

List of ethnic groups in China and Taiwan

Multiple ethnic groups populate China, where "China" is taken to mean areas controlled by either of the two states using "China" in their formal names, the People's Republic of China (China) and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

The Chinese people refers to the Han漢 people which is often misunderstood as Han Chinese, are the largest ethnic group, where (as of 2010) some 91.51%^[1] of the population was classified as Han (~1.2 billion). Han is the name the Chinese have used for themselves since the Han Dynasty BC 202, whereas the name "Chinese" (used in the West) is of uncertain origin, but possibly derives ultimately from Sanskrit Cina-s "the Chinese," perhaps from the Qin dynasty. Besides the Chinese majority, 55 other ethnic groups are categorized in present China by the PRC communist, numbering approximately 105 million people, mostly concentrated in the bordering northwest, north, northeast, south, and southwest but with some in central interior areas.

The major minority ethnic groups in China are Zhuang (16.9 million), Hui (10.5 million), Manchu (10.3 million), Uyghur (10 million), Miao (9.4 million), Yi (8.7 million), Tujia (8.3 million), Tibetan (6.2 million), Mongol (5.9 million), Dong (2.8 million), Buyei (2.8 million), Yao (2.7 million), Bai (1.9 million), Korean (1.8 million), Hani (1.6 million), Li (1.4 million), Kazakh (1.4 million), and Dai (1.2 million).^[2]

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Here are the 56 ethnic groups (listed by population) officially recognized by the People's Republic of China (39 in 1954; 54 by 1964; with the addition of the Jino people in 1979).^[3]

English Name	Standard Romanization	Code ^A	Mandarin Pinyin	Simplified Chinese	2010 National Shares	2010 Population ^B	2000 Population ^B	1990 Population ^B	Year of recognition ^C
<u>Han Chinese</u> ¹	Han	HA	Hàn Zú	汉族	91.6474%	1,220,844,520	1,139,773,008	1,042,482,187	1954
<u>Zhuang</u>	Zhuang	ZH	Zhuàng Zú	壮族	1.2700%	16,926,381	16,187,163	15,489,630	1954
<u>Hui</u> ²	Hui	HU	Huí Zú	回族	0.7943%	10,586,087	9,828,126	8,602,978	1954
<u>Manchu</u>	Man	MA	Mǎn Zú	满族	0.7794%	10,387,958	10,708,464	9,821,180	1954
<u>Uyghur</u>	Uyghur	UG	Wéiwú'ěr Zú	维吾尔族	0.7555%	10,069,346	8,405,416	7,214,431	1954
<u>Miao / Hmong</u> ³	Miao	MH	Miáo Zú	苗族	0.7072%	9,426,007	8,945,538	7,398,035	1954
<u>Yi</u>	Yi	YI	Yí Zú	彝族	0.6538%	8,714,393	7,765,858	6,572,173	1954
<u>Tujia</u>	Tujia	TJ	Tǔjiā Zú	土家族	0.6268%	8,353,912	8,037,014	5,704,223	1964
<u>Tibetan</u> ⁴	Zang	ZA	Zàng Zú	藏族	0.4713%	6,282,187	5,422,954	4,593,330	1954
<u>Mongol</u>	Mongol	MG	Měnggǔ Zú	蒙古族	0.4488%	5,981,840	5,827,808	4,806,849	1954
<u>Dong</u> ⁵	Dong	DO	Dòng Zú	侗族	0.2161%	2,879,974	2,962,911	2,514,014	1954
<u>Bouyei</u>	Bouyei	BY	Bùyī Zú	布依族	0.2153%	2,870,034	2,973,217	2,545,059	1954
<u>Yao</u>	Yao	YA	Yáo Zú	瑶族	0.2098%	2,796,003	2,638,878	2,134,013	1954
<u>Bai</u>	Bai	BA	Bái Zú	白族	0.1451%	1,933,510	1,861,895	1,594,827	1954
<u>Korean</u>	Chosen	CS	Cháoxiǎn Zú	朝鲜族	0.1374%	1,830,929	1,929,696	1,920,597	1954
<u>Hani</u> ⁶	Hani	HN	Hāní Zú	哈尼族	0.1246%	1,660,932	1,440,029	1,253,952	1954
<u>Li</u>	Li	LI	Lí Zú	黎族	0.1098%	1,463,064	1,248,022	1,110,900	1954
<u>Kazakh</u>	Kazak	KZ	Hāsàkè Zú	哈萨克族	0.1097%	1,462,588	1,251,023	1,111,718	1954
<u>Dai</u> ⁷	Dai	DA	Dǎi Zú	傣族	0.0946%	1,261,311	1,159,231	1,025,128	1954
<u>She</u>	She	SH	Shē Zú	畲族	0.0532%	708,651	710,039	630,378	1964
<u>Lisu</u>	Lisu	LS	Lisù Zú	傈僳族	0.0527%	702,839	635,101	574,856	1954
<u>Dongxiang</u>	Dongxiang	DX	Dōngxiāng Zú	东乡族	0.0466%	621,500	513,826	373,872	1954
<u>Gelao</u>	Gelao	GL	Gēlǎo Zú	仡佬族	0.0413%	550,746	579,744	437,997	1964
<u>Lahu</u>	Lahu	LH	Lāhù Zú	拉祜族	0.0365%	485,966	453,765	411,476	1954
<u>Wa</u>	Wa	WA	Wǎ Zú	佯族	0.0322%	429,709	396,709	351,974	1954
<u>Sui</u>	Sui	SU	Shuǐ Zú	水族	0.0309%	411,847	407,000	345,993	1954
<u>Nakhi</u> ⁸	Naxi	NX	Nàxī Zú	纳西族	0.0245%	326,295	309,477	278,009	1954
<u>Qiang</u>	Qiang	QI	Qiāng Zú	羌族	0.0232%	309,576	306,476	198,252	1954
<u>Tu</u>	Tu	TU	Tǔ Zú	土族	0.0217%	289,565	241,593	191,624	1954
<u>Mulao</u> ⁹	Mulao	ML	Mùlǎo Zú	仡佬族	0.0162%	216,257	207,464	159,328	1964
<u>Xibe</u>	Xibe	XB	Xībó Zú	锡伯族	0.0143%	190,481	189,357	172,847	1954
<u>Kyrgyz</u>	Kirgiz	KG	Kē'èrkèzī Zú	柯尔克孜族	0.0140%	186,708	160,875	141,549	1954
<u>Jingpo</u> ¹⁰	Jingpo	JP	Jǐngpō Zú	景颇族	0.0111%	147,828	132,158	119,209	1954
<u>Daur</u>	Daur	DU	Dáwù'èr Zú	达斡尔族	0.0099%	131,992	132,747	121,357	1964
<u>Salar</u>	Salar	SL	Sālā Zú	撒拉族	0.0098%	130,607	104,521	87,697	1954
<u>Blang</u>	Blang	BL	Bùlǎng Zú	布朗族	0.0090%	119,639	91,891	82,280	1964
<u>Maonan</u> ¹¹	Maonan	MN	Máonán Zú	毛南族	0.0076%	101,192	107,184	71,968	1964
<u>Tajik</u> ¹²	Tajik	TA	Tǎjìkè Zú	塔吉克族	0.0038%	51,069	41,056	33,538	1954
<u>Pumi</u>	Pumi	PM	Pǔmǐ Zú	普米族	0.0032%	42,861	33,628	29,657	1964

<u>Achang</u>	Achang	AC	Āchāng Zú	阿昌族	0.0030%	39,555	33,954	27,708	1964
<u>Nu</u>	Nu	NU	Nù Zú	怒族	0.0028%	37,523	28,770	27,123	1964
<u>Evenki</u>	Ewenki	EW	Èwēnkè Zú	鄂温克族	0.0023%	30,875	30,545	26,315	1954
<u>Gin</u> ¹³	Gin	GI	Jīng Zú	京族	0.0021%	28,199	22,584	18,915	1964
<u>Jino</u>	Jino	JN	Jīnuò Zú	基诺族	0.0017%	23,143	20,899	18,021	1979
<u>De'ang</u> ¹⁴	Deang	DE	Dé'áng Zú	德昂族	0.0015%	20,556	17,935	15,462	1964
<u>Bonan</u>	Bonan	BO	Bǎo'àn Zú	保安族	0.0015%	20,074	16,505	12,212	1954
<u>Russian</u>	Russ	RS	Éluósī Zú	俄罗斯族	0.0012%	15,393	15,631	13,504	1954
<u>Yugur</u>	Yugur	YG	Yùgù Zú	裕固族	0.0011%	14,378	13,747	12,297	1954
<u>Uzbek</u>	Uzbek	UZ	Wūzībiékè Zú	乌孜别克族	0.0008%	10,569	12,423	14,502	1954
<u>Monba</u>	Monba	MB	Ménbā Zú	门巴族	0.0008%	10,561	8,928	7,475	1964
<u>Oroqen</u>	Oroqen	OR	Èlúnchūn Zú	鄂伦春族	0.0006%	8,659	8,216	6,965	1954
<u>Derung</u>	Derung	DR	Dúlóng Zú	独龙族	0.0005%	6,930	7,431	5,816	1964
<u>Hezhen</u> ¹⁵	Hezhen	HZ	Hèzhé Zú	赫哲族	0.0004%	5,354	4,664	4,245	1964
<u>Gaoshan</u> ¹⁶	Gaoshan	GS	Gāoshān Zú	高山族	0.0003%	4,009	4,488	2,909	1954
<u>Lhoba</u>	Lhoba	LB	Luòbā Zú	珞巴族	0.0003%	3,682	2,970	2,312	1965
<u>Tatars</u>	Tatar	TT	Tǎtǎ'ěr Zú	塔塔尔族	0.0003%	3,556	4,895	4,873	1954
<u>Undistinguished</u>	—	<i>none</i>	Wèi Shìbié Míngzú	未识别民族	0.0480%	640,101	734,438	749,341	-
<u>Naturalized Citizen</u>	—	<i>none</i>	Wàiguórén Jiārù Zhōngguójí	外国人加入中国籍	0.0001%	1,448	941	3,421	-

^AGB 3304 – 91 "Names of nationalities of China in romanization with codes"^[4]

^BThe population only includes China and the Republic of China (Taiwan);

^CFor ethnic groups officially recognised in 1964 or earlier, this is the year of first inclusion in the national census, which were in 1954^[5] and 1964.^[6]

¹Also included are the Chuanqing;

²Also includes Utsuls of Hainan, descended from Cham refugees;

³A subset of which is also known as Hmong;

⁴including Amdowa and Khampa, as well as roughly half of Pumi speakers, the remainder of whom are classified as a separate Pumi ethnicity;

⁵Also known as Kam;

⁶Also included are the Sangkong;

⁷This category includes several different Tai-speaking groups historically referred to as Bai-yi;

⁸Also included are the Mosuo;

⁹Also included are the 木佬人 (Qago);

¹⁰Known as Kachin in Myanmar;

¹¹Also included are the Then;

¹²Actually not Tajik people but Pamiri people;

¹³The same group as Vietnamese or Kinh people in Sino-Vietnamese;

¹⁴Known as Palaung in Myanmar;

¹⁵The same group as Nanai on the Russian side of the border;

¹⁶A collective name for all Taiwanese aborigine groups in Taiwan.

Taiwanese aborigines

The People's Republic of China government officially refers to all Taiwanese aborigines (Chinese: 原住民族 pinyin: *Yuánzhùmínzú*), as Gaoshan (Chinese: 高山族; pinyin: *Gāoshānzú*), whereas the Republic of China (Taiwan) recognizes 16 groups of Taiwanese aborigines. The term Gaoshan has a different connotation in Taiwan than it does in mainland China. While several thousands of these aborigines have migrated to Fujian province in mainland China, most remain in Taiwan.^[7] Due to the contested political status and legal status of Taiwan, the PRC classification of Taiwanese aborigines may be controversial.

Taiwanese Han "blood nationalists" have in the past claimed that they have Plains Aboriginal (Chinese: 平埔族; pinyin: *Píngpǔzú*), ancestry in order to promote Taiwan independence claiming an identity different from that of mainland Chinese. However, genetic tests showed differences between them and plains aborigines, and given that they usually were recent migrants, their claims were rejected by descendants of Taiwanese Plains Aboriginals.^[8]

"Undistinguished" ethnic minority groups

This is a list of ethnic groups in China that are not officially recognized by the government of the People's Republic of China



Part of a poster in Beijing showing the 56 ethnic groups of China

- Änyu people(艾努人, Aǐnǚ Rén)
- Gejia (佤家人, Gèjiā Rén)
- Bajia (八甲人, Bājiǎ Rén)
- Deng (僮人, Dèng Rén)
- Hu (户人)
- Khmu (克木人, Kè mù Rén)
- Kucong (Yellow Lahu/Lahu Shi 佯僳人; Traditional: 苦聰人; Kǔcōng Rén)
- Mang (芒人, Máng Rén)
- Sherpas (夏尔巴人; Traditional: 夏爾巴人; Xià'ěrbā Rén)
- Tankas (箐家人; Traditional: 蠻家人; Dànjiā Rén) including Fuzhou Tankas
- Tebbu people(迭部人, Diébù Rén)
- Tuvans (图瓦人, Túwǎ Rén)
- Waxiang (瓦乡人, Wǎxiāng Rén)
- Yi (羿人, Yìrén)
- Jews (犹太; Traditional: 猶太; Yóutài) (Jewish people of China and Jewish people in general)
- Yamatos (大和民族) and Ryukyuans (琉球民族) living as permanent residents in Taiwan and North East China
- Macanese (土生葡人, mixed race Catholic Portuguese speakers who lived in Macau since 16th century of various ethnic origins)
- Utsuls (回辉人, Huíhuī rén), descendants of Cham Muslims who fled Vietnamese invasions of Champa

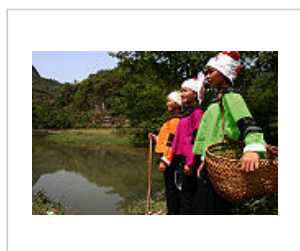
During the Fifth National Population Census of the People's Republic of China (2000), 734,438 persons in the Chinese mainland, 97% of them in Guizhou, were specifically recorded as belonging to "Undistinguished ethnic groups".^[9] Presumably, other members of such groups may have been counted within larger "recognized" groups.

The various Han Chinese subgroups such as Hakka people and Cantonese people are all considered just Han by the PRC government.

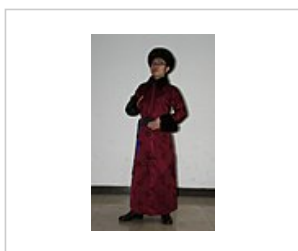
Ethnic groups in Hong Kong and Macau

Hong Kong and Macau are special administrative regions of the People's Republic of China. The governments of Hong Kong and Macau do not use the official PRC ethnic classification system, nor does the PRC's official classification system take ethnic groups in Hong Kong and Macau into account. As a result, minority groups such as Europeans (mainly English), and South or South East Asians (mainly Filipinos, Indian, Indonesians, Nepalese and Pakistani) live in Hong Kong.

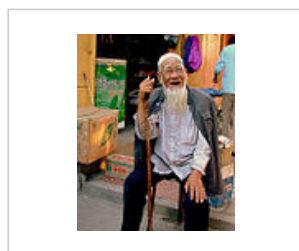
Gallery



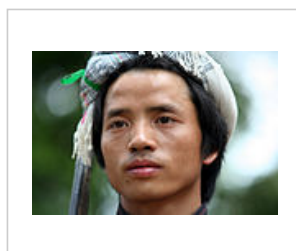
Zhuang



Manchu



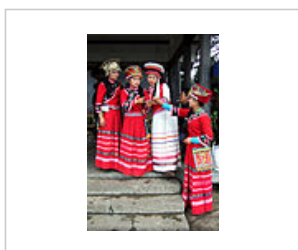
Hui



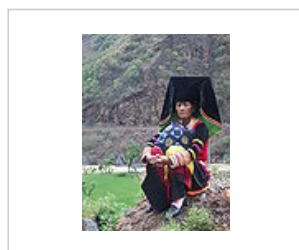
Miao



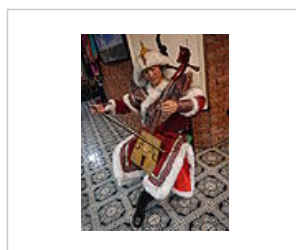
Uyghurs



Tujia



Yi



Mongols

See also

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6. [Second National Population Census of the People's Republic of China](#)
7. http://www.gov.cn/guoqing/2015-07/24/content_2902200.htm
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9. 第五次人口普查数据(2000年). 表1—6. 省、自治区、直辖市分性别、民族的人口(<http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/ndsj/renkoupucha/2000pucha/html/t0106.htm>) (Fifth National Population Census of the People's Republic of China(2000). Table 1-6: Population of provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities by ethnicity)(in Chinese)

External links

- "Chinese ethnic odyssey"- collection of articles from the *People's Daily*
- [Family album of Chinese 56 ethnic groups](#)
- [nytimes.com](#)
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