

TIBET

INTRO

At the beginning let me present you some facts about Tibet which is still sadly occupied by the communist people's Republic of China.

Tibet lies at the centre of Asia, with an area of 2.5 million square kilometers. The earth's highest mountains, a vast arid plateau and great river valleys make the homeland for about 6 million Tibetans. It has an average altitude of 4000 meters above sea level.

The **population** of Tibet at the time of the Chinese invasion was approximately six million of original Tibetan people, with a long history, rich culture and spiritual tradition. Tibetans are a people very different from the Chinese and other neighbouring peoples, especially in their way of life and inborn pacifistic belief.

The truth about Tibet occupation

We all know that since the world is no longer obsessed with the political ideological conflict between the two superpowers of the Cold War period, Governments and non-governmental actors can, once again, turn to other world problems, such as the situation in Tibet.

Tibet was ever since split into the three provinces of **Amdo** (now occupied and renamed by China into the provinces of Qinghai, Gansu & Sichuan), **Kham** (largely incorporated into the Chinese provinces of Sichuan, Yunnan and Qinghai), and **U-Tsang** (which, together with western Kham, is today referred to by China as the Tibet Autonomous Region TAR).

The Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) takes less than half of historic Tibet and was created by China in 1965 for administrative reasons. **It is important to know that when Chinese officials and publications use the term "Tibet" they mean only the TAR.**

Tibetans use the term Tibet to say the three provinces **AMDO KHAM and U-TSANG** or in other words the area traditionally known as Tibet before the 1949-50 invasion.

Despite over 40 years of Chinese occupation of Tibet, the Tibetan people refuse to be conquered by China. The present Chinese policy, a combination of demographic and economic manipulation, and discrimination, wants to destroy the Tibetan issue by changing the identity of Tibet and its people.

Today Tibetans are outnumbered by Han Chinese population in their own homeland. I believe that The Tibetan people undoubtedly possess the right to determine their political status and their economic, social and cultural development. The time has come for the People's Republic of China to accept its international obligations and to agree to allow Tibetans to organise a plebiscite in Tibet under international supervision

THE DALAI LAMA

The Dalai Lama in Tibetan means The one who is enlightened. His Holiness the 14th the Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso, is the head of state and spiritual leader of the Tibetan people. He was born Lhamo Dhondrub on 6 July 1935, in a small village called Taktser in northeastern Tibet. Born to a peasant family, His Holiness was recognized at the age of two, in accordance with Tibetan tradition, as the reincarnation of his predecessor the 13th Dalai Lama.

The Dalai Lamas are the manifestations of Buddha of Compassion, who chose to reincarnate to serve the people. Lhamo Dhondrub was, as Dalai Lama, renamed Jetsun Jamphel Ngawang Lobsang Yeshe Tenzin Gyatso - Holy Lord, Gentle Glory, Compassionate, Defender of the Faith, Ocean of Wisdom. Tibetans normally refer to His Holiness as Yeshe Norbu, the Wishfulfilling Gem or simply Kundun - **The Presence**

In 1954, he went to Beijing to talk peace with Mao Tse-tung and other Chinese leaders but it was no use. On 10 March 1959 the capital of Tibet, Lhasa, exploded with the largest demonstration in Tibetan history, calling on China to leave Tibet and reaffirming Tibet's independence. The Tibetan National Uprising was brutally crushed by the Chinese army. His Holiness escaped to India where he was given political asylum. Some 80,000 Tibetan refugees followed His Holiness into exile. Today, there are more than 120,000 Tibetan in exile

The Symbolism of the Tibetan National Flag

1. The White snow mountain in the center describes the land of the great nation of Tibet surrounded by always white mountains.
2. The six red rays shining from the sun symbolize the six original peoples –tribes of Tibet: the Se, Mu, Dong, Tong, Dru, and Ra.
3. The blue rays symbolize the commitment to spiritual and secular life and leaders.
4. The pair of snow-lions symbolize the complete victory of the spiritual and secular life.
5. The three-sided yellow border represents the wisdom of the Buddha's teachings. The side without a border represents Tibet's openness to non Buddhist thought.
6. The raised jewel symbolizes Tibet's reverence for the three Precious Gems: the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha.
7. The bright sun above the mountain represents the equal enjoyment of freedom, spiritual and material happiness and prosperity by all beings in the land of Tibet. Since the occupation it also represents the eternal hope of repressed nation to be independent and left in peace.

