The Rise of the Manchus

(1) The Question of the Manchus

(2) The Jurchens in Chinese History

(3) Nurhaci, Vassal of the Ming

(4) The People of Manjusri

(5) The Banners
Party members in Tibet and Xinjiang are facing accusations of disloyalty

Simon Denyer Beijing
Washington Post

China has mounted an extraordinary set of attacks against Communist party members in the troubled western regions of Xinjiang and Tibet, with accusations of disloyalty, secret participation in religious activity, sympathy with the Dalai Lama and even support for terrorism.

The accusations reflect a hardening of the party’s stance in Buddhist Tibet and Muslim-majority Xinjiang, experts said, as well as President Xi Jinping’s determination to push for ideological purity within the party nationwide, quashing debate and dissent. But critics say they also reflect the fact that the party’s hardline approach towards crushing “the three evils of separatism, terrorism and religious extremism” in both regions has not only alienated many ordinary ethnic Tibetan and Uighur people but has also provoked significant disquiet in its own ranks.

Some party officials openly criticise policies handed down from above, complained Xu Haidong, secretary of Xinjiang’s Commission for Discipline Inspection, making the unusual admission in a commentary published last month.

“Some waver on clear-cut issues of opposing ethnic division and safeguarding ethnic and national unity, and even support participating in violent terrorist attacks,” Xu wrote in his agency’s official newspaper.

“This does not mean the cadres participated in attacks,” said Nicholas Bequelin, East Asia director for Amnesty International, “but rather is the equivalent of local officials saying: “The central authorities are sending leaders who are so ham-fisted they have driven people to the edge and understandably they have started blowing up things.”

With Xi taking the lead in formulating policy toward Xinjiang, “everybody has to march to the same drumbeat,” Bequelin said.

An article published last Friday on China Tibet Online, a party website, said that 355 party members had been punished in Xinjiang last year for violating “political discipline.”

The article said that one who had joined a social media chat group titled “Uighur Muslim” that was meant to undermine ethnic unity, while another had reposted an interview given by the prominent Uighur intellectual Ilham Tohti, who was sentenced last year to life in prison on charges of advocating separatism.

Written by Zhao Zhao, the article said that some officials blame social problems on ethnic discrimination, thereby inciting ethnic hatred. “There is also a lack of faith in Marxism. Some grassroots party members even participate in religious activities,” he wrote, adding that this would never be allowed.

The imprisonment of Tohti, a moderate economist whose work had detailed the problems Uighurs face, sent a strong signal to academics and party officials alike that the debate about discrimination had been closed, Bequelin said. The party now vehemently asserts that Uighur terrorism is directed by Islamist militants based abroad and is increasingly rooted in extremist ideas picked up on the internet.
China cracks down on restive areas

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Huseyin Celil, Uyghur Canadian kidnapped March 2006
Mongols against the Jurchens (Jin)
Land beyond the Great Wall
Nurhaci, d. 1626
Nurhaci, d. 1626

Hong Taiji, d. 1643
Matchang
Matchang’s victim
Original four banners
Original four banners

Four bordered banners added 1615
The three “upper banners” under emperor’s control
Some banner leaders

Oboi (Ebai)

Dorgon

Hong Taiji