

Infrastructure Development in Tibet

China is carrying out extensive infrastructure development in Tibet, building highways, rail links and airports, which have civilian as well as military usage. These unprecedented expansion have significantly multiplied the war waging capabilities of China, including against India.

Railway

Gormo to Lhasa railway, operating in full swing since 2006 is a politically driven project rather than economic or social necessity. People's Liberation Army is using this link for military exercises and to transport combat material including ballistic missiles to Tibet.

China has unveiled plans to link the rail line to the Tibetan town of *Dromo* near Sikkim and another extension to *Nyingtri*, strategically located just north of Arunachal Pradesh along the the *Yarlung Tsangpo* (Brahmaputra). China is also considering repeated requests from Nepal to extend the railway line to Kathmandu. This will completely alter the balance of power and security in south and Southeast Asia.

Road

China has developed a network of internal highways in Tibet to connect strategically significant border areas with India, Nepal, Bhutan and Pakistan by means of motorable roads. It has developed 58,000 km of road network in Tibet, including five major highways and a number of subsidiary roads. China has unveiled plan to spend 200 billion yuan (\$32.3 billion) to build road network in Tibet, extending the length over 110,000 km.

Airfield

There are 15 airfields and 27 military airstrips constructed in Tibet. These bases give the Chinese air force control over Tibet's air space, the forward edge of battle in the event of war with India, and the capability to fly sustained combat operations and strike India's northern cities. Further, ten new airports are planned to be constructed in the next few years.

Destruction of Tibetan Environment

Tibet, known as the 'Roof of the World' is situated in the heart of Asia. Due to the fragile nature of the plateau it cannot sustain the damming, river water diversion, larger-scale mining and deforestation, it will lead to the glaciers in Tibet to recede and invite huge natural disasters in Asia and to the world.

Deforestation

Massive deforestation has physically impacted the Tibetan landscape leading to soil erosion, loss of fertility and flooding. Frequent flooding in India and in Bangladesh has been linked to deforestation in southeastern Tibet. Scientists have observed a correlation between natural vegetation in Tibet and the stability of the monsoon, which is indispensable for South Asia.

Mining

Unbridled exploitation of Tibet's mineral resources is contributing to the contamination of river with arsenic, cyanide and sulfuric acid and land erosion. This has also led to aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems to degrade and poses a great potential threat to the downstream countries.

Water

Tibet is a reservoir of freshwater so bountiful that it serves as head water for major Asia's rivers and play vital role in the environment and socioeconomic of each country. At least 1.3 billion peoples in Asia are at risk from declining glacial flows on the Tibetan Plateau. Tibet's water is strategic importance to China in exercising its dominance over the lower riparian states.

Damming

China has dammed every major rivers in Tibet and unveiled plans to construct even more dams in the coming years. It has also pursued with unflinching resolve to carry forward the Great South North Water Transfer project to divert the mighty Brahmaputra which will lead to potential inter-state conflict over river-water resources.

What Can You Do for Tibet Today?

Set up/join Tibet Support Group in your place and inform the local people about Tibet and the Tibetan people

Express support for the Tibetan people's right to freedom and justice by writing to newspapers and magazines

Write to your MPs/MLAs about Tibet and ask them to raise the issue of Tibet in the Parliament/Assembly

Ask your MPs and Government to support the Dalai Lama's peace initiatives for Tibet

Urge Government of India to facilitate a meaningful dialogue between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Central Tibetan Administration, Dharamshala

Know more about Tibet

Office of Dalai Lama www.dalailama.com
Central Tibetan Administration www.tibet.net
Tibetan Parliament in Exile www.tibetanparliament.org

Non Governmental Organisations
Tibetan Youth Congress www.tibetanyouthcongress.org
Tibetan Women's Association www.tibetanwomen.org
National Democratic Party of Tibet www.ndp4tibet.org
Gu-Chu-Sum www.gu-chu-sum.org
TCHRD www.tchrd.org

Tibetan Media
Tibetan Review www.tibetanreview.net
Tibet Sun www.tibetsun.com
Phayul www.phayul.com

Others
Students for a free Tibet www.sftindia.org
Friends of Tibet www.friendsoftibet.org

Core Group for Tibetan Cause

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Why Tibet Matters to

India





Tibet at a Glance

Size	2.5 Million sq. Km, which is roughly one-fourth of current China's landmass
Capital	Lhasa
Population	6 million
Religion	Buddhism, Bon and Islam
Average Altitude	14,000 feet above sea level
Temperature	−15.55 °C in January to 14.5 °C in July
Highest Mountain	Mount Everest (8848 meters) above sea level
Major River	Brahmaputra, Indus, Sutlej, Yangtse, Mekong, Salween and Yellow River
Neighbouring Countries	India, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Mongolia, and East Turkistan
Economy	Tibetans are mainly in agriculture and animal husbandry Chinese are mainly in government, commerce and the service sector

In Exile

Religious Leader
His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Political Leader
Sikyong (Political Leader)

Government
Democratic and popularly elected. There is an independent judiciary, 44 directly elected legislature and cabinet is the apex executive body

Population
Approximately 1,28,014 (Approx. world-wide distribution: India 94,203; Nepal 13,514; Bhutan 1,298; and rest of the world 18,999)

Offices of Tibet
De facto embassies are in New Delhi, Kathmandu, London, Geneva, New York, Moscow, Brussels, Canberra, Tokyo, Pretoria and Taipei

Education
Total school enrolment is 85 to 90 percent of the school-aged children. Literacy Rate of the total Tibetans in India, Nepal and Bhutan is 82.4%

Livelihood
Agriculture, agro-industries, carpet weaving and service sector. The winter sweater selling business is the economic mainstay of about 70 percent of the exile population in India

TIBET WAS AN INDEPENDENT NATION having a defined territory, distinct population, government and maintained diplomatic relations with its neighbouring countries. It existed as a buffer state for more than 2000 years between two Asian Giants, India and China.

However, without the wishes and desire of the Tibetan people, the Chinese Army entered forcefully into Tibet, killing thousands of Tibetans and uprooting its age old traditions and culture. Eventually in 1959 China had annexed the entire Tibetan Plateau, which led His Holiness the Dalai Lama and thousands of his followers to escape into exile.

A pragmatic and honourable solution for the problem of Tibet will be in the best interest of China, India and Tibet, as well as in the larger interest of peace and friendship in Asia.

The Chinese Rule in Tibet at a Glance

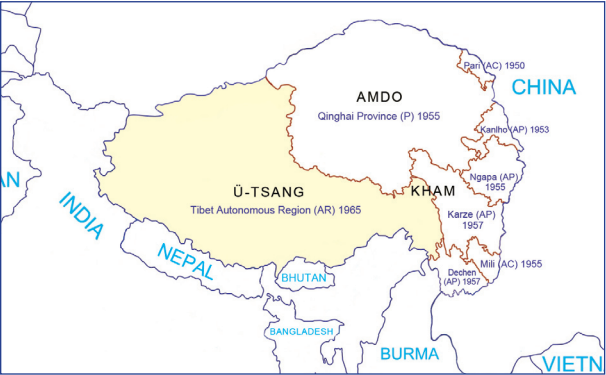
- More than 1.2 million Tibetans have been killed
- More than 6,000 monasteries have been destroyed
- Tibetans are imprisoned for exercising their basic rights
- Tibet's natural resources are being irreversibly destroyed
- 6 million Tibetans outnumbered by 7.5 million Chinese
- Tibet has been transformed into a vast military base

Redrawing of Tibetan Nation

Tibet traditionally consists of U-Tsang, Kham and Amdo provinces. After annexing Tibet, China manipulated the Tibetan homeland by incorporating much of the Amdo Region into the new province of Qinghai and a slice was transferred to Gansu and Sichuan. They merged large parts of Kham into the Chinese provinces of Sichuan and Yunnan.

In 1965, they created Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR), consisting of U-Tsang, and small part of eastern Kham. TAR is only 1.2 million sq km, less than half the landmass of Tibet having a population of 2.03 million out of 6 million Tibetans. Today, when China refers to Tibet, it means just TAR, which is only half of Tibetan Plateau.

Tibet Under Communist China



Why Tibet matters to India

Before Tibet's annexation there was no instance in history of Chinese forces being deployed along the Himalayas. The disappearance of neutral buffer between China and India had a tremendous effect on their relationship. Within few years of Tibet's forcible absorption, China waged a bloody war with India and the shadow of the 1962 Himalayan conflict still clouding the Sino-Indian relationship. Now China is in adverse possession of 36,846 km of Indian territory in Aksai Chin and claims another approximately 93,000 sq km in the central and eastern sectors.

China is building infrastructure in Tibet along the Indian borders thereby discomforting India. The current situation has already led to a huge increase in the defence expenditure of India.

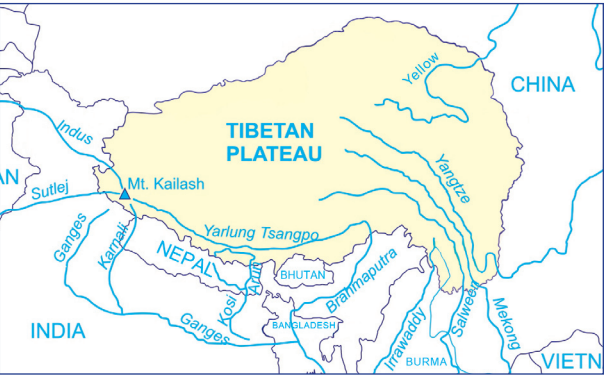
Militarisation of the Tibetan Plateau

China is pouring billions of dollars in Tibet to turn it into vast military outpost by installing all the modern military warfare machineries. The militarisation of the Tibetan plateau overwhelmingly affects the geopolitical balance of the region, causing serious international tension, particularly in the Indian subcontinent.

Chinese military presence in Tibet includes

- There are around 500,000 Chinese troops stationed in Tibet
- 17 secret radar stations
- 15 airfields and a score of tactical airstrips, these bases gave the Chinese air force the potential to dominate the airspace over Tibet
- 8 missile bases
- 8 ICBMs (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles)
- 70 medium range missiles
- 20 intermediate range missiles
- 58 Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) satellite stations are installed in the TAR

The Major Asian Rivers Originating in Tibet



“...Surely, according to the principles I uphold, the last voice in regard to Tibet should be the voice of the Tibetan people and of nobody else.”

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
Lok Sabha, 7 December 1950



“The tragedy of Tibet is that the Tibetans put faith in us; they chose to be guided by us and we have been unable to get them out of the meshes of Chinese diplomacy or Chinese malevolence.”

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
Letter to Nehru, 7 November 1950



“Tibet's autonomy is vital to us. If we cannot secure it, not only our integrity and independence will be threatened, but it may become well nigh impossible for us to continue a policy of nonalignment.”

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya
27 April 1959



“Tibet's ties are stronger with India than with China, ties of language, trade and culture, not to speak of the strategic affinities between India and Tibet.”

Dr. Rammanohar Lohia
October 1950



“Instead of according recognition to China in 1949, had India accorded this recognition to Tibet, there would have been no Sino-Indian border conflict.”

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar
Rajya Sabha, 1954



“Is Tibet lost for ever? No. A thousand times no. Tibet will not die because there is no death for the human spirit.”

Shri. Jayaprakash Narayan
Calcutta, 30 May 1959



“...from the point of view of national interests, the fact that Tibet is being annihilated cannot be for the good of India in the long run.”

Shri. Atal Behari Vajpayee
Lok Sabha, 17 March 1960