



Tibet

Land of Inner Peace

George Katsiaficas

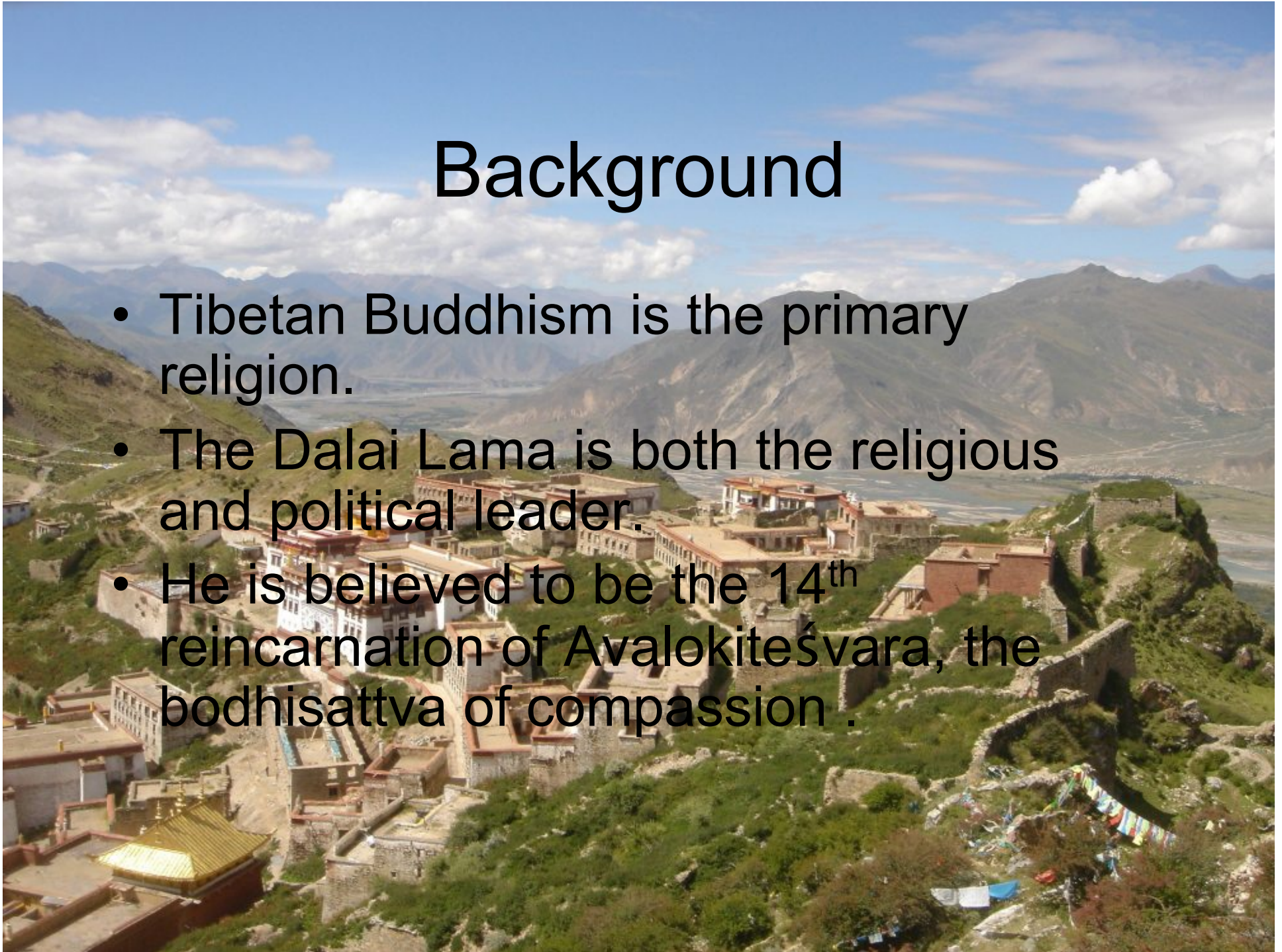
Topographical View





Background

- Tibetan Buddhism is the primary religion.
- The Dalai Lama is both the religious and political leader.
- He is believed to be the 14th reincarnation of Avalokiteśvara, the bodhisattva of compassion .



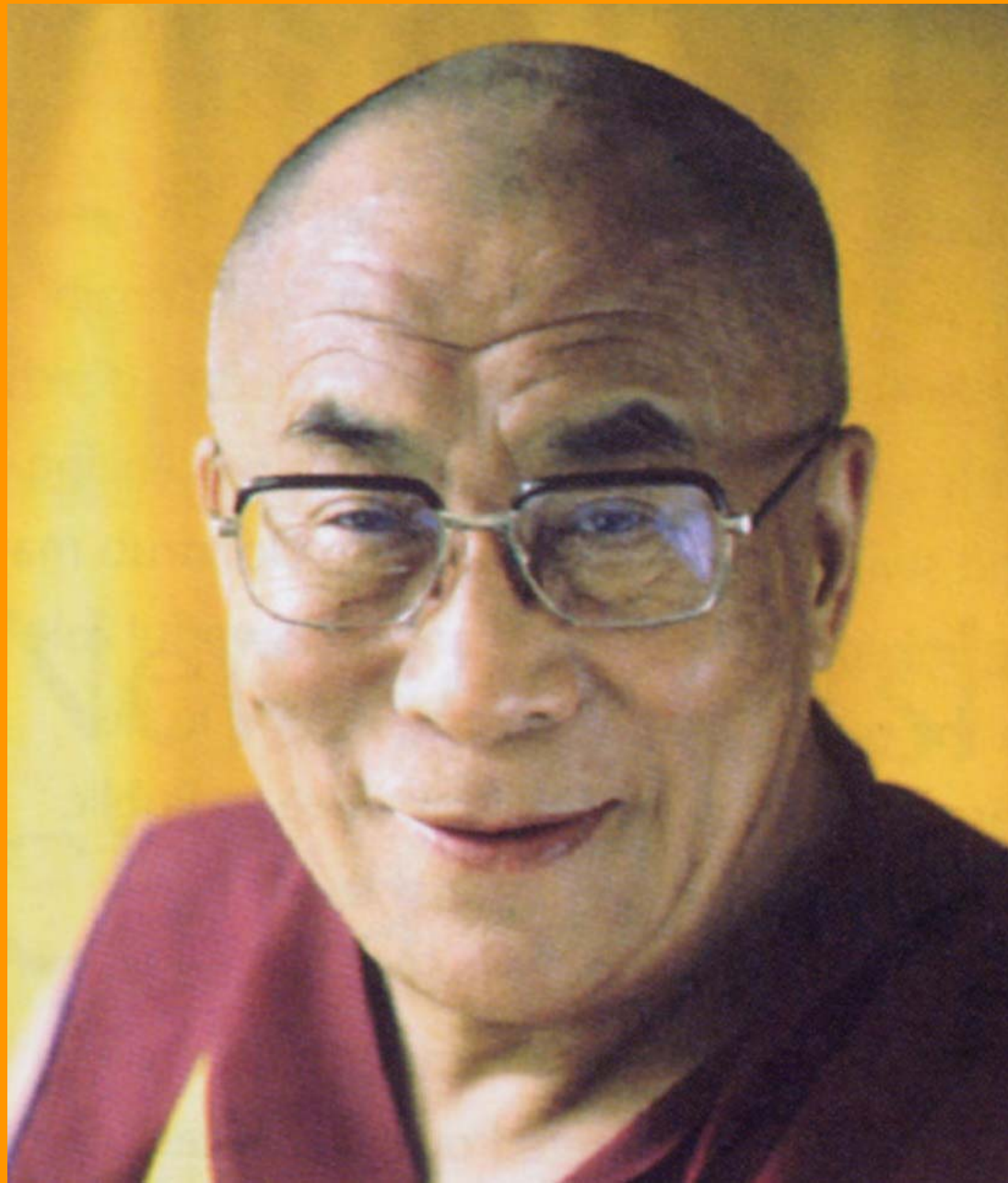
Background

- The Dalai Lama is chosen as the spiritual and political leader of Tibet through an esoteric process
- Dalai Lama

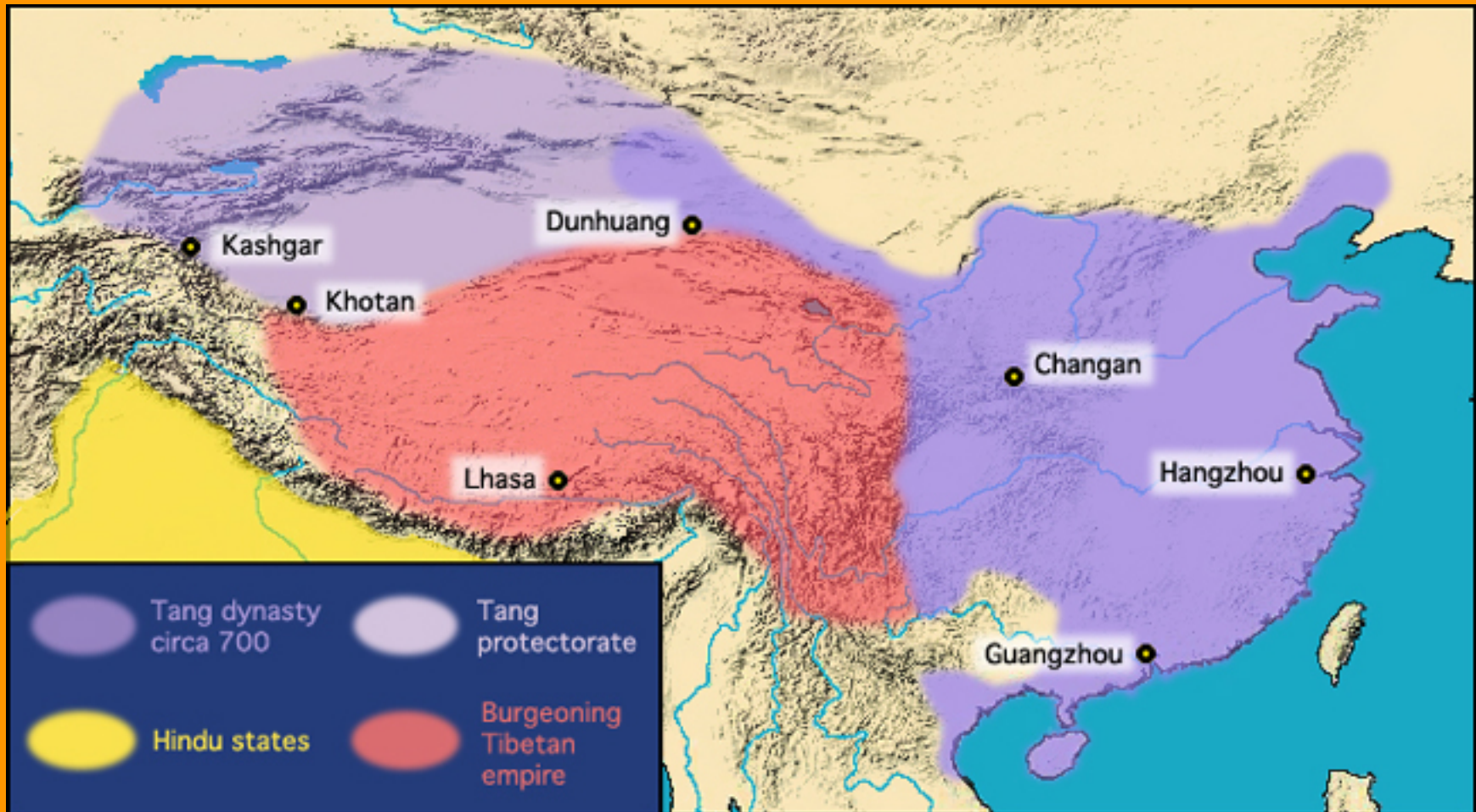


Dalai Lama





Tang Dynasty 618-907



Song Dynasty 960-1279



Yuan Dynasty 1280-1365



Ming Dynasty 1368-1644



Qing Dynasty 1644-1911



People's Republic of China



Buddhism in Tibet





TIBETAN RELIGION BEFORE THE 7TH CENTURY (BonPo)

- Cult of divine king:
- Descendant of divine beings who reach earth via “sky rope”
- Giver of law (cosmic order)
- Bon Priests and priestesses, believed to have superhuman skills.
- *Shen* or shamans communicated with the spirit world
- Spirits of the religion were associated with the environment
- *Bönpo* religion set down the foundation for Buddhism in Tibet



THE ADVENT OF BUDDHISM IN TIBET



- By 600s A.D, Tibet is a major unified power in Asia, rivaling both Chinese Tang Empire (618-907) and Hindu kingdoms in India
- Chinese- and Nepalese-born Buddhist wives allegedly bring Buddhist traditions to the Tibetan court
- When Buddhist traditions become accepted, there is the development of Sanskrit
- By 700s, (Tantric) Buddhist missionaries active in Tibet

TIBETAN BUDDHISM



- Establishment of the first Tibetan Buddhist monastery (779 A.D)
- Lang Darma (836-842), persecutes Buddhism, destroying monasteries and texts
- His subsequent assassination leads to 200-year period of disunity.
- By 1000, Buddhism reintroduced
- Ties with Tantric Buddhism renewed at a time of increasing peril for Buddhism in India

Tibetan Buddhism contains elements of mountain mysticism like fortune telling through oracles, trances, intuition, and past lives.



The Nechung Oracle: Many of Tibet's most crucial political decisions were determined by his visions. *(Ilya Tolstoy, Collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia)*

RISE OF TIBETAN BUDDHISM

- 1073 – Sakya monastery and Sakya domination
- 1247 – Mongols become rulers of Tibet and Sakya are their tutors
- 1253 – Kublai Khan declares Buddhism the state religion of Mongolia
- 1254 - Drogon Chogyal Phagpa is appointed ruler of Tibet, and introduces the “Lama”
- 1578 – Sonam Gyatso is the first Dalai Lama
- 1642 – Ngawang Lorzang Gyatso (Fifth Dalai Lama) assumes both spiritual and temporal authority over Tibet



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Tolson

Malma
Cichof

March 26, 1943.

Dear Bill:-

Thank you for sending me the letter from the Kashag. I never saw a Kashag. I never want to see one. But this I know, and know full well, I would rather see than be one!

My best wishes to you,

As ever yours,



Brigadier General William J. Donovan,
Office of Strategic Services,
Washington, D. C.

P.A. I find that Kashag is a Cabinet. The above remarks still hold.

Chinese Occupation

- In 1950, China entered Tibet in order to “free Tibet from foreign imperialists” and “liberate it from slavery.”
- Fierce fighting would erupt in the province of Kham, but it was heavily repressed.
- By the mid 1950’s, China had a strong grip on Tibet.



Resistance in the country's east continued, but its people suffered terribly. A secret association, the *Mimang*, or People's Party, helped people adjust to life under Chinese rule, encouraging them to refrain from fraternizing with Han people and not to send their children to Chinese schools.

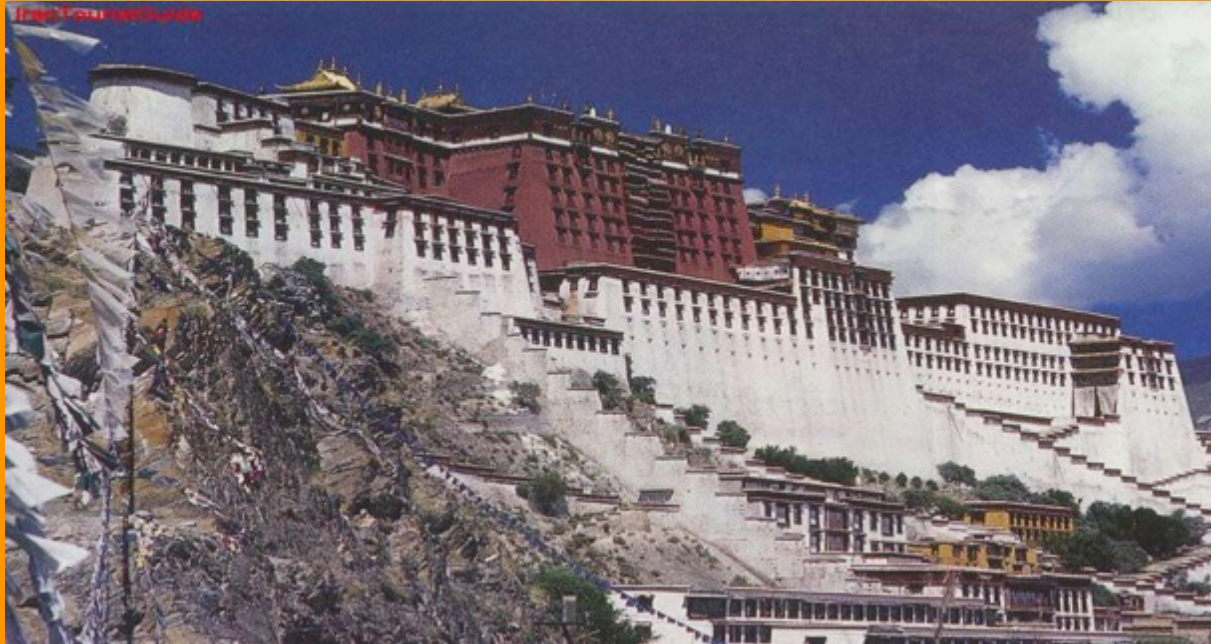
Many Dob-dob, a special detachment of fighting monks from the great monasteries of Drepung (7,700 monks), Sera (5,500 monks), and Ganden (3,300 monks), were members of the *Mimang*. One Indian report told of the underground People's Party's main force of 26,000 monks "each of whom has a rifle wrapped somewhere among his prayer flags."

Tashi Khedrup, *Adventures of a Tibetan Fighting Monk* (Bangkok: Orchid Press, 1998) p. 86.



Khampa monks belonging to the elite force the *dob-dobs*. The swords and clubs were not for show. (Joseph F. Rock, Collection of National Geographic Society)

Lhasa Uprising of 1959: Before and After



1959 Uprising

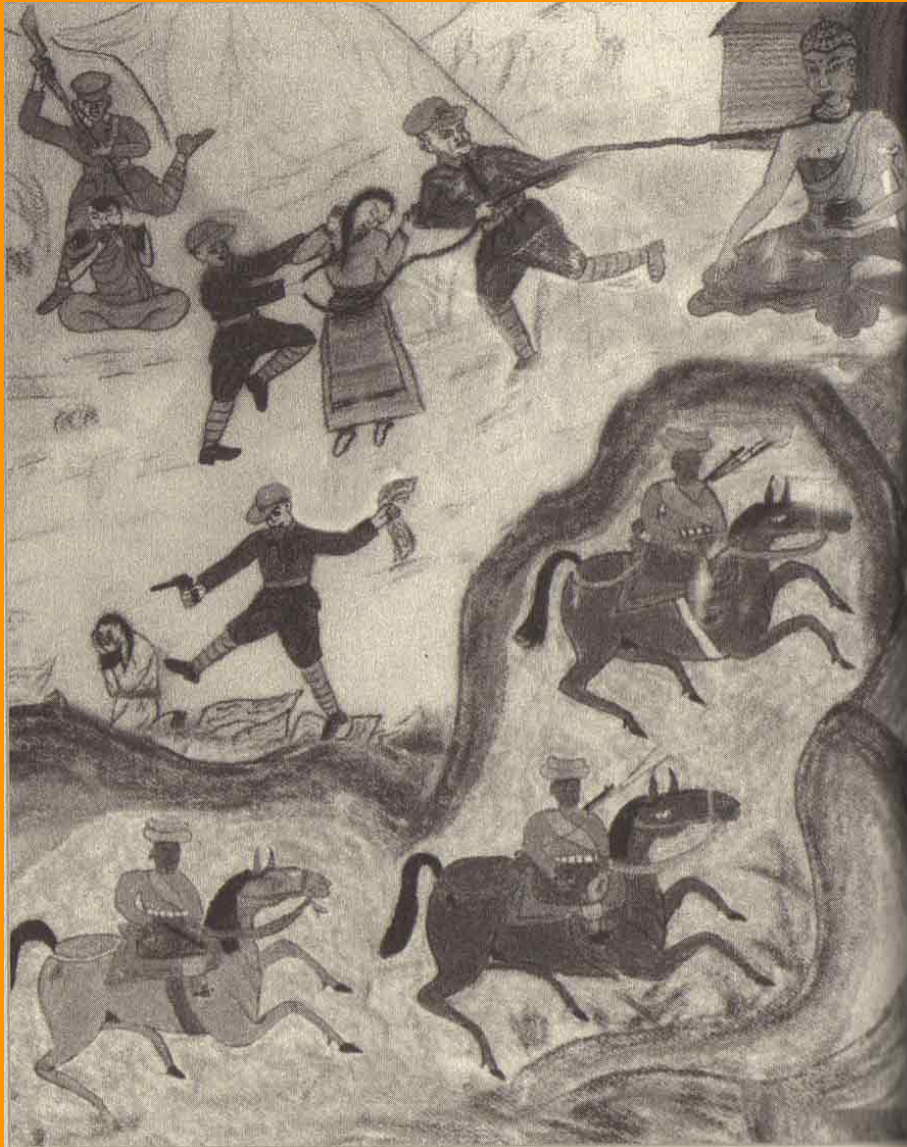
- Tibetan social leaders disappear
- Places of worship begin to disappear
- Chinese invite leaders to various peaceful events
- Dalai Lama flees country

Lhasa

- March 1959 Dalai Lama invited to PLA gathering.
- Citizens would not allow him to attend
- China quickly mobilized troops toward Lhasa



Khampa fighters 1950s



A Khampa's crayon drawing of the Chinese occupation of Tibet, done at Camp Hale, Colorado, the top-secret training facility used by the CIA (*Collection of Bruce Walker*)

1959

- The commander was told that no bodyguards were to accompany the Dalai Lama to a play, and the event was to be kept secret.
- On March 10th, 1959 word got out about the invitation and 20,000 Tibetans surrounded the Norbulingkha palace.
- They formed a human wall to prevent the Dalai Lama from being abducted.

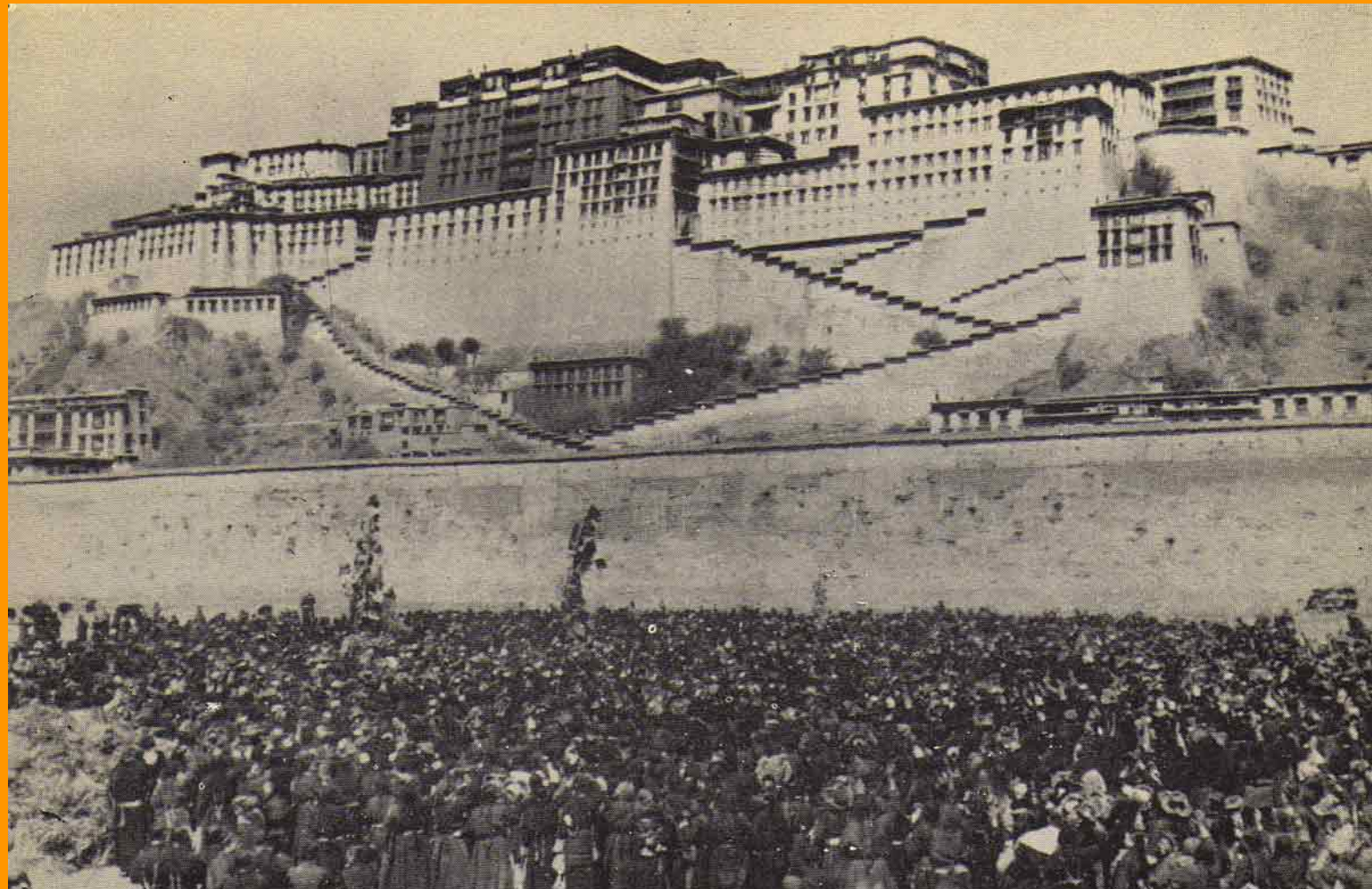


Summer Palace
“Norbulingka”



March 10, 1959

Protection for the Dalai Lama outside the Summer Palace



Women's Protest in front of Potala

March 12, 1959



Chushi-Gangdruk in Lhoka. (Collection of Roger E. McCarthy)



Dalai Lama en route to India after March 17, 1959



Troops in Mustang. (*Collection of Norbu Dorje*)



The Flight of the Dalai Lama

- By 1959, citizens began to fight back.
- Chinese tanks were called in to quell the uprising.
- Tibetans used Molotov cocktails and farm tools, but were crushed by the PLA.
- Thousands fled to India.
- On March 17, 1959 the Dalai Lama fled Lhasa disguised as a soldier.

Lhasa

- Dalai Lama escapes to exile in India
- City gets shelled by PLA, homes searched and destroyed
- Over 10,000 Tibetans go missing
- China takes full control of government

1959 Uprising



The Resistance

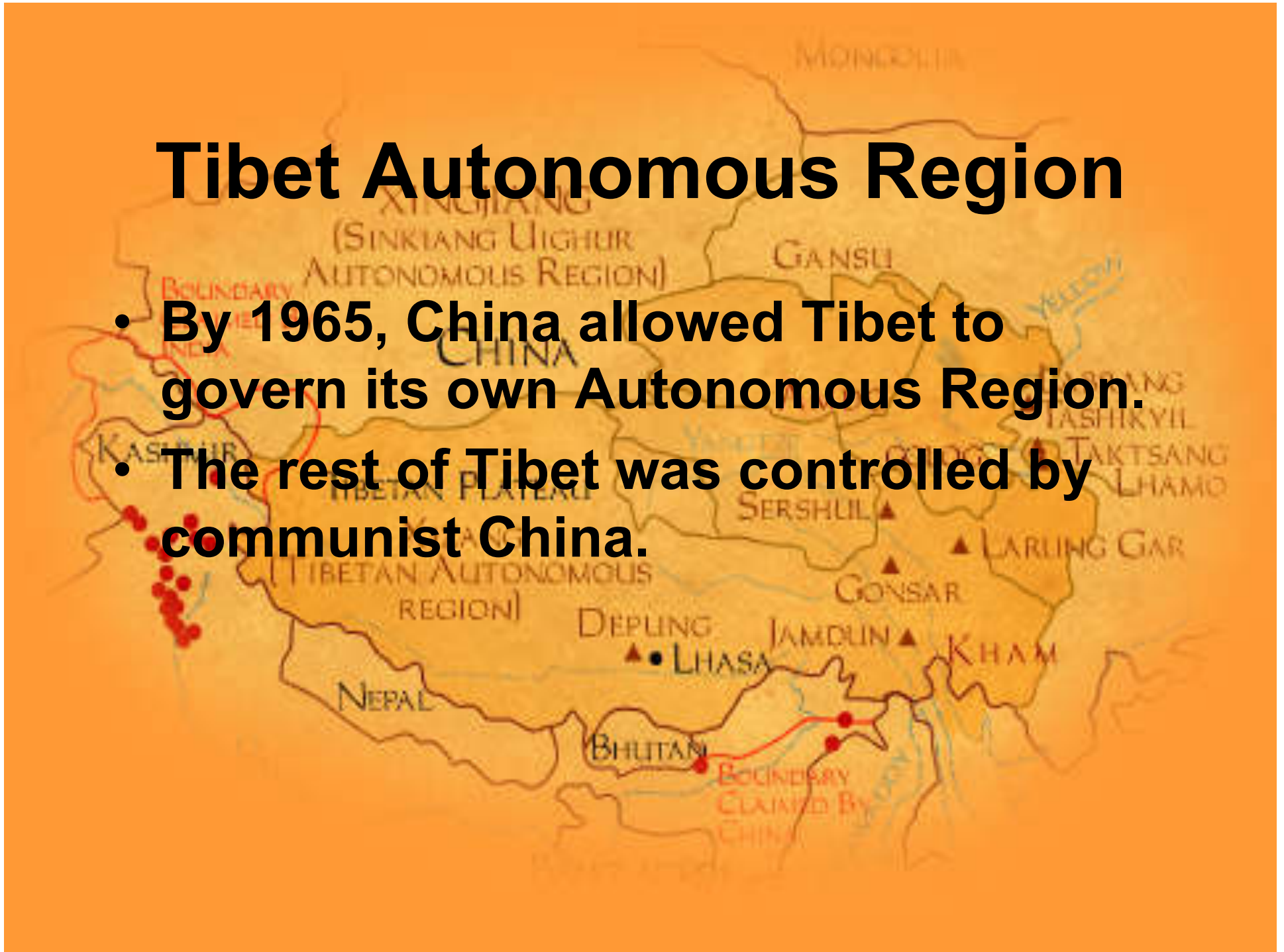
- Tibetan Guerrilla fighting in the rural areas
- Sit-ins and open protests
- Pleas to other countries and the U.N. for support
- Peoples Liberation Army generally oppressed Tibet for approximately a decade

U.S. Involvement

- CIA trained several Tibetan Resistance fighters and supplied arms
- Assisted in tactics and supplies throughout the resistance
- Helped Dalai Lama Escape in 1959
- May have only done it to distract China from other world affairs.

Tibet Autonomous Region

- By 1965, China allowed Tibet to govern its own Autonomous Region.
- The rest of Tibet was controlled by communist China.



Uprisings

- Between 1987 and 1992, approximately 150 uprisings occurred at different scales.
- Circling Barkhor was common starting ground for protests.
- Most started this way and ended in bloodshed.

1987 Uprising

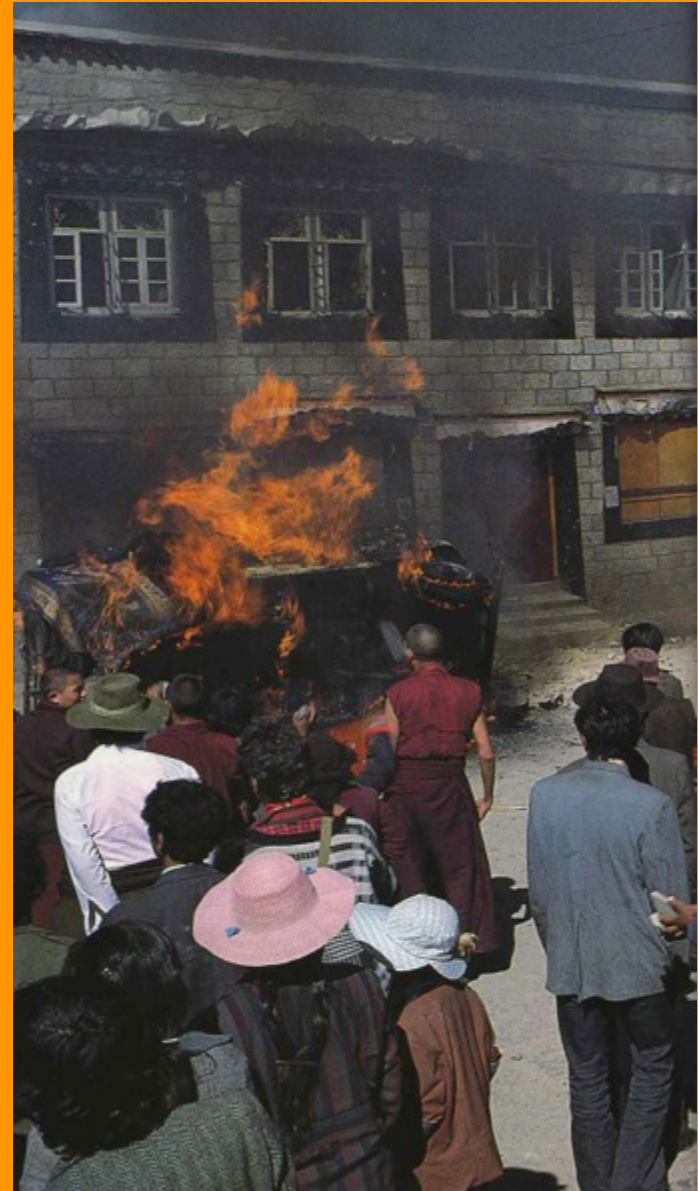
- 9/27/1987- 21 monks host peaceful protest
- 10/1/1987- Protests begin again
- 10/3/1987- Military arrests multiple monks
- 10/6/1987- Monks march in protest to arrests made
- A month later, a new protest

A landscape photograph showing a range of mountains. The background features several large, rugged peaks covered in snow under a clear blue sky. In the middle ground, there are lower, brownish mountains. A fence runs across the valley, and a white tent is visible on the right side. The foreground is a grassy, brownish field.

1987 Uprisings

- September 27 – Monks walk through Barkhor – All were arrested and jailed.
- October 1 – Similar uprising. Monks burn police station. Eight demonstrators are killed.

- October 1, 1987



1987

On October 1, about forty monks (most from Sera monastery) performed a similar circle of protest, but police beat many and took more than sixty people into a nearby police station. Soon a crowd of several thousand people converged and demanded the release of the protesters. They forced police to retreat into the building and then set it on fire. One monk, Champa Tenzin, courageously entered the building and helped free monks held inside—but at least three were shot and killed as they attempted to escape. For his heroism, Champa was lifted on the shoulders of the crowd—before melting away and making good his escape from Tibet.



1988 Uprising

- March 1988- Monks lead protest urging China to leave Tibet
- Excessive force is used immediately
- Monks throughout region attacked at random

1988 Uprisings

- March 5 – Traditional Monlam Festival. Monks begin shouting independence slogans.
- Single shot kills a Tibetan man, and causes a violent outbreak.
- PLA brought in to regain control.
- Monks put up strong resistance.



6. Monks demonstrating in the Barkhor, 5 March 1988



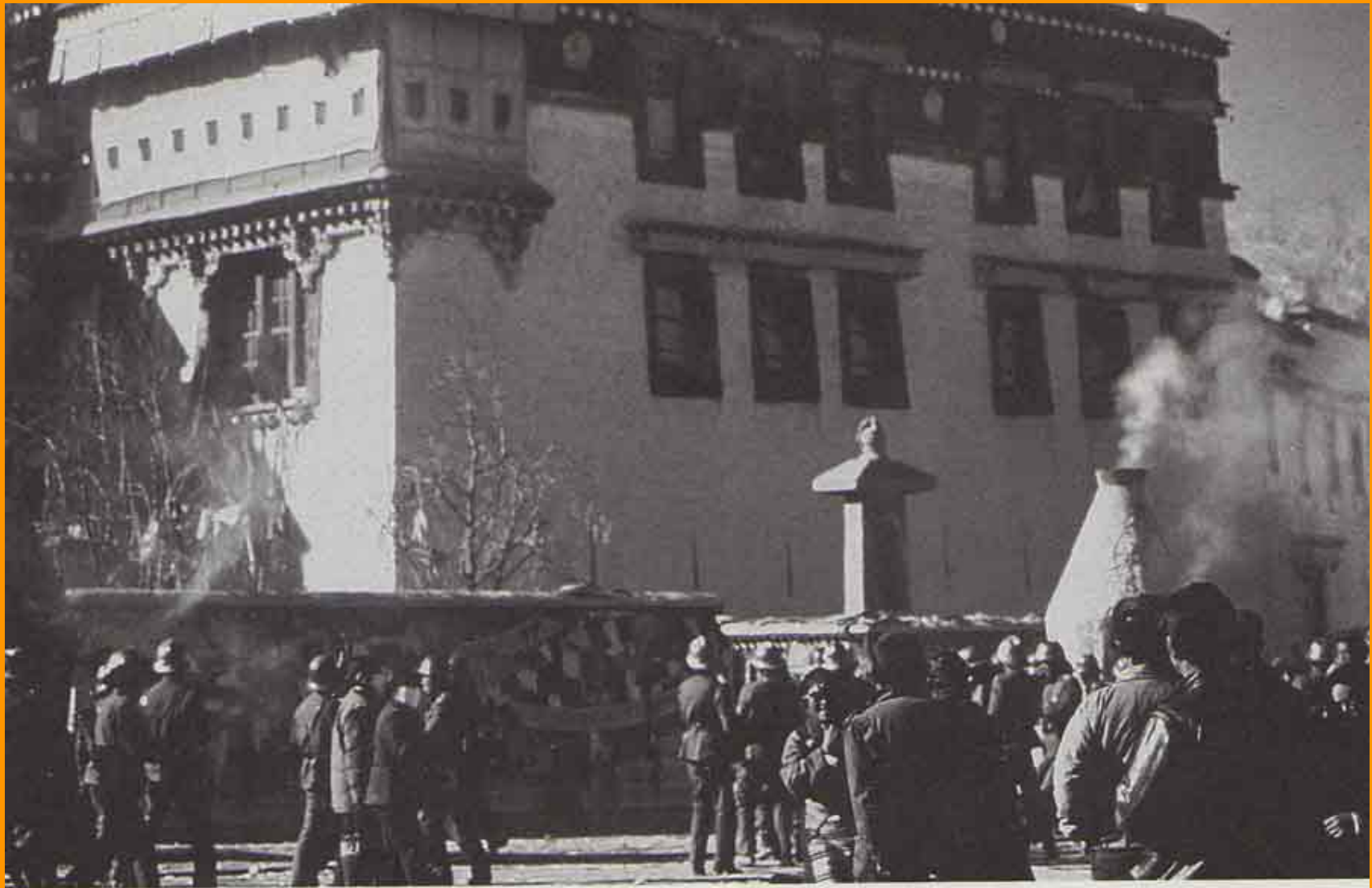
5. Arrested monks being taken to prison after the demonstration on 5 March 1988



7. Tibetan prisoners on display in Gyantse, September 1988

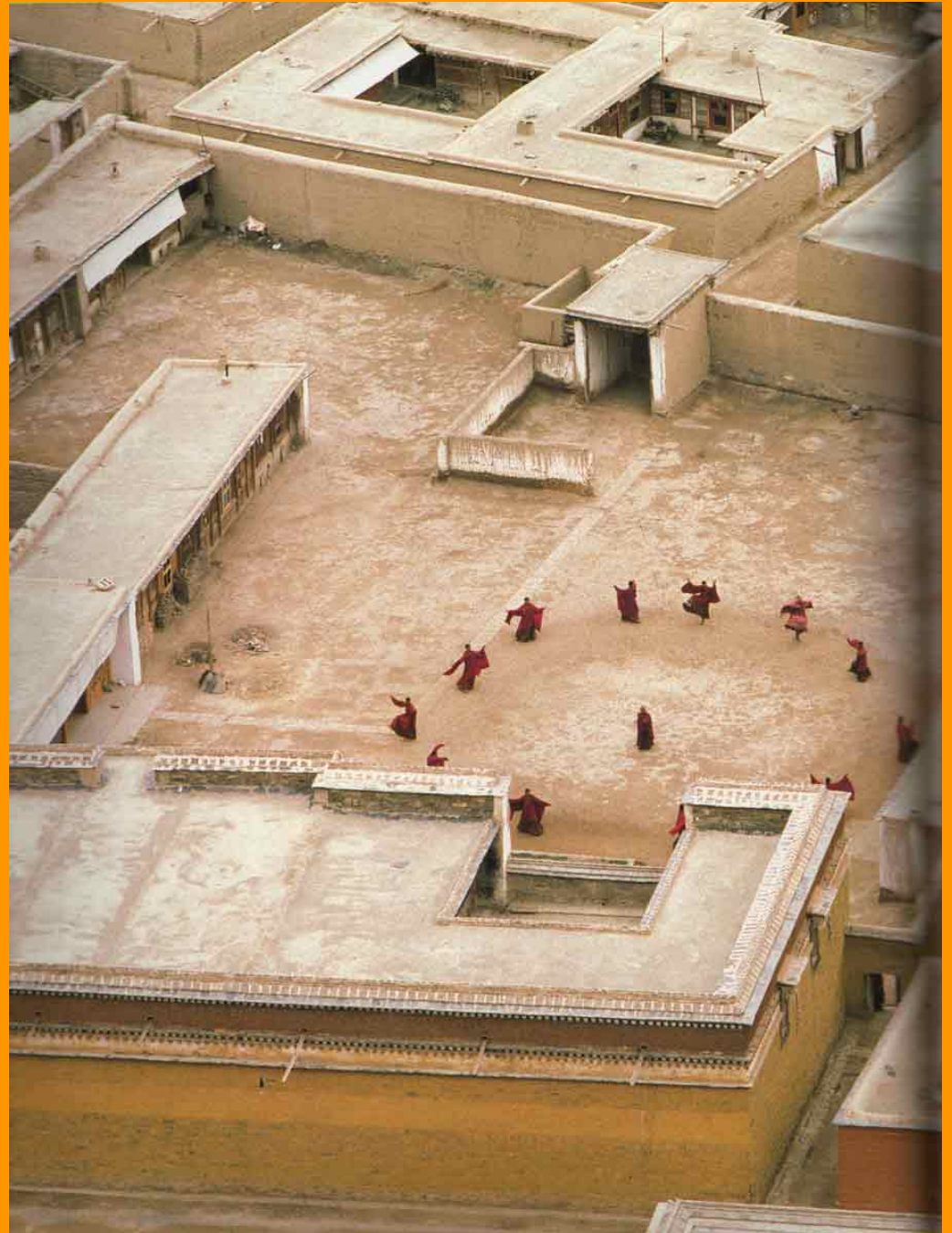
December 10, 1988





3. The Jokhang surrounded by PAP soldiers, December 1988

Prison dance



In the summer of 1988, while prisoner abuse and police brutality were rampant, Drepung monks (all veterans of the September 27, 1987 demonstration) used woodblocks to print an eleven-page manifesto, “The Meaning of the Precious Democratic Constitution of Tibet.” Countering Chinese claims to having helped Tibet, the document sketched the outlines of an independent Tibet. The monks called for “political and social organization on the basis of the cooperation and consent of the broad masses of Tibet...or by representatives whose powers are limited by the people.” They did not want to return to the past: “Having completely eradicated the practices of the old society withal its faults, the future Tibet will not resemble our former condition and be a restoration of serfdom or be like the so-called ‘old system’ of rule by a succession of feudal masters or monastic estates.” They advocated freedom for people with “different individual views” who should be “able to practice what they think without need of fear, hypocrisy, or concealment.”

March 5, 6, and 7, 1989

- Biggest protests in 30 years
- At least 30-60 people killed by gunfire in Lhasa
 - US Congress, March 1989; Schwartz says 50 killed on March 5 and in three days, 80 to 150 killed. Chinese authorities claimed Tibetans used guns to fire on police.

Results

- Over 150 uprisings.
- 100,000' s of people flee to India.
- More than one million dead during Chinese occupation.
- pre-1959: 2,700 monasteries and 114,000 monks
- 1959 to 1966: 550 monasteries and 67,000 monks
- 1966 to 1983: 8 monasteries and 970 monks
- 1987: 970 religious centers and 1,500 monks

General Information of Xi Zang Province (Tibet)

Tibet is called Xi Zang Province and PRC set up a Tibet Autonomous Region which is a province-level entity.

GDP of Tibet, 0.327 Billion in 1965 to 18.4 Billion in 2003.

GDP/Person increased from 241 in 1965 to 6874 in 2003.

Population 2,507,200, Tibetan 92%.

1.2 million square km, almost 9 Illinois. average elevation of 4,900 m (16,000 ft), called the "Roof of the World".

18 National and Province level nature reserves, cover 33.9%

Borders of Tibet

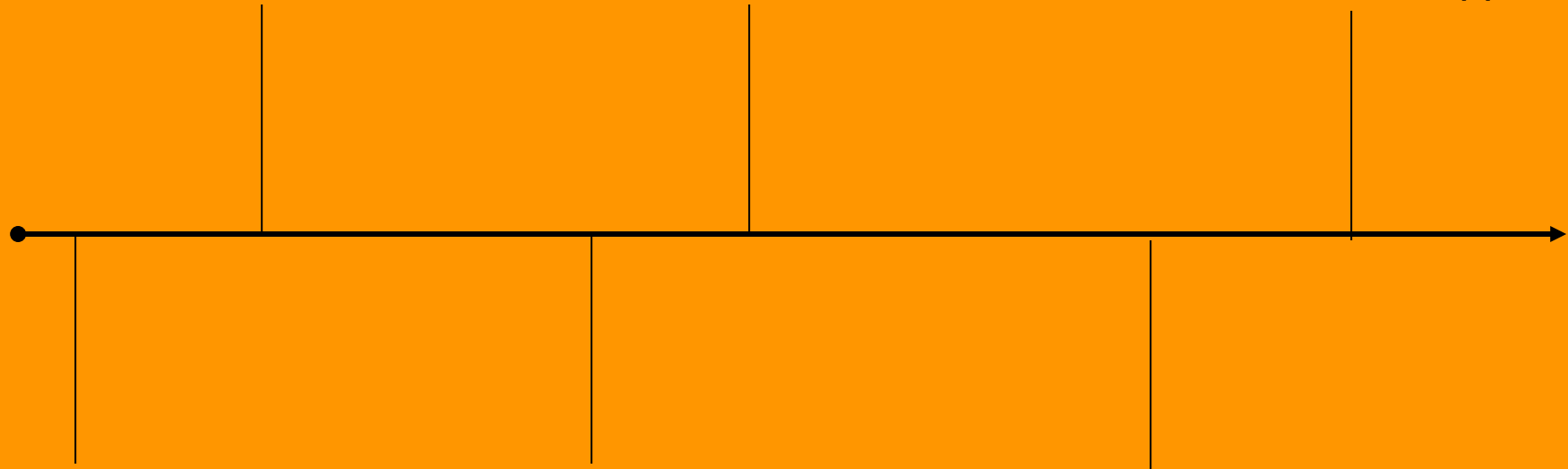


Time Line of Tibet within China

13th Century, Yuan Dynasty firstly included Tibet into the territory of China and governed by the central government.

Beginning in the early 18th century, the Qing government sent a resident commissioner to Tibet standing for the central government there.

In 1950, the PLA entered the Tibetan area crushing Tibetan army. 1956, the insurrection, supported by CIA was crushed. 1969 CIA withdrawn its supports.



641 AD, King Songtsen Gampo married Princess Wen-Cheng, from the Chinese Tang Dynasty.

1368, from Ming Dynasty, every king of Tibet should be authorized by the central government of China

In 1913, Tibet and Mongolia signed a treaty proclaiming mutual recognition and their independence from ROC. In 1914, a treaty was negotiated in India by representatives of China, Tibet and Britain. Finally, Chinese representative did not sign the treaty.

China / Tibet Relations

- Tibet ruled independently until 1949 under a de facto government
- October 1950 Peoples Liberation Army marched in to the Providence of Kham
- In May 1951 “17-point Agreement on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet”, was signed by Tibetan Delegation.

China / India Relations

- Long history of border disputes.
- India attempted to stay neutral throughout Tibetan conflict
- Ended when granted asylum to Dahli Lama
- Open fighting in the 1960' s

China / USSR Relations

- From communist allies to each other's greatest enemy
- Border dispute/fighting
- Soviets did not agree with how China handled its relations with India
- U.S. cut off trade with China

Late 1987

- Increase of non-Tibetan settlement in Tibet
 - Threatens the native Tibetans people culture
- Tibetan advocates begin to hold demonstrations for their independence
 - Often led by monks and nuns
 - Peaceful demonstrations



1989 – Martial Law

- March 8, 1989
 - Martial law was imposed in Lhasa and surrounding areas
- Martial Law:
 - “Temporary rule of a civilian population by military authorities during a time of emergency. Normally it is imposed in a limited geographic area, but it could be a whole country”
- Thousand of Tibetans were detained

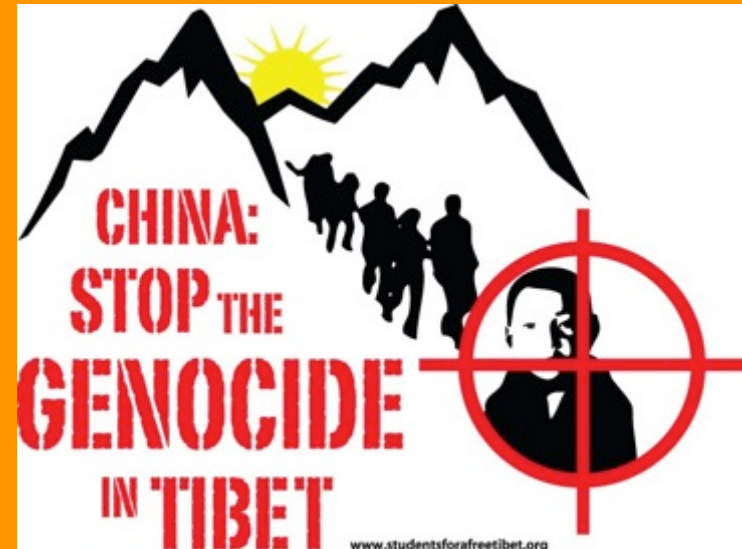
Martial Law

- In 1989, the people of Tibet had to follow very strict rules and forbidden to do the following:
 - Hold assemblies, demonstrations, strikes by workers or students, petitions, and other gatherings
- Those who resisted to obey by the rules imposed by the martial law were severely punished
- These laws limited the everyday life of the Tibetan people in almost every possible way



Martial Law Effects

- Treatment during the 1989, repression of the people resulted in ill-treatment such as:
 - “prodding with electric shock truncheons, suspending prisoners from ceilings of cells and keeping prisoners shackled by their hands and feet for long periods of time”
- Former prisoners have reported that imprisonment in a small windowless cell and deprived of water and food
 - Children and women are among those who have been tortured







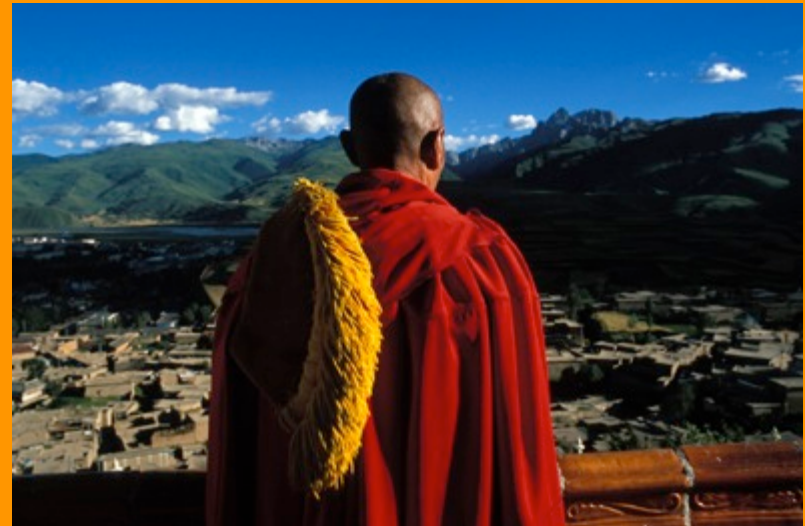
United States Involvement

- 1989, United States Senate expressed concerns of the human right abuses in Tibet
 - The Chinese government welcomed negotiations with the Dalai Lama
 - Although Chinese government backed out of the negotiations with the Dalai Lama when the time came
- Martial law was lifted at midnight on April 30, 1990
 - “The lifting of martial law in Tibet was modest and clearly inadequate.”



Tibet Today

- Over half of Tibet's original territory has been absorbed into China proper
- Chinese settlers outnumber Tibetans
- 1.2 million Tibetans have lost their lives
- Over 150,000 Tibetans have been exiled from the country



Chinese Population Transfer

- To the Chinese government, Tibet's 850,000 square miles of land represent the space needed for the rapidly expanding Chinese population.
- Mass immigration by Chinese settlers into Lhasa and other areas of the Tibet is encouraged by the government.
- Tibetans are now a minority in their own land. Tibetan exiles claim 7.5 million Chinese now live in Tibet alongside 6 million Tibetans.



Gormo-Lhasa Railway

- A rail line that will link Tibet with the rest of China.
- Aside from worries about the environmental impact this railway will have, a major concern is that the railway will expedite the influx of Chinese settlers to Tibet.
- The Chinese government will be able to deploy large numbers of troops to Tibet should there be any public political unrest.





Tibet

- Non-violent religious people forced to comply with Chinese needs.
- China wanted Tibet to spread communism and economy after suffering from Japanese imperialism during WWII.
- Dalai Lama still has not returned to Tibet.

Free Tibet Campaign

- Free Tibet Campaign stands for the Tibetans' right to determine their own future
- It campaigns for an end to China's occupation of Tibet and for the Tibetans' fundamental human rights to be respected.
- Founded in 1987, Free Tibet Campaign generates active support by educating people about the situation in Tibet.
- It is independent of all governments and is funded by its members and supporters.



Free Tibet Campaigns

- Students for a Free Tibet (SFT)
 - Founded 1994
 - works in solidarity with the Tibetan people in their struggle for freedom and independence
- Tibetan Freedom Concert Over
 - 100,000 spectators attended



2008 Uprising















AP



AP



Gansu Province



Kathmandu, Nepal



Future of Tibet

- To bolster China's reputation a solution with Tibet is essential
- A solution with Tibet will increase the China's status in the world







Thank You

Questions?