

Topic 7

Monday, March 20, 2023

11:26 AM

The Hmong

General introduction	Migration and distribution; Subsistence; Social Organization; Religious beliefs
The split horn - Life of the Hmong Shaman in America	From the mountains of Laos to the heartland of America, the video documents a family gripped by dramatic cultural transformation as Hmong traditions collide with American lifestyle
A Case Study (Feng 2007)	Tourism Impacts on Hmong women and their handcrafts

- Hmong-
 - "Free people"
- Miao -
 - "primitive/barbarian"
- Traditional lived in isolated mountain villages throughout China, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam

Table 1 Hmong worldwide population distribution

Country	Hmong Population
China	2,777,039 *
Vietnam	800,000**
Laos	315,000*
Thailand	150,000*
Myanmar (Burma)	10,000-15,000***
United States	300,000 ***
Canada	3,000***
Argentina	30***

Australia	3,000***
France	10,000-15,000***
French Guyana	3,000***
Germany	50****

Sources:

*Lemoine (2007)

**Phang Ching (2008) and
Vuong Xuan Tinh (N.D.)

*** Estimated in 2008 by the
author (Kou Yang)

(Yang 2008)

Subsistence

- Horticulture
- Staple food crops: rice and corn
- Livestock: Chicken, pigs, cattle, and horses

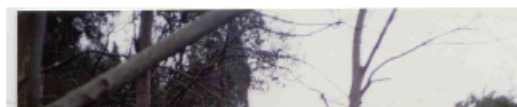
Social Organization

- Patrilineal clans
 - Children are members to their father's clan
 - Strictly exogamy
- Marriage
 - Courtship (festivals, market day)
 - Arranged marriage & elopement & marriage by capture

Religious Beliefs: Animism

Animism	Ancestral Spirit
Belief nature is animated/energized through what people perceive as manifestations of power	Belief in ancestral spirits
Common among people who see themselves as part of nature	Freed from the body at death, the spirit continues to participate in human affairs

Animism and the Custom of *Deji*



Custom of Baiji



Cave Spirit



Tree Spirit

Baiji in Fenghuang, 2002 (Photos by X. Feng)

Shaman

- A person who enters an altered state of consciousness - at will - to contact and utilize an ordinarily hidden reality in order to acquire knowledge, power, and to help others

Arts and Handicrafts

- Depend on an oral and artistic tradition to pass on their culture
- Hmong culture is rich in arts and crafts
- Patterns and motifs are rooted in their oral history and folkloristic image

Embroidery





(Photos by X. Feng)

Silver Jewelry



(Photos by X. Feng)

