

Summary of Beijing's Policies in Xinjiang

A submission for the UK Conservative Party Human Rights Commission

Dr. Adrian Zenz

Date: June 15, 2020

Starting in late 2016, Xinjiang's new Party Secretary Chen Quanguo established one of the world's foremost police states in this restive region dominated by Turkic, predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities, notably the Uyghurs. The related security build-up is detailed in these pieces:

- <https://jamestown.org/program/xinjiangs-rapidly-evolving-security-state/>
- <https://jamestown.org/program/chen-quanguo-the-strongman-behind-beijings-securitization-strategy-in-tibet-and-xinjiang/>

In the spring of 2017, Chen Quanguo embarked on an unprecedented campaign of extrajudicial internment, documented as follows:

- Evidence of the origins and genesis of the campaign, its roots in previous Chinese forms of extrajudicial internment, and data from construction bids:
<https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/4j6rq/>
- Evidence on the internment campaign from Xinjiang security budgets:
<https://jamestown.org/program/xinjiangs-re-education-and-securitization-campaign-evidence-from-domestic-security-budgets/>
- Evidence from classified, leaked Chinese documents, as well as internal local government spreadsheets listing thousands of detainees, along with an analysis of new state terminology and statements about the true nature of this campaign:
<https://www.jpolrisk.com/wash-brains-cleanse-hearts/>
- Evidence of criteria for internment, for release, and new evidence on the inception of this campaign and how it was prepared by Chen Quanguo's predecessor Zhang Chunxian:
<https://www.jpolrisk.com/karakax/>

The campaign of extrajudicial internment has been complemented by two related campaigns:

- Of parent-child separation and the weaponization of the education system for cultural assimilation: <https://www.jpolrisk.com/break-their-roots-evidence-for-chinas-parent-child-separation-campaign-in-xinjiang/>
- Of different forms of coercive labor, by a) channeling vocational training internment camp detainees into forced labor workshops, b) subjecting large numbers of seasonal rural laborers to internment-style training and indoctrination, followed by work placements, and c) the establishment of smaller workshops in villages, called "satellite factories", to promote mandatory work placements especially for minority women – this publication includes evidence based on an internal government spreadsheet of mandatory labor placements

along with wage data: <https://www.jpolrisk.com/beyond-the-camps-beijings-long-term-scheme-of-coercive-labor-poverty-alleviation-and-social-control-in-xinjiang/>

- This latter publication also details evidence of the involvement of the 19 cities and provinces from eastern China in coercive labor in Xinjiang through the “mutual pairing assistance program”. This aspect is also the focus of a related shorter piece: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/12/11/cotton-china-uyghur-labor-xinjiang-new-slavery/>

Overall, we can see that Beijing carefully prepared its campaign of subjugating the Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang through an unprecedented build-up of different types of police forces, complemented by an advanced surveillance system based on the latest technologies. Chen Quanguo was selected for his expertise and innovation in repressing minority dissent in Tibet. Chen used the first 9 months of his reign in Xinjiang to prepare the ground, then embarked on the internment campaign in tandem with sending another wave of cadres to the countryside to act as informants.

The internment campaign mainly targeted middle-aged males, especially heads of households and other social influencers. Their release is dependent on the “good behavior” of their family members. Once released, they are being carefully monitored and liable to return to the camps if they behavior is not up to par. Most are released into different forms of coercive labor. The internment campaign serves as an intermediate, medium-term effort to break the soul of the minorities, render them impotent and docile, and pave the way for the long-term strategy. Many important intellectuals and cultural influencers have been sentenced to long prison terms to get them out of the way.

The CCP’s long-term strategy in Xinjiang consists first in removing key influencers by sending them to prison. Second, of parent-child separation. Children are reared by the state in highly securitized boarding school environments where they must speak Chinese, cannot practice religion, and are raised as loyal followers of the Party. This is designed to win over and domesticate the young generation. Third, of coercive labor, by which men and women are made to work in full-time, labor-intensive factory work. This makes the long-term campaign of cultural genocide and the expensive security apparatus financially more sustainable, separates the nuclear family, gives the Party greater control over and more time with each family member, maximizes state control over the young generation, and breaks the intergenerational chain of transmitting the cultural and religious heritage. Fourth, internationally, this strategy is secured through global elite capture of multilateral institutions, including the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the European Union. The end result is a sophisticated cultural genocide that has so far largely successfully avoided culpability under the U.N. convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide.