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How religion and culture intersect in China

China is a massive country with a population of about 1.3 billion people. Geographical and ethnic differences influence the people's habits and traditions. Additionally, China has about 56 ethnic minority groupings. With 900 million people, the Han Chinese are the largest ethnic group. Tibetans, Mongols, Manchus, Naxi, and the Hezhen, the smallest tribe with fewer than 2000 individuals, are among the other ethnic groups. The Chinese language is divided into seven primary dialect groupings, each with its unique set of variations. 71.5 percent of the population speaks Mandarin dialects, followed by Wu, Yue, Xiang, Min, Hakka, and Gan. Furthermore, during the ancient times, the Chinese view people who live outside of China civilization were Barbarians. They believed that their country was the center of the world and anybody outside of that were outsiders and weren’t civilized. From earliest time in China culture, groups seemed more important than an individual. Importantly, a person chief loyalty throughout life was to their families or dynasty. In the Chinese culture, the most important thing is respect for one’s parent. Thus, making family central to Chinese society.

China became communist as time passed. The Chinese Communist Party, which currently governs the country, is officially atheist, however it is rapidly becoming more religiously tolerant. Even though the Chinese constitution guarantees religious freedom, any religion other than Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism, and Protestantism is outlawed (Albert, Maizland, & Xu 2021). The progressive acceptance of religion has only recently begun to gain traction. Despite the government's attempts and success in recognizing different religions, companys such as H&M, GAP, NIKE, and other well-known retailers in China, as well as well-known athletes, one of which is Mesut Ozil (my favorite football player), have condemned China's alleged treatment of the Uighurs.

Uighurs are a Turkic-speaking Muslim minority in China who live primarily in Xinjiang, a sensitive border province., “Muhammad was among dozens of survivors of Chinese detention and re-education camps spoke at the first and second round of hearings… to bring attention to the treatment of Uyghurs in China.” (Bhuiyan 2021). After criticizing alleged Chinese harassment of the country's Uighur minority in the northwest region of Xinjiang, companies and well-known athletes have received backlash from consumers and Chinese fans. The US and human rights organizations claim that China has committed genocide and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang based on witness reports and satellite data. Because the Uighur follow Islamic traditions and practices, they have been subjected to forced labor, sterilization, and other forms of violence that have been compared to Nazi Germany.

History is repeating itself and I don’t like how China is treating the Uighur minority. In my culture, is believed that people deserved to live in a world with respect and dignity. But firstly people deserve to live. We shouldn’t judge people by their religion, Skin color or Nationality. Actually we shouldn’t judge other people at all because in my religion, only God can judge us. I pray to God to give the Uighurs strength .As we are all one people.

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