



Names of China

The **names of China** include the many contemporary and historical appellations given in various languages for the East Asian country known as *Zhōngguó* (中國/中国, "central country") in its national language, Standard Mandarin. China, the name in English for the country, was derived from Portuguese in the 16th century, and became common usage in the West in the subsequent centuries.^[2] It is believed to be a borrowing from Middle Persian, and some have traced it further back to the Sanskrit word "चीन (cīna)" for the nation. It is also thought that the ultimate source of the name China is the Chinese word "Qin" (Chinese: 秦), the name of the dynasty that unified China but also existed as a state for many centuries prior. There are, however, other alternative suggestions for the origin of the word.

Chinese names for China, aside from *Zhongguo*, include *Zhōnghuá* (中華/中华, "central beauty"), *Huáxià* (華夏/华夏, "beautiful grandness"), *Shénzhōu* (神州, "divine state") and *Jiǔ zhōu* (九州, "nine states"). *Hàn* (漢/汉) and *Táng* (唐) are common names given for the Chinese ethnicity, despite the Chinese nationality (*Zhōnghuá Mínzú*) not referencing any singular ethnicity. The People's Republic of China (*Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó*) and Republic of China (*Zhōnghuá Mínguó*) are the official names for the two contemporary sovereign states currently claiming sovereignty over the traditional area of China. "Mainland China" is used to refer to areas under the jurisdiction of the PRC, usually excluding Hong Kong and Macao.

There are also names for China used around the world that are derived from the languages of ethnic groups other than the Han; examples include "Cathay" from the Khitani language and "Tabgach" from Tuoba.

Sinitic names

Zhongguo

Pre-Qing

China
<div><div>中国</div><div>中國</div></div> <div>"China" in <u>Simplified</u> (top) and <u>Traditional</u> (bottom) Chinese characters</div>
Chinese name
<div><div><div>Traditional Chinese</div><div>中國</div></div></div>
<div><div><div>Simplified Chinese</div><div>中国</div></div></div>
<div><div><div>Hanyu Pinyin</div><div>Zhōngguó</div></div></div>
<div><div><div>Literal meaning</div><div>Middle or Central State^[1]</div></div></div>

Zhōngguó (中國) is the most common Chinese name for China in modern times. The earliest appearance of this two-character term is on the bronze vessel *He zun* (dating to 1038–c. 1000 BCE), during the early Western Zhou period. The phrase "zhong guo" came into common usage in the Warring States period (475–221 BCE), when it referred to the "Central States"; the states of the Yellow River Valley of the Zhou era, as distinguished from the tribal periphery.^[3] In later periods, however, *Zhongguo* was not used in this sense. Dynastic names were used for the state in Imperial China and concepts of the state aside from the ruling dynasty were little understood.^[2] Rather, the country was called by the name of the dynasty, such as "Han" (漢), "Tang" (唐), "Great Ming" (*Da Ming* 大明), "Great Qing" (*Da Qing* 大清), as the case might be. Until the 19th century when the international system came to require a common legal language, there was no need for a fixed or unique name.^[4]

As early as the Spring and Autumn period, *Zhongguo* could be understood as either the domain of the capital or used to refer the Chinese civilization (*zhuxia* 諸夏 "the various Xia"^{[5][6]} or *zhuhua* 諸華 "various Hua"^{[7][8]}), and the political and geographical domain that contained it, but *Tianxia* was the more common word for this idea. This developed into the usage of the Warring States period when, other than the cultural-civilizational community, it could be the geopolitical area of Chinese civilization, equivalent to *Jiuzhou*. In a more limited sense it could also refer to the Central Plain or the states of Zhao, Wei, and Han, etc., geographically central amongst the Warring States.^[9] Although *Zhongguo* could be used before the Song dynasty period to mean the transdynastic Chinese culture or civilization to which Chinese people belonged, it was in the Song dynasty when writers used *Zhongguo* as a term to describe the transdynastic entity with different dynastic names over time but having a set territory and defined by common ancestry, culture, and language.^[10]

There were different usages of the term *Zhongguo* in every period. It could refer to the capital of the emperor to distinguish it from the capitals of his vassals, as in Western Zhou. It could refer to the states of the Central Plain to distinguish them from states in outer regions. The *Shi Jing* defines *Zhongguo* as the capital region, setting it in apposition to the capital city.^{[11][12]} During the Han dynasty, three usages of *Zhongguo* were common. The *Records of the Grand Historian* uses *Zhongguo* to denote the capital,^{[13][14]} and also uses the

concept *zhong* ("center, central") and *zhongguo* to indicate the center of civilization: "There are eight famous mountains in the world: three in Man and Yi (the barbarian wilds), five in *Zhōngguó*." (天下名山八，而三在蠻夷，五在中國。)^{[15][16]} In this sense, the term *Zhongguo* is synonymous with *Huáxià* (華夏/华夏) and *Zhōnghuá* (中華/中华), names of China that were first authentically attested since Warring States period^[17] and Eastern Jin period,^{[18][19]} respectively.

From the Qin to Ming dynasty literati discussed *Zhongguo* as both a historical place or territory and as a culture. Writers of the Ming period in particular used the term as a political tool to express opposition to expansionist policies that incorporated foreigners into the empire.^[21] In contrast foreign conquerors typically avoided discussions of *Zhongguo* and instead defined membership in their empires to include both Han and non-Han peoples.^[22]

Qing

Zhongguo appeared in a formal international legal document for the first time during the Qing dynasty in the Treaty of Nerchinsk, 1689. The term was then used in communications with other states and in treaties. The Manchu rulers incorporated Inner Asian polities into their empire, and Wei Yuan, a statecraft scholar, distinguished the new territories from *Zhongguo*, which he defined as the 17 provinces of "China proper" plus the Manchu homelands in the Northeast. By the late 19th century the term had emerged as a common name for the whole country. The empire was sometimes referred to as Great Qing but increasingly as *Zhongguo* (see the discussion below).^[23]

Dulimbai Gurun is the Manchu name for China, with "Dulimbai" meaning "central" or "middle," and "Gurun" meaning "nation" or "state."^{[24][25][26]} The historian Zhao Gang writes that "not long after the collapse of the Ming, China [Zhongguo] became the equivalent of Great Qing (Da Qing)—another official title of the Qing state", and "Qing and China became interchangeable official titles, and the latter often appeared as a substitute for the former in official documents."^[27] The Qing dynasty referred to their realm as "*Dulimbai Gurun*" in Manchu. The Qing equated the lands of the Qing realm (including present day Manchuria, Xinjiang, Mongolia, Tibet and other areas) as "China" in both the Chinese and Manchu languages, defining China as a multi-ethnic state,

Transcriptions		[show]
Standard Mandarin		
Hanyu Pinyin	Zhōngguó	
Bopomofo	ㄓㄨㄥ ㄍㄨㄛˊ	
Gwoyeu	Jonggwo	
Romatzyh		
Wade–Giles	Chung ¹ -kuo ²	
Tongyong Pinyin	Jhongguó	
Yale	Jūnggwó	
Romanization		
MPS2	Jūngguó	
IPA	[ʈʂʊŋ.kwǒ]	
other Mandarin		
Xiao'erjing	جوڭووع	
Dungan	Жунгуй	
Sichuanese Pinyin	Zong ¹ gwe ²	
Wu		
Romanization	Tson ^平 -koh ^入	
Gan		
Romanization	Tung-koèt Chungkoet	
Xiang		
IPA	Tan ³³ -kwɛ ²⁴ /	
Hakka		
Romanization	Dung ²⁴ -gued ²	
Phák-fa-sù	Chûng-koet	
Yue: Cantonese		
Yale	Jùnggwok or Jūnggwok	
Romanization		
Jyutping	Zung1gwok3	
IPA	[tsʊŋ˥.kʷoːk˥] or [tsʊŋ˧.kʷoːk˥]	
Southern Min		
Hokkien POJ	Tiong-kok	
Tâi-lô	Tiong-kok	
Eastern Min		
Fuzhou BUC	Dǔng-guók	
Pu-Xian Min		
Hinghwa BUC	Deng-goh	

rejecting the idea that China only meant Han areas; both Han and non-Han people were part of "China". Officials used "China" (though not exclusively) in official documents, international treaties, and foreign affairs, and the "Chinese language" (Manchu: *Dulimbai gurun i bithe*) referred to Chinese, Manchu, and Mongol languages, and the term "Chinese people" (中國人; *Zhōngguó rén*; Manchu: *Dulimbai gurun i niyalma*) referred to all Han, Manchus, and Mongol subjects of the Qing.^[28] Ming loyalist Han literati held to defining the old Ming borders as China and using "foreigner" to describe minorities under Qing rule such as the Mongols, as part of their anti-Qing ideology.^[29]

When the Qing conquered Dzungaria in 1759, they proclaimed that the new land was absorbed into *Dulimbai Gurun* in a Manchu language memorial.^{[30][31][32]} The Qing expounded on their ideology that they were bringing together the "outer" non-Han Chinese like the Inner Mongols, Eastern Mongols, Oirat Mongols, and Tibetans together with the "inner" Han Chinese, into "one family" united in the Qing state, showing that the diverse subjects of the Qing were all part of one family, the Qing used the phrase "*Zhōngwài yījiā*" (中外一家; 'China and other [countries] as one family') or "*Nèiwài yījiā*" (內外一家; 'Interior and exterior as one family'), to convey this idea of "unification" of the different peoples.^[33] A Manchu language version of a treaty with the Russian Empire concerning criminal jurisdiction over bandits called people from the Qing as "people of the Central Kingdom (Dulimbai Gurun)".^{[34][35][36][37]} In the Manchu official Tulisen's Manchu language account of his meeting with the Torghut Mongol leader Ayuki Khan, it was mentioned that while the Torghuts were unlike the Russians, the "people of the Central Kingdom" (*dulimba-i gurun*/中國; *Zhōngguó*) were like the Torghut Mongols, and the "people of the Central Kingdom" referred to the Manchus.^[38]

Mark Elliott noted that it was under the Qing that "China" transformed into a definition of referring to lands where the "state claimed sovereignty" rather than only the Central Plains area and its people by the end of the 18th century.^[39]

Elena Barabantseva also noted that the Manchu referred to all subjects of the Qing empire regardless of ethnicity as "Chinese" (中國之人; *Zhōngguó zhī rén*; 'China's person'), and used the term (中國; *Zhōngguó*) as a synonym for the entire Qing empire while using "Hàn rén" (漢人) to refer only to the core area of the empire, with the entire empire viewed as multiethnic.^[40]

Northern Chinese Jian ou Dong-gō Romanized	
Common name	
Traditional Chinese	中華
Simplified Chinese	中华
Hanyu Pinyin	Zhōnghuá
Transcriptions	[show]
Standard Mandarin	
Hanyu Pinyin	Zhōnghuá
Bopomofo	ㄓㄨㄥ ㄏㄨㄚˊ
Gwoyeu Romatzyh	Jonghwa
Wade–Giles	Chung ¹ -hua ²
Tongyong Pinyin	Jhonghuá
Yale Romanization	Jūnghwá
MPS2	Jūnghuá
IPA	[ʈ͡ʂʊŋ˥.xwǎ˥]
other Mandarin	
Xiao'erjing	جو خُو
Wu	
Romanization	tsɒŋ ^平 gho ^平
Gan	
Romanization	tung ¹ fa ⁴ or Chungfa
Hakka	
Romanization	dung ²⁴ fa ¹¹
Phák-fa-sú	Chûng-fà
Yue: Cantonese	
Yale Romanization	Jùng'wàh or Jūng'wàh
Jyutping	Zung1waa4
IPA	[t͡sʊŋ˥˥.waː˥˥] or [t͡sʊŋ˥˥.waː˥˥]
Southern Min	
Hokkien POJ	Tiong-hôa
Tâi-lô	Tiong-huâ
Eastern Min	
Fuzhou BUC	Dǔng-huá
Tibetan name	
Tibetan	ཡུང་ཁོ་

William T. Rowe wrote that the name "China" (Chinese: 中國/中華) was apparently understood to refer to the political realm of the Han Chinese during the Ming dynasty, and this understanding persisted among the Han Chinese into the early Qing dynasty, and the understanding was also shared by Aisin Gioro rulers before the Ming-Qing transition. The Qing, however, "came to refer to their more expansive empire not only as the Great Qing but also, nearly interchangeably, as China" within a few decades of this development. Instead of the earlier (Ming) idea of an ethnic Han Chinese state, this new Qing China was a "self-consciously multi-ethnic state". Han Chinese scholars had some time to adapt this, but by the 19th century the notion of China as a multinational state with new, significantly extended borders had become the standard terminology for Han Chinese writers. Rowe noted that "these were the origins of the China we know today". He added that while the early Qing rulers viewed themselves as multi-hatted emperors who ruled several nationalities "separately but simultaneously", by the mid-19th century the Qing Empire had become part of a European-style community of sovereign states and entered into a series of treaties with the West, and such treaties and documents consistently referred to Qing rulers as the "Emperor of China" and his administration as the "Government of China".^[41]

Joseph W. Esherick noted that while the Qing Emperors governed frontier non-Han areas in a different, separate system under the Lifanyuan and kept them separate from Han areas and administration, it was the Manchu Qing Emperors who expanded the definition of *Zhongguo* (中國) and made it "flexible" by using that term to refer to the entire Empire and using that term to other countries in diplomatic correspondence, while some Han Chinese subjects criticized their usage of the term and the Han literati Wei Yuan used *Zhongguo* only to refer to the seventeen provinces of China and three provinces of the east (Manchuria), excluding other frontier areas.^[42] Due to Qing using treaties clarifying the international borders of the Qing state, it was able to inculcate in the Chinese people a sense that China included areas such as Mongolia and Tibet due to education reforms in geography which made it clear where the borders of the Qing state were even if they didn't understand how the Chinese identity included Tibetans and Mongolians or understand what the connotations of being Chinese were.^[43] The Treaty of Nanking (1842) English version refers to "His Majesty the Emperor of China" while the Chinese refers both to "The Great Qing Emperor" (*Da Qing Huangdi*) and to *Zhongguo* as well. The Treaty of Tientsin (1858) has similar language.^[4]

Transcriptions [show]	
<u>Tibetan Pinyin</u>	Krung-go
Zhuang name	
Zhuang	Cungguek
Mongolian name	
<u>Mongolian script</u>	ᠴᠢᠩᠭᠡᠭᠦᠢ ᠴᠢᠩᠭᠡᠭᠡᠢ
Transcriptions [show]	
<u>SASM/GNC</u>	Dumdadu ulus
Uyghur name	
<u>Uyghur</u>	جوڭگو
Transcriptions [show]	
<u>Latin Yëziqi</u>	Junggo
Manchu name	
<u>Manchu script</u>	ᠵᠤᠩᠭᠡᠭᠡᠢ ᠵᠤᠩᠭᠡᠭᠡᠢ
<u>Romanization</u>	Dulimbai gurun



He zun rubbing and transcription; framed is the phrase 宅兹中或 *zhái zī zhōngguó* "inhabit this central state". Same phrase in Traditional Chinese characters is 宅兹中國, and Simplified Chinese characters is 宅兹中国.

In the late 19th century the reformer Liang Qichao argued in a famous passage that "our greatest shame is that our country has no name. The names that people ordinarily think of, such as Xia, Han, or Tang, are all the titles of bygone dynasties." He argued that the other countries of the world "all boast of their own state names, such as England and France, the only exception being the Central States."^[44] The Japanese term "Shina" was proposed as a basically neutral Western-influenced equivalent for "China". Liang and Chinese revolutionaries, such as Sun Yat-sen, who both lived extensive periods in Japan, used Shina extensively, and it was used in literature as well as by ordinary Chinese. But with the overthrow of the Qing in 1911, most Chinese dropped Shina as foreign and demanded that even Japanese replace it with Zhonghua minguo or simply Zhongguo.^[45] Liang went on to argue that the concept of tianxia had to be abandoned in favor of guojia, that is, "nation," for which he accepted the term Zhongguo.^[46] After the founding of the Chinese Republic in 1912, Zhongguo was also adopted as the abbreviation of Zhonghua minguo.^[47]

Qing official Zhang Deyi objected to the western European name "China" and said that China referred to itself as Zhonghua in response to a European who asked why Chinese used the term guizi to refer to all Europeans.^[48]

In the 20th century after the May Fourth Movement, educated students began to spread the concept of Zhōnghuá (中華/中华), which represented the people, including 56 minority ethnic groups and the Han Chinese, with a single culture identifying themselves as "Chinese". The Republic of China and the People's Republic of China both used the title "Zhōnghuá" in their official names. Thus, Zhōngguó became the common name for both governments, and "Zhōngguó rén" for their citizens, though Taiwanese people may reject being called as such. Overseas Chinese are referred to as huáqiáo (華僑/华侨), "Chinese overseas", or huáyì (華裔/华裔), "Chinese descendants" (i.e., Chinese children born overseas).

Middle Kingdom

The English translation of Zhongguo as the "Middle Kingdom" entered European languages through the Portuguese in the 16th century and became popular in the mid-19th century. By the mid-20th century, the term was thoroughly entrenched in the English language, reflecting the Western view of China as the inwards-looking Middle Kingdom, or more accurately the *Central Kingdom*. Endymion Wilkinson points out that the Chinese were not unique in thinking of their country as central, although China was the only culture to use the concept for its name.^[49] The term Zhongguo was not commonly used as a name for China until quite recently. It did not mean "Middle Kingdom" to the Chinese, or even have the same meaning throughout the course of history (see above).^[50]

"Zhōngguó" in different languages

- Catalan: *País del Mig* (The Middle's Country/State)



The brocade armband with the words "Five stars rising in the east, being a propitious sign for Zhongguo (中國)", made in the Han dynasty.



The Nestorian Stele 大秦景教流行中國碑 entitled "Stele to the propagation in Zhongguo (中國) of the luminous religion of Daqin (Roman Empire)", was erected in China in 781 during Tang dynasty.



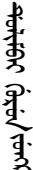

"Middle Kingdom's Common Speech" (*Medii Regni Communis Loquela*, *Zhongguo Guanhua*, 中國官話), the frontispiece of an early Chinese grammar published by Étienne Fourmont in 1742^[20]

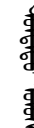
- Czech: *Říše středu* ("The Empire of the Center")
- Dutch: *Middenrijk* ("Middle Empire" or "Middle Realm")
- English: *Middle Kingdom*, *Central Kingdom*
- Finnish: *Keskustan valtakunta* ("The State of the Center")
- French: *Empire du milieu* ("Middle Empire") or *Royaume du milieu* ("Middle Kingdom")
- German: *Reich der Mitte* ("Middle Empire")
- Greek: *Mési aftokratoría* (Μέση αυτοκρατορία, "Middle Empire") or *Kentrikí aftokratoría* (Κεντρική αυτοκρατορία, "Central Empire")
- Hmong: *Suav Teb* (□□□□ □□□□), *Roob Kuj* (□□ □□), *Tuam Tshoj* (□□□ □□□□)
- Hungarian: *Középső birodalom* ("Middle Empire")
- Indonesian: *Tiongkok* (from *Tiong-kok*, the Hokkien name for China)^[51]
- Italian: *Impero di Mezzo* ("Middle Empire")



The most important Korean document, *Hunminjeongeum*, dated 1446, where it compares Joseon's speech to that of *Zhongguo* (中國) (Middle Kingdom; China), which was during the reign of Ming dynasty at the time. Korean and other neighbouring societies have addressed the various regimes and dynasties on the Chinese mainland at differing times as the "Middle Kingdom".

- Japanese: *Chūgoku* (中国; ちゅうごく)
- Kazakh: *Juñgo* (جوڭگو)
- Korean: *Jungguk* (중국; 中國)
- Kyrgyz: *Juñgo* (جوڭغو)
- Li: *Dongxgok*
- Lojban: *jugygu'e* or *.djunguos*.

- Manchu:  (*Dulimbai* *gurun*) or  (*Jungg'o*) were the official names for "China" in Manchu language




- Mongolian:  (*Dumdadu ulus*), the official name for "China" used in Inner Mongolia
- Polish: *Państwo Środką* ("The State of the Center")
- Portuguese: *Império do Meio* ("Middle Empire")



Chapter *China* (中國) of "The Manchurian, Mongolian and Han Chinese Trilingual Textbook" (滿蒙漢三語合璧教科書) published in Qing dynasty: "Our country China is located in East Asia... For 5000 years, culture flourished (in the land of China)... Since we are Chinese, how can we not love China."

- Russian: Срединное Царство (*Sredínnoye Tsárstvo*; "Middle Kingdom")
- Slovak: *Ríša stredú* ("The Empire of the Center")
- Spanish: *País del Centro* (The Middle's Country/State)
- Swedish: *Mittens rike* (The Middle's Kingdom/Empire/Realm/State)
- Tibetan: *Krung-go* (ཁྱང་གོ་), a PRC-era loanword from Mandarin; the normal Tibetan term for China (proper) is rgya nak (རྒྱ་ནག་), lit. the "black country."
- Toki Pona: *ma Sonko*
- Uyghur: جۇڭگو, romanized: *Junggo*
- Vietnamese: *Trung Quốc* (中國)
- Yi: 𐩌𐩣𐩪𐩠 (*Zho guop*)
- Zhuang: *Cunghqoz* (older orthography: *Cunbqoz*)

"Zhōnghuá" in different languages

- Indonesian: *Tionghoa* (from *Tiong-hôa*, the Hokkien counterpart)
- Japanese: *Chūka* (中華; ちゅうか)
- Kazakh: *Juñxwa* (جوڭخوا)
- Korean: *Junghwa* (중화; 中華)
- Kyrgyz: *Juñhua* (جوڭخوئا)
- Li: *Dongxhwax*
- Manchu:  (*Junghūwa*)
- Tibetan:  (*krung hwa*)
- Uyghur: جوڭخوئا, romanized: *Jungxua*
- Vietnamese: *Trung Hoa* (中華)
- Yi:  (*Zho huop*)
- Zhuang: *Cunghvaz* (Old orthography: *Cunbvaz*)

Huaxia

The name *Huaxia* (華夏/华夏; pinyin: *huáxià*) is generally used as a sobriquet in Chinese text. Under traditional interpretations, it is the combination of two words which originally referred to the elegance of the traditional attire of the Han Chinese and the Confucian concept of rites.

- *Hua* which means "flowery beauty" (*i.e.* having beauty of dress and personal adornment 有服章之美，謂之華).
- *Xia* which means greatness or grandeur (*i.e.* having greatness of social customs/courtesy/polite manners and rites/ceremony 有禮儀之大，故稱夏).^[52]

In the original sense, Huaxia refers to a confederation of tribes—living along the Yellow River—who were the ancestors of what later became the Han ethnic group in China. During the Warring States (475–221 BCE), the self-awareness of the Huaxia identity developed and took hold in ancient China.

Zhonghua minzu

Zhonghua minzu is a term meaning "Chinese nation" in the sense of a multi-ethnic national identity. Though originally rejected by the PRC, it has been used officially since the 1980s for nationalist politics.

Tianchao and Tianxia

Tianchao (天朝; pinyin: *Tiāncháo*), translated as "heavenly dynasty" or "Celestial Empire,"^[53] and *Tianxia* (天下; pinyin: *Tiānxià*) translated as "under heaven," are both phrases that have been used to refer to China. These terms were usually used in the context of civil wars or periods of division, with the term *Tianchao* evoking the idea of the realm's ruling dynasty was appointed by heaven;^[53] or that whoever ends up reunifying China is said to have ruled *Tianxia*, or everything under heaven. This fits with the traditional Chinese theory of rulership in which the emperor was nominally the political leader of the entire world and not merely the leader of a nation-state within the world. Historically the term was connected to the later Zhou Dynasty (c. 1046–256 BCE), especially the Spring and Autumn period (eighth to fourth century BCE) and the Warring States period (from there to 221 BCE, when China was reunified by the Qin state). The phrase *Tianchao* continues to see use on Chinese internet discussion boards, in reference to China.^[53]

The phrase *Tianchao* was first translated into English and French in the early 19th century, appearing in foreign publicans and diplomatic correspondences,^[54] with the translated phrase "Celestial Empire" occasionally used to refer to China. During this period, the term *celestial* was used by some to refer to the subjects of the Qing dynasty in a non-prejudicial manner,^[54] derived from the term "Celestial Empire". However, the term *celestial* was also used in a pejorative manner during the 19th century, in reference to Chinese immigrants in Australasia and North America.^[54] The translated phrase has largely fallen into disuse in the 20th century.

Translations for *Tianxia* include:

- Russian: Поднебесная (*Podnebésnaya*; lit. "under the heaven")

Jiangshan and Shanhe

Jiangshan (江山; pinyin: *Jiāngshān*) and *Shanhe* (山河; pinyin: *Shānhé*) literally mean "rivers and mountains". This term is quite similar in usage to *Tianxia*, and simply refers to the entire world, and here the most prominent features of which being rivers and mountains. The use of this term is also common as part of the phrase *Jiangshan sheji* (江山社稷; pinyin: *Jiāngshān shèjì*; lit. "rivers and mountains, soil and grain"), suggesting the need to implement good governance.

Jiuzhou

The name *Jiuzhou* (九州; pinyin: *jiu^ˇ zhōu*) means "nine provinces". Widely used in pre-modern Chinese text, the word originated during the middle of Warring States period of China (c. 400–221 BCE). During that time, the Yellow River region was divided into nine geographical regions; thus this name was coined. Some people also attribute this word to the mythical hero and king Yu the Great, who, in the legend, divided China into nine provinces during his reign. (Consult Zhou for more information.)

Shenzhou

This name means *Divine Realm*^[55] or *Divine Land* (神州; pinyin: *Shénzhōu*; lit. 'divine/godly provinces') and comes from the same period as *Jiuzhou* meaning "nine provinces". It was thought that the world was divided into nine major states, one of which is *Shenzhou*, which is in turn divided into nine smaller states, one of which is *Jiuzhou* mentioned above.

Sihai

This name, *Four Seas* (四海; pinyin: *sìhǎi*), is sometimes used to refer to the world, or simply China, which is perceived as the civilized world. It came from the ancient notion that the world is flat and surrounded by sea.

Han

The name *Han* (漢 / 汉; pinyin: *Hàn*) derives from the Han dynasty (206 BC–AD 220), who presided over China's first "golden age". The Han dynasty collapsed in 220 and was followed by a long period of disorder, including Three Kingdoms, Sixteen Kingdoms, and Southern and Northern dynasties periods. During these periods, various non-Han ethnic groups established various dynasties in northern China. It was during this period that people began to use the term "Han" to refer to the natives of North China, who (unlike the minorities) were the descendants of the subjects of the Han dynasty.

Han	
Chinese name	
Traditional Chinese	漢
Simplified Chinese	汉
Hanyu Pinyin	Hàn

During the Yuan dynasty, subjects of the empire was divided into four classes: Mongols, Semu or "Colour-eyeds", Hans, and "Southerns". Northern Chinese were called Han, which was considered to be the highest class of Chinese. This class "Han" includes all ethnic groups in northern China including Khitan and Jurchen who have in most part sinicized during the last two hundreds years. The name "Han" became popularly accepted.

During the Qing dynasty, the Manchu rulers also used the name Han to distinguish the natives of the Central Plains from the Manchus. After the fall of the Qing government, the Han became the name of a nationality within China. Today the term "Han Persons", often rendered in English as Han Chinese, is used by

the People's Republic of China to refer to the most populous of the 56 officially recognized ethnic groups of China. The "Han Chinese" are simply referred to as "Chinese" by some.

Tang

The name *Tang* (唐; pinyin: *Táng*) comes from the Tang dynasty (618–690, 705–907) that presided over China's second golden age. It was during the Tang dynasty that South China was finally and fully Sinicized; Tang would become synonymous with China in Southern China and it is usually Southern Chinese who refer to themselves as "*People of Tang*" (唐人, pinyin: *Táng rén*).^[56] For example, the sinicization and rapid development of Guangdong during the Tang period would lead the Cantonese to refer to themselves as *Tong-yan* (唐人) in Cantonese, while China is called *Tong-saan* (唐山; pinyin: *Tángshān*; lit. "Tang Mountain").^[57] Chinatowns worldwide, often dominated by Southern Chinese, also became referred to *Tang people's Street* (唐人街, Cantonese: Tong-yan-gaa; pinyin: *Táng rén jiē*). The Cantonese term *Tongsan* (Tang mountain) is recorded in Old Malay as one of the local terms for China, along with the Sanskrit-derived *Cina*. It is still used in Malaysia today, usually in a derogatory sense.

Among Taiwanese, *Tang mountain* (Min-Nan: Tn^hg-soaⁿ) has been used, for example, in the saying, "has Tangshan father, no Tangshan mother" (有唐山公·無唐山媽; Pêh-ōe-jī: *Ū Tn^hg-soaⁿ kong, bô Tn^hg-soaⁿ má*).^{[58][59]} This refers how the Han people crossing the Taiwan Strait in the 17th and 18th centuries were mostly men, and that many of their offspring would be through intermarriage with Taiwanese aborigine women.

In Ryukyuan, karate was originally called *tii* (手, hand) or *karatii* (唐手, Tang hand) because 唐ぬ國 *too-nu-kuku* or *kara-nu-kuku* (唐ぬ國) was a common Ryukyuan name for China; it was changed to *karate* (空手, open hand) to appeal to Japanese people after the First Sino-Japanese War.

Zhu Yu, who wrote during the Northern Song dynasty, noted that the name "Han" was first used by the northwestern 'barbarians' to refer to China while the name "Tang" was first used by the southeastern 'barbarians' to refer to China, and these terms subsequently influenced the local Chinese terminology.^[60] During the Mongol invasions of Japan, the Japanese distinguished between the "Han" of northern China, who, like the

Transcriptions	[show]
Standard Mandarin	
Hanyu Pinyin	Hàn
Bopomofo	ㄏㄢˋ
Gwoyeu Romatzyh	Hann
Wade–Giles	Han ⁴
IPA	[xân]
Wu	
Romanization	Hoe ^去
Gan	
Romanization	Hon ⁵
Hakka	
Romanization	Hon ⁵⁵
Yue: Cantonese	
Yale Romanization	Hon
Jyutping	Hon3
IPA	[hɔːn˥]
Southern Min	
Hokkien POJ	Hàn
Tâi-lô	Hàn
Teochew Peng'im	Hang ³
Eastern Min	
Fuzhou BUC	Háng
Middle Chinese	
Middle Chinese	xan ^C
Vietnamese name	
Vietnamese alphabet	<i>Hán</i>
Chữ Hán	漢
Korean name	
Hangul	한
Hanja	漢
Transcriptions	[show]
Revised Romanization	han
Japanese name	
Kanji	漢
Kana	かん
Transcriptions	[show]
Romanization	kan

Mongols and Koreans, were not to be taken prisoner, and the Newly Submitted Army of southern China whom they called "Tang", who would be enslaved instead.^[61]

Dalu and Neidi

Dàlù (大陸 / 大陆; pinyin: *dàlù*), literally "big continent" or "mainland" in this context, is used as a short form of *Zhōngguó Dàlù* (中國大陸 / 中国大陆, Mainland China), excluding (depending on the context) Hong Kong and Macau, and/or Taiwan. This term is used in official context in both the mainland and Taiwan, when referring to the mainland as opposed to Taiwan. In certain contexts, it is equivalent to the term *Neidi* (內地; pinyin: *nèidì*, literally "the inner land"). While *Neidi* generally refers to the interior as opposed to a particular coastal or border location, or the coastal or border regions generally, it is used in Hong Kong specifically to mean mainland China excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. Increasingly, it is also being used in an official context within mainland China, for example in reference to the separate judicial and customs jurisdictions of mainland China on the one hand and Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan on the other.

The term *Neidi* is also often used in Xinjiang and Tibet to distinguish the eastern provinces of China from the minority-populated, autonomous regions of the west.

Official names

People's Republic of China

The name **New China** has been frequently applied to China by the Chinese Communist Party as a positive political and social term contrasting pre-1949 China (the establishment of the PRC) and the new name of the socialist state, **Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó** (in the older postal romanization, **Chunghwa Jenmin Konghokuo**) or the "People's Republic of China" in English, was adapted from the CCP's short-lived Chinese Soviet Republic in 1931. This term is also sometimes used by writers outside mainland China. The PRC was known to many in the West during the Cold War as "**Communist China**" or "Red China" to distinguish it from the Republic of China which is commonly called "Taiwan", "Nationalist China" or "Free China". In some contexts, particularly in economics, trade, and sports, "China" is often used to refer to mainland China to the exclusion of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

Tang	
Chinese name	
Chinese	唐
Hanyu Pinyin	Táng
Transcriptions [show]	
Standard Mandarin	
Hanyu Pinyin	Táng
Bopomofo	ㄊㄤˊ
Gwoyeu Romatzyh	Tarng
Wade–Giles	T'ang ²
IPA	[tʰǎŋ]
Wu	
Romanization	Daon ^平
Gan	
Romanization	Tong
Hakka	
Romanization	Tong ¹¹
Yue: Cantonese	
Yale Romanization	Tòhng
Jyutping	Tong4
IPA	[tʰoːŋ˥]
Southern Min	
Hokkien POJ	Tông/Tîng
Tâi-lô	Tông/Tîng
Vietnamese name	
Vietnamese alphabet	Đường
Chữ Hán	唐
Korean name	
Hangul	당
Hanja	唐
Transcriptions [show]	
Revised Romanization	dang
Japanese name	
Kanji	唐
Kana	とう (On), から (Kun)

The official name of the People's Republic of China in various official languages and scripts:

Transcriptions

[\[show\]](#)

Romanization tō (On), kara (Kun)

- **Simplified Chinese:** 中华人民共和国 (pinyin: *Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó*) – Official language and script, used in mainland China, Singapore and Malaysia
- **Traditional Chinese:** 中華人民共和國 (pinyin: *Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó*; Jyutping: *Zung1waa4 Jan4man4 Gung6wo4gwok3*) – Official script in Hong Kong and Macau, and commonly used in Taiwan (ROC)
- **English:** People's Republic of China – Official in Hong Kong
- **Kazakh:** As used within the Republic of Kazakhstan, Қытай Халық Республикасы (in Cyrillic script), *Qytai Halyq Respublikasy* (in Latin script), قىتاي حالىق رەسپۇبلىكاسى (in Arabic script); as used within the People's Republic of China, جوڭخۇا حالىق رەسپۇبلىكاسى (in Arabic script), Жұңхуа Халық Республикасы (in Cyrillic script), *Jūñhua Halyq Respublikasy* (in Latin script). The Cyrillic script is the predominant script in the Republic of Kazakhstan, while the Arabic script is normally used for the Kazakh language in the People's Republic of China.
- **Korean:** 중화인민공화국 (中華人民共和國; *Junghwa Inmin Gonghwaguk*) – Used in Yanbian Prefecture (Jilin) and Changbai County (Liaoning)
- **Kyrgyz:** As used within the Kyrgyz Republic, Кытай Эл Республикасы (in Cyrillic script), *Qytay El Respublikasy* (in Latin script), قىتاي ەل رەسپۇبلىكاسى (in Arabic script); as used within the People's Republic of China, جوڭخۇا ەل رەسپۇبلىكاسى (in Arabic script), жуңхуа Эл Республикасы (in Cyrillic script), *Juñhua El Respublikasy* (in Latin script). The Cyrillic script is the predominant script in Kyrgyzstan, while the Arabic script is normally used for the Kyrgyz language in the People's Republic of China.
- **Manchurian:**  (Dulimbai niyalmairgen gunghe' gurun) or  (Junghūwa niyalmairgen gungheg'o)
- **Mongolian:**  (Bügüde nayiramdaqu dumdadu arad ulus) – Official in Inner Mongolia; Бүгд Найрамдах Хятад Ард

People's Republic of China

中华人民共和国

中華人民共和國

"People's Republic of China" in Simplified (top) and Traditional (bottom) Chinese characters

Chinese name

<u>Simplified Chinese</u>	中华人民共和国
<u>Traditional Chinese</u>	中華人民共和國
<u>Hanyu Pinyin</u>	Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó

- Nepali: जन गणतान्त्रिक चीन (*Jana Gaṇatāntriṇa Cīna*) – Used in Nepal

Republic of China

In 1912, China adopted its official name, **Chunghwa Minkuo** (rendered in pinyin **Zhōnghuá Mínguó**) or in English as the "Republic of China", which also has sometimes been referred to as "Republican China" or the "Republican Era" (民國時代), in contrast to the empire it replaced, or as "**Nationalist China**", after the ruling Chinese Nationalist Party (Kuomintang). 中華 (*Chunghwa*) is a term that pertains to "China" while 民國 (*Minkuo*), literally "People's State" or "Peopledom", stands for "republic".^{[62][63]} The name had stemmed from the party manifesto of Tongmenghui in 1905, which says the four goals of the Chinese revolution was "to expel the Manchu rulers, to revive *Chunghwa*, to establish a Republic, and to distribute land equally among the people.(Chinese: 驅除韃虜, 恢復中華, 創立民國, 平均地權; pinyin: *Qūchú dǎlǔ* , *huīfù Zhōnghuá*, *chuànglì mínguó*, *píngjūn dì quán*)." The convener of Tongmenghui and Chinese revolutionary leader Sun Yat-sen proposed the name *Chunghwa Minkuo* as the assumed name of the new country when the revolution succeeded.

With the separation from mainland China in 1949 as a result of the Chinese Civil War, the territory of the Republic of China has largely been confined to the island of Taiwan and some other small islands. Thus, the country is often simply referred to as simply "**Taiwan**", although this may not be perceived as politically neutral. (See Taiwan Independence.) Amid the hostile rhetoric of the Cold War, the government and its supporters sometimes referred to itself as "Free China" or "Liberal China", in contrast to People's Republic of China (which was historically called the "Bandit-occupied Area" (匪區) by the ROC). In addition, the ROC, due to pressure from the PRC, was forced to use the name "**Chinese Taipei**" (中華台北) whenever it participates in international forums or most sporting events such as the Olympic Games.

Taiwanese politician Mei Feng had criticised the official English name of the state "Republic of China" fails to translate the Chinese character

Transcriptions

[show]

Standard Mandarin

<u>Hanyu Pinyin</u>	Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó
<u>Bopomofo</u>	ㄓ ㄨ ㄥ ㄏ ㄨ ㄚ ˊ ㄖ ㄣ ˊ ㄇ ㄣ ˊ ㄍ ㄨ ㄣ ˊ ㄏ ㄜ ˊ ㄍ ㄨ ㄛ ˊ
<u>Gwoyeu</u>	Jonghwa Renmin Gonghergwo
<u>Romatzyh</u>	
<u>Wade–Giles</u>	Chung ¹ -hua ² Jên ² -min ² Kung ⁴ -ho ² -kuo ²
<u>Tongyong Pinyin</u>	Jhonghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó
<u>Yale</u>	Jūnghwá Rénmín Gònghégwó
<u>Romanization</u>	
<u>MPS2</u>	Jūnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó
<u>IPA</u>	[ʈʂún̚.xwǎ̌ ʐĕn̚.mĭn̚ kún̚.xǎ̌.kwǒ̌]

other Mandarin

<u>Xiao'erjing</u>	جوُخُو زُم فُوخُقَوَع
<u>Dungan</u>	Жунхуа Жынмин Гунхәгуй
<u>Sichuanese</u>	Zong ¹ hua ² Zen ² min ²
<u>Pinyin</u>	Gong ⁴ hwe ² qwe ²

Wu

Romanization tson^平 gho^平 zin^平 min^平
gon^去 ghu^平 koh^入

Gan

Romanization Chungfa Ninmin Khungfokoet

Xiang

IPA /tan³³ go¹³ ŋin¹³ min¹³
 gan⁴⁵ gu¹³ kwe²⁴/

Hakka

Romanization dung²⁴ fa¹¹ ngin¹¹ min¹¹
kiung⁵⁵ fo¹¹ qued²

Phak-fa-su	Chung-fà Ngìn-mìn
	Khiung-fò-koet

Yue: Cantonese

<u>Yale</u>	Jùng'wàh Yàhn-màhn Gùhg'wòhgwok
<u>Romanization</u> <i>or</i>	Jūng'wàh Yàhn-màhn Gùhg'wòhgwok
<u>Jyutping</u>	Zung1waa4 Jan4man4 Gung6wo4gwok3
IPA	[tsoŋ˥.waː˥ jən˥.mən˥ koŋ˥.woː˥.kʷoːk˥]

"Min" (Chinese: 民; English: people) according to Sun Yat-sen's original interpretations, while the name should instead be translated as "the People's Republic of China", which confuses with the current official name of China under communist control.^[64] To avoid **Southern Min**, the Chen Shui-ban led **DPP** administration began to add "Taiwan" next to **Hokkien** as official name since 2005.^[65]

The official name of the Republic of China in various official languages and scripts:

- English: Republic of China – Official in Hong Kong, commonly used by the United States until 1979, Chinese Taipei – official designation in several international organizations (International Olympic Committee, FIFA, Miss Universe, World Health Organization), Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu – World Trade Organization, Governing authorities on Taiwan – Official name used by the United States from 1979
- Traditional Chinese: 中華民國 (pinyin: *Zhōnghuá Mínguó*; Jyutping: *Zung1 hwa4 Man4 gwok3*), 中華臺北 (pinyin: *Zhōnghuá Táiběi*), 臺澎金馬個別關稅領域 (pinyin: *Tái-Péng-Jīn-Mǎ Gèbié Guānshuì Lǐngyù*), 臺灣 (pinyin: *Táiwān*) – Official script in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan and the islands controlled by the ROC
- Simplified Chinese: 中华民国 (pinyin: *Zhōnghuá Mínguó*), 中華台北 (pinyin: *Zhōnghuá Táiběi*), 台澎金马个别关税领域 (pinyin: *Tái-Péng-Jīn-Mǎ Gèbié Guānshuì Lǐngyù*), 台湾 (pinyin: *Táiwān*) – Official language and script, used in Mainland China, Singapore and Malaysia
- Kazakh: As used within Republic of Kazakhstan, Қытай Республикасы (in Cyrillic script), *Qytai Respublikasy* (in Latin script), قىتاي رەسپۇبلىكاسى (in Arabic script); as used within the People's Republic of China, Жұнхуа Республикасы (in Cyrillic script), *Jūǎnhuá Respublikasy* (in Latin script), جوڭخۇا رەسپۇبلىكاسى (in Arabic script). The Cyrillic script is the predominant script in the Republic of Kazakhstan, while the Arabic script is normally used for the Kazakh language in the People's Republic of China.
- Korean: 중화민국 (中華民國; *Junghwa Minguk*) – Official in Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture
- Manchurian: 𩎵𩎵𩎵𩎵 (Dulimbai irgen' gurun)
- Mongolian: 𠌶𠌶𠌶𠌶 Дундад иргэн улс (*Dumdadu irgen ulus*) – Official for its history name before 1949 in Inner Mongolia and Mongolia; Бүгд Найрамдах Хятад Улс (Bügd Nairamdakh Khyatad Uls) – used in Mongolia for Roc in Taiwan
- Portuguese: *República da China* – Official in Macau, *Formosa* – former name
- Tibetan: ཀླུང་ཁྱེད་མངའ་སྡེ་རྒྱལ་ཁབ།, Wylie: *krung hwa dmangs gtso'i rgyal khab*, ZYPY: *Zhunghua*

Tâi-lô Tiong-huá Jîn-bīn Kiōng-hô-kok	
Eastern Min	
Fuzhou BUC Būng-huá ng-ming Gēung-hūo-kuók	
Pu-Xian Min	
Hinghwa Deng-huá Ĳng-ming	
Northern Min	
Jian'ou Dōng-uā Neng-meng	
Romanized Gōng-uā-gō	
Tibetan name	
Tibetan	ཀླུང་ཁྱེ་དམངས་ཁུལ་ མཐུན་ཁྱེ་ཁབ་
Transcriptions [show]	
Wylie	krung hwa mi dmangs spyi mthun rgyal khab
Tibetan	Zhunghua Mimang Jitun Gyalkab
Pinyin	
Vietnamese name	
Vietnamese alphabet	Cộng hoà Nhân dân Trung Hoa
Chữ Hán	共和人民中華
Thai name	
Thai	สาธารณรัฐประชาชนจีน
Zhuang name	
Zhuang	Cunghvaz Yinzminz Gunghozgoz
Mongolian name	
Mongolian script	ᠳᠤᠩᠳᠠᠳᠤ ᠶᠢᠨᠤᠮᠠᠨᠵᠢᠳᠤ ᠠᠷᠠᠳᠤ ᠤᠯᠤᠰ
Transcriptions [show]	
SASM/GNC	Büğüde nayiramdaqu dumdadu arad ulus
Uyghur name	
Uyghur	جوڭخۇا خەلق جۇمھۇرىيىتى

Mang Zoi Gyalkab, Tibetan: མང་པོ་རྒྱལ་ཁབ།, Wylie: *tha'e wan* – Official in PRC's Tibet


- **Tibetan:** རྒྱ་ནག་དམངས་གཙོའི་རྒྱལ་ཁབ།, Wylie: *rgya nag dmangs gtso'i rgyal khab* – Official in Tibet Government-in-Exile
- **Uyghur:** جۇڭخۇا مىنگو, romanized: *Jungxua Mingo* – Official in Xinjiang
- **Yi:** 𐯪𐯫𐯭𐯮 (Zho huop mip guop) – Official in Liangshan (Sichuan) and several Yi-designated autonomous counties
- **Zaiwa:** *Zhunghua Mindan* – Official in Dehong (Yunnan)
- **Zhuang:** *Cunghvaz Mingoz* (Old orthography: *Cunbvaꯁ Minꯂobꯀ*) – Official in Guangxi

Transcriptions

[\[show\]](#)

Latin Yëziqi	Jungxua Xelq Jumhuriyiti
Yengi Yezik	Junghua Həlḵ Jumhuriyiti
SASM/GNC	Junghua Hälk Jumhuriyiti
Siril Yëziqi	Жуңхуа Хэлᠵ Жумһурийити

Manchu name

Manchu script	
Romanization	Dulimbai niyalmairgen gunghe' gurun

The official name of the Republic of China in major neighboring countries official languages and scripts:

- **Japanese:** 中華民国 (ちゅうかみんこく; *Chūka Minkoku*) – Used in Japan
- **Korean:** 중화민국 (中華民國; *Junghwa Minguk*) – Used in Korea
- **Russian:** Китайская Республика (*Kitayskaya Respublika*) – Used in Russia and Central Asia
- **Hindi:** चीनी गणराज्य (*Cīna Gaṇrājya*) – Used in India
- **Urdu:** جمہوریہ چین (*Jumhūriyā Cīn*) – Used in Pakistan
- **Burmese:** တရုတ်သမ္မတနိုင်ငံ (*Tarotesammataninengan*) – Used in Myanmar
- **Vietnamese:** *Trung Hoa Dân Quốc* (中華民國), *Cộng hòa Trung Hoa* (共和中華), *Đài Loan* (臺灣), *Đài Bắc Trung Hoa* (臺北中華) – Used in Vietnam
- **Thai:** สหธารณรัฐจีน (*Satharanarat Chin*) – Used in Thailand
- **Khmer:** សាធារណរដ្ឋចិន – Used in Cambodia
- **Lao:** ສາທາລະນະລັດຈີນ (*Sathalanalat Chin*) – Used in Laos
- **Nepali:** गणतन्त्र चीन (*Gaṇatāntrika Cīna*) – Used in Nepal

Republic of China

中華民國
中华民国

"Republic of China" in Traditional (top) and Simplified (bottom) Chinese characters

Chinese name

Traditional Chinese	中華民國
Simplified Chinese	中华民国
Postal	Chunghwa Minkuo
Literal meaning	Central State People's Country

Names in non-Chinese records

Names used in the parts of Asia, especially East and Southeast Asia, are usually derived directly from words in one of the languages of China. Those languages belonging to a former dependency (tributary) or Chinese-influenced country have an especially similar pronunciation to that of Chinese. Those used

in Indo-European languages, however, have indirect names that came via other routes and may bear little resemblance to what is used in China.

Chin, China

English, most Indo-European languages, and many others use various forms of the name *China* and the prefix "Sino-" or "Sin-" from the Latin *Sina*.^{[66][67]} Europeans had knowledge of a country known in Greek as *Thina* or *Sina* from the early period;^[68] the *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea* from perhaps the first century AD recorded a country known as *Thin* (*θiv*).^[69] The English name for "China" itself is derived from Middle Persian (*Chīnī* چین). This modern word "China" was first used by Europeans starting with Portuguese explorers of the 16th century – it was first recorded in 1516 in the journal of the Portuguese explorer Duarte Barbosa.^{[70][71]} The journal was translated and published in England in 1555.^[72]

The traditional etymology, proposed in the 17th century by Martin Martini and supported by later scholars such as Paul Pelliot and Berthold Laufer, is that the word "China" and its related terms are ultimately derived from the polity known as Qin that unified China to form the Qin Dynasty (秦, Old Chinese: **dzin*) in the 3rd century BC, but existed as a state on the furthest west of China since the 9th century BC.^{[68][73][74]} This is still the most commonly held theory, although the etymology is still a matter of debate according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*,^[75] and many other suggestions have been mooted.^{[76][77]}

The existence of the word *Cīna* in ancient Indian texts was noted by the Sanskrit scholar Hermann Jacobi who pointed out its use in the Book 2 of *Arthashastra* with reference to silk and woven cloth produced by the country of *Cīna*, although textual analysis suggests that Book 2 may not have been written long before 150 AD.^[78] The word is also found in other Sanskrit texts such as the *Mahābhārata* and the *Laws of Manu*.^[79] The Indologist Patrick Olivelle argued that the word *Cīnā* may not have been known in India before the first century BC, nevertheless he agreed that it probably referred to Qin but thought that the word itself was derived from a Central Asian language.^[80] Some Chinese and Indian scholars argued for the state of Jing (荊, another name for Chu) as the likely origin of the name.^[77] Another suggestion, made by Geoff Wade, is that the *Cīnāh* in Sanskrit texts refers to an ancient kingdom centered in present-day Guizhou, called Yelang, in the south Tibeto-Burman highlands.^[79] The inhabitants referred to themselves as *Zina* according to Wade.^[81]

Transcriptions [show]	
Standard Mandarin	
Hanyu Pinyin	Zhōnghuá Mínguó
Bopomofo	ㄓㄨㄥ ㄏㄨㄚˊ ㄇㄧㄣˊ ㄍㄨㄛˊ ㄇㄛˊ ㄣˊ ㄍㄨㄛˊ
Gwoyeu	Jonghwa Min'gwo
Romatzyh	
Wade–Giles	Chung ¹ -hua ² Min ² -kuo ²
Tongyong Pinyin	Jhonghuá Mínguó
Yale	Jūnghwá Mín'gwó
Romanization	
MPS2	Jūnghuá Mínguó
IPA	[ʈʂʊŋ˥.xwǎ mǐn˥.kwǒ]
other Mandarin	
Xiao'erjing	جوْخُو ۋە فۇۋە
Wu	
Romanization	tson ^平 gho ^平 min ^平 koh 入
Gan	
Romanization	tung ¹ fa ⁴ min ⁴ koet ⁷ or Chungfa Minkoet
Hakka	
Romanization	dung ²⁴ fa ¹¹ min ¹¹ gued ²
Phák-fa-su	Chûng-fà Mìn-koet
Yue: Cantonese	
Yale	Jùng'wàh Mǎhn'gwok
Romanization	or Jūng'wàh Mǎhn'gwok
Jyutping	Zung1waa4 Man4gwok3
IPA	[tson̚˥.waː˥ mən̚˥.kʷɔː˥˥] or [tson̚˥.waː˥ mən̚˥.kʷɔː˥˥]
Southern Min	
Hokkien POJ	Tiong-hôa Bîn-kok
Tâi-lô	Tiong-huâ Bîn-kok
Eastern Min	
Fuzhou BUC	Dǝng-huâ Mǝng-guók

The term *China* can also be used to refer to:

- a modern state, indicating the People's Republic of China (PRC) or the Republic of China (ROC), where recognized;
- "Mainland China" (中國大陸/中国大陆, *Zhōngguó Dàlù* in Mandarin), which is the territory of the PRC minus the two special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau;
- "China proper", a term used to refer to the historical heartlands of China without peripheral areas like Manchuria, Inner Mongolia, Tibet, and Xinjiang

In economic contexts, "Greater China" (大中華地區/大中华地区, *dà Zhōnghuá dìqū*) is intended to be a neutral and non-political way to refer to Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

Sinologists usually use "Chinese" in a more restricted sense, akin to the classical usage of *Zhongguo*, to the Han ethnic group, which makes up the bulk of the population in China and of the overseas Chinese.

List of derived terms

- Afrikaans: *Sjina*, spelling now obsolete and spelled as *China* (pronunciation is the same) (pronounced [ˈʃina])
- Albanian: *Kinë* (pronounced [kinə])
- Amharic: *Chayna* (from English)
- Armenian: Չինաստան (pronounced [tʃinasˈtan])
- Assamese: চীন (pronounced [sin])
- Azeri: *Çin* (IPA: [tʃin])
- Basque: *Txina* (IPA: [tʃina])
- Bengali: চীন (pronounced [ˈtʃiːn])
- Burma: ဘရိတိ (pronounced [θˈjəʊt])
- Catalan: *Xina* ([ˈ(t)ʃi.nə])
- Chinese: 支那 *Zhīnà* (obsolete and considered offensive due to historical Japanese usage; originated from early Chinese translations of Buddhist texts in Sanskrit)
- Chinese: 震旦 *Zhèndàn* transcription of the Sanskrit/Pali "Cīnasthāna" in the Buddhist texts.
- Czech: *Čína* (pronounced [ˈtʃiːna])
- Danish: *Kina* (pronounced [ˈkʰiːnə])
- Dutch: *China* ([ʃiːnə])
- English: *China*
- Esperanto: *Ĉinujo* or *Ĉinio*, or *Ĥinujo* (archaic)
- Estonian: *Hiina* (pronounced [hiːnə])
- Filipino: *Tsina* ([tʃina])
- Finnish: *Kiina* (pronounced [ˈkiːnə])
- French: *Chine* ([ʃin])

Chinese Taipei	
Traditional Chinese	中華臺北 or 中華台北
Simplified Chinese	中华台北
Transcriptions [show]	
Standard Mandarin	
Hanyu Pinyin	Zhōnghuá Táiběi
Bopomofo	ㄓㄨㄥ ㄏㄨㄚˊ ㄊㄞˋ ㄅㄟˊ
Gwoyeu	Jonghwa Tairbeeí
Romatzyh	
Wade–Giles	Chung ¹ -hua ² T'ai ² -pei ³
Tongyong Pinyin	Jhonghuá Táiběi
Yale	Jūnghwá Táiběi
Romanization	
MPS2	Jūnghuá Táiběi
IPA	[ʈʂún̩.xwǎ̌ tʰǎi̯.pèi̯]
Hakka	
Phák-fa-su	Chûng-fà Thòi-pet
Yue: Cantonese	
Yale	Jùng'wàh Tòihbāk or
Romanization	Jūng'wàh Tòihbāk
Jyutping	Zung1waa4 Toi4bak1
IPA	[tson̩˥.waː˨ tʰoːi˨.pək̚˥] or [tson̩˥.waː˨ tʰoːi˨.pək̚˥]
Southern Min	
Hokkien POJ	Tiong-hôa Tâi-pak
Tâi-lô	Tiong-huâ Tâi-pak
Eastern Min	
Fuzhou BUC	Dǔng-huà Dài-báək
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu	
Traditional Chinese	臺澎金馬 個別關稅領域 or 台澎金馬 個別關稅領域

- Galician: *China* (pronounced [ˈtʃinə])
- Georgian: ჩინეთი (pronounced [tʃinethi])
- German: *China* ([ˈçiːna] and [ʃiːna], in the southern part of the German-speaking area also [ˈkiːna])
- Greek: Κίνα (*Kína*) ([ˈcina])
- Gujarati: *Cīn* ચીન (IPA [ˈtʃin])
- Hindustani: *Cīn* चीन or چین (IPA [ˈtʃiːn])
- Hungarian: *Kína* ([ˈkiːnɒ])
- Icelandic: *Kína* ([ˈchiːna])
- Indonesian: *Cina* ([tʃina])
- Interlingua: *China*
- Irish: *An tSín* ([ənˠ ˈtʲiːnʲ])
- Italian: *Cina* ([ˈtʃiːna])
- Japanese: *Shina* (支那) – considered offensive in China, now largely obsolete in Japan and avoided out of deference to China (the name *Chūgoku* [t͡ɕu͡ŋɡoku] is used instead); See Shina (word) and kotobagari.
- Javanese: ꦏꦶꦤꦺ *Cina* (low speech level); ꦏꦶꦤ꧀ꦠꦺꦤ꧀ *Cinten* (high speech level)
- Kapampangan: *Sina*
- Khmer: ចិន ([cən])
- Korean: *Jina* (지나; [t͡ɕinə])
- Latvian: *Kīna* ([ˈciːna])
- Lithuanian: *Kinja* ([kʲɪɲijaː])
- Macedonian: *Кина* (Kina) ([kine])
- Malay: *Cina* ([tʃina])
- Malayalam: *Cheenan/Cheenathi*
- Maltese: *Ċina* ([ˈtʃiːna])
- Marathi: *Cīn* चीन (IPA [ˈtʃiːn])
- Nepali: *Cīn* चीन (IPA [ˈtsin])
- Norwegian: *Kina* ([ˈçiːnɔ])
- Pahlavi: Čīnī
- Persian: *Chīn* چین ([tʃin])
- Polish: *Chiny* ([ˈçiɲi])
- Portuguese: *China* ([ˈʃinə], in southern Brazil also [ˈʃina])
- Romanian: *China* ([ˈkina])
- Serbo-Croatian: *Kina* or Кина ([ˈkina])
- Sinhala: *Chinaya* චීනය
- Slovak: *Čína* ([ˈtʃiːna])
- Spanish: *China* ([ˈtʃina])
- Somali: *Shiinaha*
- Swedish: *Kina* ([ˈkɛːna])

<u>Simplified Chinese</u>	台澎金马 个别关税领域
Transcriptions [show]	
Standard Mandarin	
<u>Hanyu Pinyin</u>	Tái-Péng-Jīn-Mǎ Gèbié Guānshuì Lǐngyù
<u>Bopomofo</u>	ㄊㄞˊ ㄆㄥˊ ㄐㄧㄣ ㄇㄚˇ ㄍㄝˋ ㄅㄧㄝˋ ㄍㄨㄢˋ ㄕㄨㄟˋ ㄌㄧㄥˇ ㄩˋ
<u>Gwoyeu</u>	Tair Perng Jin Maa
<u>Romatzyh</u>	Gehbye Guanshuey Liingyuh
<u>Wade–Giles</u>	T'ai² P'êng² Chin¹ Ma³ Ko⁴-pieh² Kuan¹-shui⁴ Ling³-yü⁴
<u>Tongyong Pinyin</u>	Tái Péng Jin Mǎ Gèbié Guanshuèi Lǐngyù
<u>Yale Romanization</u>	Tái Péng Jīn Mǎ Gèbyé Gwānshwèi Lǐngyù
<u>MPS2</u>	Tái Péng Jīn Mǎ Gèbié Guānshuèi Lǐngyù
<u>IPA</u>	[tʰǎi pʰəŋ tʂín mà] [kʰ.pjě kwán.ɕwêi lɪŋ.ỳ]
Southern Min	
<u>Hokkien POJ</u>	Tâi Phîⁿ (or Phêⁿ) Kim Bé Kò-piát Koan-sòe (or Koan-sè) Léng-hék (or Léng-èk)
<u>Tâi-lô</u>	Tâi Phînn (or Phênn) Kim Bé Kò-piát Kuan-suè (or Kuan-sè) Líng-hik (or Líng-ik)
Taiwan	
<u>Traditional Chinese</u>	臺灣 or 台灣
<u>Simplified Chinese</u>	台湾

- Tamil: *Cīnam* (சீனம்)
- Thai: ชิน (RTGS: *Chin* [t͡ɕiːn])
- Tibetan: *Rgya Nag* (རྒྱ་ནག)
- Turkish: *Çin* ([t͡ʃin])
- Vietnamese: *Chấn Đán* (震旦) ([t͡ʃən dǎn] or Chi Na (支那) ([ci na]) (in Buddhist texts).
- Welsh: *Tsieina* ([ˈtʃeina])
- Yiddish: *כינע* *Khine* ([ˈχɪnə])

Seres, Ser, Serica

Sēres (Σῆρες) was the Ancient Greek and Roman name for the northwestern part of China and its inhabitants. It meant "of silk," or "land where silk comes from." The name is thought to derive from the Chinese word for silk, *sī* (絲/丝; Middle Chinese *si*, Old Chinese **slu*, per Zhengzhang). It is itself at the origin of the Latin for silk, "*sērica*". See the main article Serica for more details.

- Ancient Greek: Σῆρες *Seres*, Σηρικός *Serikos*
- Latin: *Serica*
- Old Irish: *Seiria*, as seen in Dúan in chóicat cest^[82]

This may be a back formation from *sērikos* (σηρικός), "made of silk", from *sēr* (σήρ), "silkworm", in which case *Sēres* is "the land where silk comes from."

Sinae, Sin

Sīnae was an ancient Greek and Roman name for some people who dwelt south of the Seres (Serica) in the eastern extremity of the habitable world. References to the Sinae include mention of a city that the Romans called *Sēra Mētropolis*, which may be modern Chang'an. The Latin prefixes *Sino-* and *Sin-* as well as words such as *Sinica*, which are traditionally used to refer to China or the Chinese, came from *Sīnae*.^[83] It is generally thought that *Chīna*, *Sīna* and *Thīna* are variants that ultimately derived from Qin, which was the westernmost state in China that eventually formed the Qin Dynasty.^[69] There are however other opinions on its etymology (See section on China above). Henry Yule thought that this term may have come to Europe through the Arabs, who made the China of the farther east into *Sin*, and perhaps sometimes into *Thin*.^[84] Hence the *Thin* of the author of the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, who appears to be the first extant writer to employ the name in this form; hence also the Sinæ and Thinae of Ptolemy.^{[68][69]}

<u>Postal</u>	Taiwan
<u>Literal meaning</u>	Terraced Bay
<u>Transcriptions</u>	[show]
<u>Standard Mandarin</u>	
<u>Hanyu Pinyin</u>	Táiwān
<u>Bopomofo</u>	ㄊㄞˊ ㄨㄢˊ
<u>Gwoyue</u>	Tair'uan
<u>Romatzyh</u>	
<u>Wade–Giles</u>	T'ai²-wan¹
<u>Tongyong Pinyin</u>	Táiwān
<u>Yale</u>	Táiwān
<u>Romanization</u>	
<u>MPS2</u>	Táiwān
<u>IPA</u>	[tʰǎi.wán]
<u>other Mandarin</u>	
<u>Dungan</u>	Тэван
<u>Wu</u>	
<u>Romanization</u>	The ^平 -uae ^平 <div>[d̪e uɛ]</div>
<u>Xiang</u>	
<u>IPA</u>	dwɛ¹³ ua⁴⁴
<u>Hakka</u>	
<u>Phák-fa-sṳ</u>	Thòi-vàn or Thòi-vân
<u>Yue: Cantonese</u>	
<u>Yale</u>	Tòihwān
<u>Romanization</u>	
<u>Jyutping</u>	Toi4waan1
<u>IPA</u>	[tʰoːi̯.waːn]
<u>Southern Min</u>	
<u>Hokkien POJ</u>	Tâi-oân
<u>Tâi-lô</u>	Tâi-uân
<u>Eastern Min</u>	
<u>Fuzhou BUC</u>	Dài-uǎng
<u>Portuguese: (Ilha) Formosa</u>	
<u>Traditional Chinese</u>	福爾摩沙
<u>Simplified Chinese</u>	福尔摩沙
<u>Literal meaning</u>	beautiful island

Some denied that Ptolemy's Sinae really represented the Chinese as Ptolemy called the country *Sērice* and the capital *Sēra*, but regarded them as distinct from *Sīnae*.^{[69][85]} Marcian of Heraclea (a condenser of Ptolemy) tells us that the "nations of the Sinae lie at the extremity of the habitable world, and adjoin the eastern Terra incognita". The 6th century Cosmas Indicopleustes refers to a "country of silk" called *Tzinista*, which is understood as referring to China, beyond which "there is neither navigation nor any land to inhabit".^[86] It seems probable that the same region is meant by both. According to Henry Yule, Ptolemy's misrendering of the Indian Sea as a closed basin meant that Ptolemy must also have misplaced the Chinese coast, leading to the misconception of Serica and Sina as separate countries.^[84]

In the Hebrew Bible, there is a mention of a faraway country Sinim in the Book of Isaiah 49:12 which some had assumed to be a reference to China.^{[69][87]} In Genesis 10:17, a tribes called the Sinites were said to be the descendants of Canaan, the son of Ham, but they are usually considered to be a different people, probably from the northern part of Lebanon.^{[88][89]}

- Arabic: *Ṣīn* صين
- French/English (prefix of adjectives): *Sino-* (i.e. Sino-American), *Sinitic* (the Chinese language family).
- Hebrew: *Sin* סין
- Irish: *An tSín*
- Latin: *Sīnae*
- Scottish Gaelic: *Sìona*

Cathay or Kitay

This group of names derives from Khitan, an ethnic group that originated in Manchuria and conquered parts of Northern China early tenth century forming the Liao dynasty, and later in the twelfth century dominated Central Asia as the Kara Khitan Khanate. Due to long period of domination of Northern China and then Central Asia by these nomadic conquerors, the name Khitan become associated with China to the people in and around the northwestern region. Muslim historians referred to the Kara Khitan state as *Khitay* or *Khitai*; they may have adopted this form of "Khitan" via the Uyghurs of Kocho in whose language the final -n or -ń became -y.^[90] The name was then introduced to medieval and early modern Europe through Islamic and Russian sources.^[91] In English and in several other European languages, the name "Cathay" was used in the translations of the adventures of Marco Polo, which used this word for northern China. Words related to Khitay are still used

Transcriptions [show]	
Standard Mandarin	
<u>Hanyu Pinyin</u>	Fú'ěrmóshā
<u>Bopomofo</u>	ㄈㄨˊ ㄦˇ ㄇㄛˋ ㄕㄚˊ
<u>Gwoyeu</u>	Fwueelmosha
<u>Romatzyh</u>	
<u>Wade–Giles</u>	Fu²-êrh³-mo²-sha¹
<u>Tongyong Pinyin</u>	Fú'ěrmósha
<u>Yale</u>	Fúěrmwóshā
Romanization	
<u>MPS2</u>	Fúěrmóshā
<u>IPA</u>	[fǔ.àə.mwǒ.ʂá]
Yue: Cantonese	
<u>Jyutping</u>	Fuk1ji5mo1saa1
Southern Min	
<u>Hokkien POJ</u>	Hok-ní-mô-sa
Republic of Taiwan	
<u>Traditional Chinese</u>	臺灣民國 or 台灣民國
<u>Simplified Chinese</u>	台湾民国
<u>Postal</u>	Taiwan Minkuo

in many Turkic and Slavic languages to refer to China. However, its use by Turkic speakers within China, such as the Uyghurs, is considered pejorative by the Chinese authority who tried to ban it.^[91]

- Belarusian: Кітай (*Kitay*, [kiʲˈtaj])
- Bulgarian: Китай (*Kitay*, IPA: [kiˈtaj])
- Buryat: Хитад (*Khitad*)
- Classical Mongolian: *Kitad*^[92]
- English: *Cathay*
- French: *Cathay*
- Kazakh: Қытай (*Qıtay*; [qəɫaj])
- Kazan Tatar: Кытай (*Qıtay*)
- Kyrgyz: Кытай (*Kitaj*; [qɯˈtaj])
- Medieval Latin: *Cataya*, *Kitai*
- Mongolian: Хятад (*Khyatad*) (the name for China used in the State of Mongolia)
- Polish: *Kitaj* ([ˈki.ɫaj]; now archaic)
- Portuguese: *Catai* ([kɐˈtaj])
- Russian: Китай (*Kitay*, IPA: [kiɪˈtaj])
- Serbo-Croatian: Kitaj or Китај (now archaic; from Russian)
- Slovene: *Kitajska* ([kiːˈtajska])
- Spanish: *Catay*
- Tajik: Хитой ("Khitoy")
- Turkmen: Нытай ("Хытай")
- Ukrainian: Китай (*Kytai*)
- Uyghur: خىتاي, romanized: *Xitay*
- Uzbek: *Xitoy* (Хитой)

There is no evidence that either in the 13th or 14th century, Cathayans, *i.e.* Chinese, travelled officially to Europe, but it is possible that some did, in unofficial capacities, at least in the 13th century. During the campaigns of Hulagu (the grandson of Genghis Khan) in Persia (1256–65), and the reigns of his successors, Chinese engineers were employed on the banks of the Tigris, and Chinese astrologers and physicians could be consulted. Many diplomatic communications passed between the Hulaguid Ilkhans and Christian princes. The former, as the great khan's liegemen, still received from him their seals of state; and two of their letters which survive in the archives of France exhibit the vermilion impressions of those seals in Chinese characters—perhaps affording the earliest specimen of those characters to reach western Europe.

Tabgach

Transcriptions [show]	
Standard Mandarin	
<u>Hanyu Pinyin</u>	Táiwān Mínguó
<u>Bopomofo</u>	ㄊㄞˊ ㄋㄞˊ ㄎㄨㄛˊ ㄎㄨㄛˊ ㄇㄛˊ ㄎㄨㄛˊ ㄍㄨㄛˊ
<u>Gwoyeu</u>	Tair'uan Min'gwo
<u>Romatzyh</u>	
<u>Wade–Giles</u>	T'ai²-wan¹ Min²-kuo²
<u>Tongyong Pinyin</u>	Táiwān Mínguó
<u>Yale Romanization</u>	Táiwān Mín'gwó
<u>MPS2</u>	Táiwān Mínguó
Hakka	
<u>Phák-fa-sṳ̂</u>	Thòi-vàn Mìn-koet or Thòi-vân Mìn-koet
Southern Min	
<u>Hokkien POJ</u>	Tâi-oân Bîn-kok
<u>Tâi-lô</u>	Tâi-uân Bîn-kok
Tibetan name	
<u>Tibetan</u>	ཁྱང་ལྷ་དམངས་གཙོ་རྒྱལ་ ཁམ་ཁམ་ཁམ་ཁམ་ 'ཁྱལ་ཁབ
Transcriptions [show]	
<u>Wylie</u>	krung hwa dmangs gtso'i rgyal khab
Vietnamese name	
<u>Vietnamese alphabet</u>	Trung Hoa Dân Quốc
<u>Chữ Hán</u>	中華民國
Zhuang name	
<u>Zhuang</u>	Cunghvaz Minzgoz
Korean name	
<u>Hangul</u>	중화민국
<u>Hanja</u>	中華民國
Transcriptions [show]	
<u>Revised</u>	Junghwa
<u>Romanization</u>	Minguk

The word *Tabgach* came from the metatheses of *Tuoba* (**t'akbat*), a dominant tribe of the Xianbei and the surname of the Northern Wei emperors in the 5th century before sinicisation. It referred to Northern China, which was dominated by part-Xianbei, part-Han people.

- Byzantine Greek: *Taugats*
- Orhon Kok-Turk: *Tabgach* (variations *Tamgach*)

Nikan

Nikan (Manchu: ᡩᠠᡳᠨᠠᡳᠨ, means "Han/China") was a Manchu ethnonym of unknown origin that referred specifically to the ethnic group known in English as the Han Chinese; the stem of this word was also conjugated as a verb, *nikara(-mbi)*, and used to mean "to speak the Chinese language." Since *Nikan* was essentially an ethnonym and referred to a group of people (i.e., a nation) rather than to a political body (i.e., a state), the correct translation of "China (proper)" into the Manchu language is *Nikan gurun*, literally the "Nikan state" or "country of the Nikans" (i.e., country of the Hans).

This exonym for the Han Chinese is also used in the Daur language, in which it appears as *Niaken* ([njakən] or [ɲakən]).^[93] As in the case of the Manchu language, the Daur word *Niaken* is essentially an ethnonym, and the proper way to refer to the country of the Han Chinese (i.e., "China" in a cultural sense) is *Niaken gurun*, while *niakendaaci-* is a verb meaning "to talk in Chinese."

Kara

Japanese: *Kara* (から; variously written in kanji as 唐 or 漢). An identical name was used by the ancient and medieval Japanese to refer to the country that is now known as Korea, and many Japanese historians and linguists believe that the word "Kara" referring to China and/or Korea may have derived from a metonymic extension of the appellation of the ancient city-states of Gaya.

The Japanese word *karate* (空手, lit. "empty hand") is derived from the Okinawan word *karatii* (唐手, lit. "Chinese/Asian/foreign hand/trick/means/method/style") and refers to Okinawan martial arts; the character for *kara* was changed to remove the connotation of the style originating in China.

Morokoshi

Mongolian name	
<u>Mongolian Cyrillic</u>	Дундад иргэн улс
<u>Mongolian script</u>	ᠳᠤᠩᠳᠠᠳ ᠶᠢᠷᠭᠢᠨ ᠤᠯᠤᠰ
Transcriptions	[show]
<u>SASM/GNC</u>	Dumdadu irgen ulus
Japanese name	
<u>Kanji</u>	中華民國
<u>Kana</u>	ちゅうかみんこく
Transcriptions	[show]
<u>Romanization</u>	Chūka Minkoku
Uyghur name	
<u>Uyghur</u>	جۇڭخۇا مىنگو
Transcriptions	[show]
<u>Latin Yëziqi</u>	Jungxua Mingo
<u>Yengi Yezik</u>	Junghua Mingo
<u>Siril Yëziqi</u>	Жуңхуа Минго
Manchu name	
<u>Manchu script</u>	ᡩᠠᡳᠨᠠᡳᠨ ᡤᡠᡵᡠᠨ
<u>Romanization</u>	Dulimbai irgen' Gurun



China (referring to today's Guangdong), *Mangi* (inland of Xanton (Shandong)), and *Cataio* (located inland of *China* and *Chequan* (Zhejiang), and including the capital Cambalu, Xandu, and a marble bridge) are all shown as separate regions on this 1570 map by Abraham Ortelius

Japanese: *Morokoshi* (もろこし; variously written in kanji as 唐 or 唐土). This obsolete Japanese name for China is believed to have derived from a *kun* reading of the Chinese compound 諸越 *Zhūyuè* or 百越 *Ba`iyuè* as "all the Yue" or "the hundred (i.e., myriad, various, or numerous) Yue," which was an ancient Chinese name for the societies of the regions that are now southern China.

The Japanese common noun *tōmorokoshi* (トウモロコシ, 玉蜀黍), which refers to maize, appears to contain an element cognate with the proper noun formerly used in reference to China. Although *tōmorokoshi* is traditionally written with Chinese characters that literally mean "jade Shu millet," the etymology of the Japanese word appears to go back to "Tang morokoshi," in which "morokoshi" was the obsolete Japanese name for China as well as the Japanese word for sorghum, which seems to have been introduced into Japan from China.

Mangi

From Chinese *Manzi* (southern barbarians). The division of North China and South China under the Jin dynasty and Song dynasty weakened the idea of a unified China, and it was common for non-Han peoples to refer to the politically disparate North and South by different names for some time. While Northern China was called *Cathay*, Southern China was referred to as *Mangi*. *Manzi* often appears in documents of the Mongol-led Yuan dynasty as a disparaging term for Southern China. The Mongols also called Southern Chinese *Nangkiyas* or *Nangkiyad*, and considered them ethnically distinct from North Chinese. The word *Manzi* reached the Western world as *Mangi* (as used by Marco Polo), which is a name commonly found on medieval maps. Note however that the Chinese themselves considered *Manzi* to be derogatory and never used it as a self-appellation.^{[94][95]} Some early scholars believed *Mangi* to be a corruption of the Persian *Machin* (ماچین) and Arabic *Māṣīn* (ماصين), which may be a mistake as these two forms are derived from the Sanskrit *Maha Chin* meaning Great China.^[96]

- Chinese: *Manzi* (蠻子)
- Latin: *Mangi*

See also

- Little China (ideology)
- Chinese romanization
- List of country name etymologies
- Names of the Qing dynasty



Barbuda's 1584 map, also published by Ortelius, already applies the name *China* to the entire country. However, for another century many European maps continued to show *Cathay* as well, usually somewhere north of the Great Wall

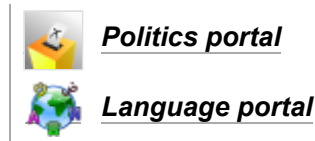


A mid-15th century map based on Ptolemy's manuscript *Geography*. Serica and Sina are marked as separate countries (top right and right respectively).



1837 map of Mongol Empire, showing **Mangi** in southern China

- Names of India
- Names of Japan
- Names of Korea
- Names of Vietnam
- Île-de-France, similar French concept



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