

China's Xinjiang region

Xinjiang autonomous region is home to eight million Uighurs, a Turkic-speaking Muslim group comprising about 40 percent of the region's 20m people. Many Uighurs resent growing Han Chinese dominance in Xinjiang

Urumqi, Jul 5:
140 people
killed in riots



MONGOLIA

KAZAKHSTAN

KYRGYZSTAN

TAJIKISTAN

Aksu

Korla

Turpan

GANSU

XINJIANG

Kashgar

TARIM
BASIN

Hotan

AFG.

PAKISTAN

INDIA

TIBET

CHINA

QINGHAI

250km

150 miles

■ Short-lived independent East Turkestan Republic of 1940s suppressed by China in 1949

■ Proportion of Han Chinese inhabitants has risen steadily from six percent in 1949

■ Xinjiang experienced terrorist attacks before and during last year's Olympic Games in Beijing. Officials blamed violence on independence-seeking Uighur militants

■ Around 20 Uighurs were imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay after being captured by U.S. forces in Afghanistan

■ Human rights groups say China uses its support for U.S.-led fight against Al Qaeda to justify wider crackdown on Uighurs

■ Xinjiang has abundant oil reserves and is China's largest natural gas producing region