

Land Size

2.5 million square kilometers, which includes U-Tsang, Kham and Amdo provinces. "Tibet Autonomous Region" consisting of U-Tsang and a small portion of Kham, is 1.2 million square kilometers. The bulk of Tibet lies outside the "TAR".

Administration

Under Chinese rule, Tibet is divided into the following administrative units :

- 1. Tibet Autonomous Region
- 2. Qinghai Province
- 3. Tianzu Tibetan Autonomous County and Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu Province.
- 4. Aba Tibetan-Qiang Autonomous Prefecture and Mili Tibetan Autonomous County in Sichuan Province.
- 5. Dechen Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan Province.

Population

The total population in Tibet is 6 million out of which 2.03 million live in the "TAR" and the rest in the Tibetan Area outside the "TAR".

Tibetans in Exile

- Population : Approx. 111,170 (approximate worldwide distribution : India - 85,000, Nepal - 14,000, Bhutan - 1,600, Switzerland - 1,540, Rest of Europe - 640, Scandinavia - 1,000, USA & Canada - 7,000, Japan - 60, Taiwan - 1,000, Australia & New Zealand - 220 "Based on Tibetan Demographic Survey of 1998, Planning Council, Dharamsala")
- Tibetan Govt. in Exile : Governed by democratic polity rooted in Tibetan values. There is an independent judiciary, directly elected legislature and cabinet directly accountable to the parliament.
- Constitution : Charter of the Tibetan in Exile.
- Major NGO's : Tibetan Youth Congress, Tibetan Women's Asso., Tibetan Center for Human Rights & Democracy, NDPT, TPPRC, Tibetan United Asso., Gu-Chu-Sum, Do-toe Asso., Domey Asso., U-tsang Asso., Ngari Association.
- Offices of Tibet : Tibet's de-facto embassies are based in New Delhi, Kathmandu, New York, London, Paris, Geneva, Brussels, Moscow, Canberra, Tokyo, Pretoria and Taipei.
- Livelihood : Agriculture, Agro-industries, Sweater selling, Business, Handicraft Exports, Service Sector.
- Education : Total School enrolment is 85 to 90 percent of school age. At present there are 106 Kindergartens, 87 Primary level, 44 Middle level, 21 Secondary level and 13 Senior Secondary level schools, with total enrollment of over 25,000 students.

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 still imprisoned for exercising their fundamental rights.
- Tibet's natural resources and fragile ecology are being irreversibly destroyed.
- There are evidences suggesting that Tibet is being used for dumping of nuclear wastes.
- Tibetans (6 millions) have been outnumbered by Chinese (7.5 millions) in Tibet.
- Tibet, once a peaceful buffer state between India and China, has been transformed into a vast military base.

Indian Leaders on Tibet

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

-Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, 7th Dec 1950, Lok Sabha



"Panchsheel is one of the significant parts of the Buddha Dharma. If Shri Mao had an iota of faith in Panchsheel, he would have treated the Buddhists in his country in different manner".

-Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar,

1954 Discussion on Panchsheel Agreement in Parliament



"Tibet's ties are stronger with India than with China, ties of language and trade and culture, not to speak of the strategic affinities between India and Tibet. particularly Western Tibet. The present Government of China has offended against India's interests by mobbing into Tibet".

-Dr. Rammanohar Lohia, October, 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 Non-Alignment".

-Shri Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, April 27, 1959



"The final action of the Chinese, in my judgment is little short of perfidy. The tragedy of it 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".

- Letter by Sardar Patel, the then Deputy Prime Minister of India to Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, 7th November, 1950



"... 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"

- Atal Behari Vajpayee, Former Prime Minister of India & Leader of Bhartiya Janta Party 17th March, 1960, Lok Sabha



What Can You Do for Tibet Today?

- Set up 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 & magazines.
- Write to your MPs about Tibet and ask them to raise the issue of Tibet in the parliament.
- 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 Tibetan Government-in-Exile.

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Core Group for Tibetan cause
H-10, 2nd Floor, Lajpat Nagar-III,
New Delhi - 110024 INDIA
Ph: +91-11-29830578 / 29841569
Fax : +91-11-29840966
E-mail : bharatibbat@yahoo.com
Web : www.indiatibet.org



TIBET
The Facts



Introduction

Tibet, which once existed as an independent buffer state for more than 2000 years between the two Asian Giants, India and China, was invaded by Communist China in 1949. By 1959, China illegally occupied whole of Tibet. This resulted in the escape of H.H. the Dalai Lama into exile in India and followed by some 85000 Tibetans.

Today, more than 100,000 strong Tibetan community in exile in India are waiting with determination for the day when they will go back to their motherland with honour and dignity. Tibetan have suffered great atrocities and destructions under the communist Chinese occupation. Over 1.2 million Tibetans died and 6000 religious and cultural institutions, monuments and national heritage were destroyed. Mr. Zakaria, head of the Indian delegation stated in the 20th session of UN General Assembly "the ruthlessness with which Tibetans were treated had few parallels in the annals of the World".

In exile, Tibetans were under the leadership H.H. the Dalai Lama have shown vision, dedication, courage patience and the will to preserve their unique cultural and spiritual heritage and to keep alive their just cause. India has given generous hospitality, freedom and space without which it would have been difficult for a small exile community to protect and promote its identity and cause.

For every patriotic Indian, question of Tibet is not one of main concern over the plight of the Tibetan people. Apart from Tibet's close cultural and religious bounds with India, the issue of Tibet also has direct impact on the security and other interest of India.

A pragmatic and honourable solution for the long-standing 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 the subcontinent. The peace proposal put forward by H.H. the Dalai Lama addresses all the issues of the common good for all. He was not only awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his advocacy of non-violence but also world leaders, governments and parliamentarians supported this as a most constructive proposal for mutually beneficial solution. 212 Indian parliamentarians of all parties including CPI supported these initiatives by stating "We fully support H.H. the Dalai Lama's Five-point Peace Plan which, we consider, is a historic step towards resolving the important question of Tibet, alleviating suffering of the Tibetan people and relieving regional tension".

Issue of Concern to India

Tibet's relation with India throughout history had been very close and friendly, especially from the seventh century when Buddhism came from India. With the Chinese occupation of Tibet, Indian and Chinese troops faced each other on the Himalayan

border for the first time in history. India's eminent leaders like Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Lok Nayak J.P. Narayan, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Sardar Patel, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhaya and many others have expressed concern about Tibet and its relation with India's security. In this new geo-political and geo-strategic situation, the following issues have direc bearing on India's national interest.

Militarization of the Tibetan Plateau

China has turned the once peaceful and buffer state between India and China into a vast military zone. The militarization of the Tibetan plateau profoundly affects the geopolitical balance of the region, which causes serious international tension, particularly in the Indian subcontinent.

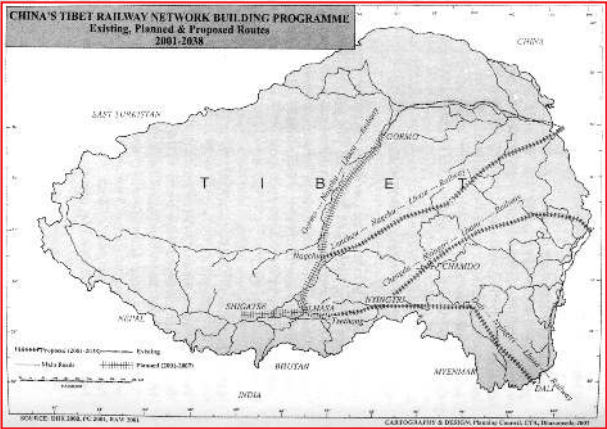
- China's military presence in Tibet includes:
- 300,000 to 500,000 troops, most of them along the Indian border.
 - 17 secret radar stations
 - 14 military airfields
 - 8 missile bases with :
8 ICBMs (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles)
70 medium range missiles
20 intermediate range missiles

Besides, China utilizes Tibet for chemical warfare exercise, dumping nuclear waste from other countries on payment of huge sums of money.

Above all, the huge amount India's natural resources i.e. increasing every year is being spent for securing India - Tibet border since 1959. These resources could have otherwise used for the developmental projects.

Railway Project & its impact on India

On 29th June 2001, China launched its 1,118 Km Railway Project in Tibet connecting Gormo to Lhasa. However, it is clear from the interview given to New York Times on August 10, 2001 by the Chinese President Jiang Zemin that **China's determination to construct the rail link to Lhasa is of political and military need.**



The project will greatly enhance China's militarization of the Tibetan plateau. This will escalate the arms race between India and China and will completely alter the balance of power and security in south and Southeast Asia.

The Chinese media indicates that the military base in Gormo may be expanded manifold once it is connected to Lhasa by the rail. It will also facilitate the expansion of PLA bases in Kongpo and other parts of southwestern Tibet bordering India.

Completion of the railway project will also flood the Indian market with cheap Chinese made goods. This will force many Indian cottage industries, small-scale industries and medium scale industries to close down.

Destruction of Environment

Tibet, known as **the Roof of the World** is situated in the heartland of Asia. It is the source of all the major rivers sustaining the lives of more than half of the Asian population in India, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Under the Chinese rule, there is unprecedented systematic destruction of environment of Tibet. The rich wildlife, forests, plants, minerals and water resources have all suffered irreplaceable degradation. Tibet's fragile ecological balance is being seriously disturbed.

Research indicates that the Chinese authorities denuded some 54 billion dollars worth timber at the end of 1985 from the rich forest reserves of Tibet. In Amdo province alone, nearly 50 million trees have been felled since 1955 and million of acres of forest amounting to at least 70% cleared. A similar condition prevails in other parts of Tibet, particularly in eastern and southern Tibet.

The deforestation of Tibet has led to the silting of rivers, causing floods in the neighboring countries, including China itself. In 1987-88, Bharmaputra river caused 35% or more of total flooding in India. The deforestation in Tibet also increases the risk of imbalancing the monsoon which then may herald disaster to India's agriculture.

China has already announced its plans to divert the mighty Bramaputra. The Indus could be next and thereafter it could be the Sutlej. In short, unless it is physically impossible, China will leave no stone unturned in its relentless campaign to weaken and contain India.

Kailash-Mansrover

Along with the rest of Tibet, the holy and sacred Kailash-Mansrover region is also being turned into a military base. But this is not all. Because the Kailash-Mansrover region is the source of many great rivers that flows into India, China is desecrating this holy and sacred region by carrying out various projects to exploit the rich natural resources of the region. They are imposing all kinds of restrictions to make it difficult for Indian pilgrims to visit the Kailash-Mansrover region.

Chinese Population Transfer

The Sinocisation of Tibet through massive Chinese population transfer into Tibet and forced abortion and sterilization of Tibetan women will have severe negative geopolitical and geo-strategic impact on India. Once Tibet is

filled with Chinese, its historical position as a buffer zone of peace will permanently disappear.

Today, the six million Tibetan people have been outnumbered by the 7.5 million Chinese in Tibet. In Lhasa, before 1950 there were hardly any Chinese. Today the ration between Chinese and Tibetans is roughly 3:1.

Tibet at a Glance

Size	: 2.5 million sq. km, which means 26.04% of the total area of present China
Capital	: Lhasa
Population	: 6 million Tibetan and an undetermined under occupation of Chinese
Religion	: Buddhism, Bon and Islam
Language	: Tibetan (the official language) Under occupation is Chinese
Major Environmental Problem	: Rampant deforestation, poaching of large mammals
Average Altitude	: 14,000 feet
Highest Mountain	: Jomolangma/Sagarmatha/ Mount Everest 29,024 feet
Average Temperature	: July : 58 F and January : 4F
Major Rivers	: Tsangpo (Brahmaputra), Yangtse, Mekong, Salween, Huang-ho, Indus & Satluj
Economy	: Tibetans : predominantly in agriculture and animal husbandry Chinese : predominantly in government, commerce and the service sector
Provinces	: U-Tsang, Amdo and Kham
Bordering Countries	: Inner Mongolia, East Turkisrtan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma and China
Head of the State	: His Holiness the Dalai Lama
Relationship with PRC	: Colonial

What is Tibet Autonomous Region ? (TAR)

This so called Tibet Autonomous Region, created in 1965 is less then half the landmass of Tibet with only one-third of the total Tibetan population (Tibet refers to the entity consisting of U-Tsang, Kham and Amdo provinces. It should not be confused to mean only the "Tibetan Autonomous Region")

