇق.

阿克苏市依干其乡中学，始建于1971年5月，是一所农村寄宿制初级中学，位于阿克苏市西郊，古勒巴格村1组，于2020年9月实现跨越式发展，现占地面积68133平方米，有教学楼1幢，实验楼1幢，学生宿舍楼4幢，现开设28个教学班，现有学生1296名，教职工122名，我校教学区、生活区和运动区分布合理，多媒体教室、图书室、云机房和各类功能室设施设备齐全。



9.5.2021

On the last day in Aksu we visit a large Uyghur middle school again.

The school, founded in 1971, has 1296 Uyghur students 122 teachers, 60 of them are Han Chinese.

There are 28 classes in grades 7, 8 and 9.

As is common in China, there are dormitories in the schools in which the students live during the week. So-called "boarding students".



Day 8: Aksu – Middle School



中学学生营养餐带量食谱

中学学生营养餐带量食谱

星期	菜谱	就餐社区名称	桌数	就餐(午晚)	人数(桌)	桌数	总计	就餐社区名称	桌数	就餐(午晚)	人数(桌)	桌数	总计	就餐人数	人均	备注
一	午餐+晚餐+牛奶	小学	30	28	28	28	28	小学	2	2	2	2	2	3544.24	803	4.015
		中学	1	1	1	1	1	中学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
二	午餐+晚餐+牛奶	小学	10	10	10	10	10	小学	10	10	10	10	10	3297.7	833	5.506
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
三	午餐+晚餐+牛奶	小学	10	10	10	10	10	小学	10	10	10	10	10	3208.4	833	3.922
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
四	午餐+晚餐+牛奶	小学	10	10	10	10	10	小学	10	10	10	10	10	3294.6	833	3.955
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
五	午餐+晚餐+牛奶	小学	10	10	10	10	10	小学	10	10	10	10	10	3370.2	833	4.040
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			
		小学	1	1	1	1	1	小学	1	1	1	1	1			



9.5.2021

Around 1000 students sleep in the dormitories.

There is no school to pay and canteen meals are free. A balanced diet is important in the kitchen

The fact that the school is only attended by Uyghur students results from its high proportion of the population of 90%. There are several middle schools in Aksu and today parents can choose in which school they enroll their children

Day8: Kuqa – Resitan Moschee



9.5.2021

Another spontaneous visit:
I want see a mosque during the evening prayer time.

The visit was then organized at short notice in Kuqa a „small city“ between Aksu and Bayingole.

We reach the mosque during the evening prayer.



The beautiful Resitan Mosque was built in 1579 and completely renovated in 1931. It was last time renovated the year before.

The city government has made 200,000 RMB available for this.

Day 8: Kuqa – Resitan Moschee



9.5.2021

Kuqa a city with 650,000 inhabitants has a total of 235 mosques. I am assured that there are at least 95 other mosques in the city that are in a comparable beautiful condition.

The imam explains that around 70 people were present today and around 150 come to pray regularly. He loves his job and has been working here for around 20 years.

He lived in this district since his childhood.

He read on the Internet that people in the West believe, there is no religious freedom in China. I should tell them this is nonsense!

Conclusion

What have I seen, what have I not seen, what do I think I have perceived?

1. Over the past 15 years, the Chinese authorities have waged an uphill battle against a brutal religious extremism by the separatist East Turkestan Muslim Movement ETIM, to which many people have fallen victim. The two exhibitions in Urumqi and Turpan document this vividly. The struggle was not along ethnic groups (Han against Uighurs or other Muslim groups), the struggle was fought between extremist separatists and Chinese society. On the side of the Chinese security forces, there are many Uighurs!
2. I had the impression that the fight was essentially considered to have been successfully concluded. The security arrangements in May 2021 were more lax than in previous years. Everywhere it is reported that there have been no more attacks in the past 5 years and many still visible police stations are no longer in operation. According to the local representatives, most of them are converted into municipal service centers.

Conclusion

3. What plays no role in Western debates: In the fight against separatist terrorism, China has apparently also largely eliminated its presumed causes in Xinjiang:

In addition to tough police measures, China has therefore been investing large sums of money in the parallel fight against poverty for years. This includes an educational offensive including the transfer of business know-how and the significant expansion of the infrastructure!

- One focus of the past 10 years has been the anti-terrorist operations conducted by all means under the legal framework in China – deterrent punishments are still an important element in achieving social harmony. Europe should definitely resume the human rights dialogue between Germany (EU) and China at the political level in the short term! Only the exchange brings positive development.
- Strong investment activities in infrastructure are visible to bring together the individual, very remote areas (Xinjiang's area covers an area of Germany, France, Spain and Portugal together at about 23 million euros). In Xinjiang we continued to invest Where we got there I saw a lot of construction activities.
- Also clearly visible is the systematic, successful poverty reduction and training programme (see point 4), which is also seen as an intelligent prevention of extremism and is intended to contribute to social and societal stabilisation. Nowadays, every traveler can see and evaluate these measures on site! In my view, this is a sign of good governance.

Conclusion

4. I have reported on the following examples of the sustainable fight against poverty:
 - Bread factory (Turpan)
 - e - Commerce Entrepreneur (Turpan)
 - Cotton farmer (Kuqa)
 - Large-scale desert greening and transition into a tourist attraction (Aksu),
 - Restaurant (Aksu)
5. For cultural reasons, nothing works in China without the consent and guidelines of the authorities. This is based less on the socialist philosophy of the state, but on confucian philosophy, which teaches a strictly hierarchical-harmoniously lived form of society. As a result, almost all measures to combat poverty are initiated by the government. Local governments are constantly intervening in the market and thus bringing new market participants to the start! A key difference to our market-oriented approach, based on individual initiatives.
6. I noticed that in all regions where I stayed, the quality of the Internet was significantly better than I noticed 5 years ago, during my last Xinjiang stay.

Summary - Evaluation

What could I not see or experience ?

When it came to data on terrorist acts of violence or police action, my interlocutors were usually unable to answer.

Even the visit to Arla, where there is obviously a prison, which I requested, could not be implemented. My companions explained to me that these facilities are not within their area of competence and that we would have to obtain a permit in advance for a visit to the Ministry of Justice. A visit was therefore postponed to another visit. But I will continue to try to get access on a next visit.

My question about the number of death sentences in the context of the fight against terrorism was also ignored, I think my companions simply did not have these data and they do not want to ask for it.

In addition, I would like to emphasize that I never had the feeling that something was withheld from me.

Evaluation

For me, there is no genocide and no state approaches to the forced assimilation or extermination of the Uighurs!

After this trip, I am even more firmly convinced than before that there is no systematic oppression or even extermination of the Uighurs in China!

It also makes no political or social sense, is contrary to the Chinese constitution and does not fit into the multicultural history designed society for harmony!

However, one tries to influence extreme religious views and one does not want to talk further in detail about the fight against terror, which one considers to have been successfully concluded. This is incomprehensible from the point of view of a Western rapporteur, from the point of view of a Chinese who is reluctant to talk about bad things and is always anxious to save face for others, but can be explained. China has submitted extensive documentation on the fight, which is visible to everyone!

The question of whether extremists received help from outside cannot be clarified on such a trip, but cannot be ruled out based on the experiences of recent years.

I feel people in China speaking increasingly negatively about the US because they no longer understand why such a negative campaign is going on against their country in the West.

In my view, the current debate and turn against China, within the Green party in Germany, takes us far away from the green goal of international understanding and cannot be justified in foreign policy!

Evaluation

Western media have so far been heavily influenced by reports from Xinjiang separatist actors, while Chinese reports have been dismissed as propaganda. This is absolutely not justified and leads to the prejudice-based image of China in the West!

It is to be expected that those who left Xinjiang with oppositional ideas will shape their version of the events in Xinjiang in all colors and also like to engage the Western public for their interests. On the other hand, China will also do everything it can to justify its actions with the fight against terrorism. Both are legitimate.

Based on my 18 years of experience in China and my observations on this trip, I recommend a country like Germany not to choose either side in this inner-Chinese conflict.

However, I strongly recommend acknowledging that there was, and may still be, a problem of terrorism and extremism in China!

There should also be a great deal of thought on the concept, which is widespread in China, of using education against poverty and extremism. This approach has secured the support of Muslim states worldwide and helped China to combat poverty!

Preparation and course of the trip

It was all my idea to go on this trip!

No one on the Chinese side invited me or suggested me to take this trip. As part of the preparation, I asked myself how I can best get a picture of today's Xinjiang and how I manage to get into schools.

During these considerations, I realized once again that it makes no sense to go to a school in China without the support of the local authorities. But this is also the case in Germany if you come from abroad and have no relationships with the school.

My idea was to get my own picture in Xinjiang on site. Since my wife is from Xinjiang, I already knew the province very well. Like all the Chinese I know, I am amazed at the constant negative coverage in western media about Xinjiang and the alleged ethnic persecutions.

In the preparation for this trip, I then used the existing relations through the German-China Friendship Organisation and my brother and registered my trip with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, referring to my role as a founding member of the green party.

Preparation and course of the trip

As a result, the Foreign Ministry in Beijing apparently assessed my visit as very important and opened all doors for me in Xinjiang! I was accompanied by a high-ranking Chinese representative Liu Heijun, Deputy Secretary General, Director of general office of XUA Regional Party, who granted me every wish, if possible in his area of competence.

The trip was finally welcomed and supported from Beijing and was uncomplicated. A strong sign that Beijing is interested in friendly relations with Germany.

At all stations I was received by the highest local representatives and we had open discussions at dinner. I didn't feel like they wanted to manipulate me or withhold anything from me.

I don't mean to say they showed me everything. It is in the nature of such a journey that they tried to present things to me in a positive way. At the same time, however, it has been acknowledged several times and again that there are still many problems waiting to be resolved.

The communication took place via an interpreter provided. Since my wife accompanied me constantly, I was also able to verify the translations.