

Special Report on Xinjiang: Anglo-Americans sponsor ‘East Turkistan’ campaigns

An eight-article series from the *Australian Alert Service* in November 2020–March 2021, “Xinjiang: China’s western frontier in the heart of Eurasia”, is now assembled as a 40-page Special Report.

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As the USA, UK and European Union—with applause from the Australian government—slap sanctions on China for alleged human rights abuses in Xinjiang, and the weighty term “genocide” is thrown around without evidence, our series demystifies what is going on in and around Xinjiang, and why. We expose the Anglo-American sponsorship of “East Turkistan” separatism and fostering of radical Islamist terrorism, which hit China hard from the 1990s up to 2014 and prompted tough anti-terror programs.

We detail how al-Qaeda and its successors grew out of U.S. National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski’s program to strike at the Soviet Union’s “soft underbelly” in Central Asia—even at the risk of nuclear war—by backing the Afghanistan mujaheddin against Soviet forces in Afghanistan in 1979. Young ethnic Uyghurs from Xinjiang fought in Afghanistan and received US- and Saudi-funded training in Pakistan; some went back home to “destabilise China”, in the words of Col. Lawrence Wilkinson (ret.), chief of staff to former US Secretary of State Colin Powell. We also recount the history of “Pan-Turkism” and its activation against Russia and then China after the breakup of the USSR.

The final two articles deal with the decades-long manipulation of the Uyghur diaspora by Anglo-American intelligence agencies, including those operating under the banner of “human rights”, like the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). As with the so-called Captive Nations groups during the Cold War, the diaspora is exploited as a propaganda base, not only to destabilise or even fragment the targeted country, but also to set “thought rules” for public opinion and political circles elsewhere—for example, in the USA or Australia. Uyghur émigré groups uniformly oppose China’s Belt and Road Initiative, even as it raises living standards in Xinjiang, all China and abroad. Since China has recently been practically the sole engine of world economic growth, while cultivating scientific optimism in its education policies and a commitment to promoting classical culture, a strategic posture that exploits the Uyghurs of Xinjiang to attack China is insane.

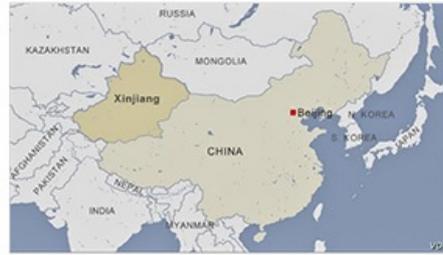
Here are the chapter titles from our report. The first two pages of the [Special Report pdf](#) are a full, annotated table of contents (pictured below).

- [Part 1. East-West gateway on the Silk Road](#)
- [Part 2. The Arc of Crisis](#)
- [Part 3. Xinjiang becomes a target](#)
- [Part 4. Pan-Turkism](#)
- [Part 5. The Anglo-American-Saudi promotion of violent jihad](#)
- [Part 6. ‘Afghan’ jihadist terrorism come to Xinjiang](#)
- [Parts 7 and 8. The ‘East Turkistan’ narrative](#)

Xinjiang: China's western frontier in the heart of Eurasia

A special report from the *Australian Alert Service*

If the reader has heard of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in China, it is likely through lurid news media headlines about the alleged abuse and enslavement of its Uyghur ethnic inhabitants. The November 2020 – March 2021 *Australian Alert Service* series of eight articles assembled here, with an appendix of related material from the *AAS*, demystifies what is going on in and around Xinjiang, and why. We expose the Anglo-American fostering of terrorism in Xinjiang and sponsorship of “East Turkistan” separatism.



Part 1. East-West gateway on the Silk Road

The Great Game and Mackinder's 'Heartland'
From Silk Road to Land-Bridge
The new Great Game
The Xinjiang fulcrum

The ancient Silk Road crossed the mountains and deserts of the area of central Eurasia that is today's Xinjiang Region in China. In the 19th century, the doctrine of geopolitics arose from the British Empire's "Great Game" struggle to dominate this region and keep Russia from approaching India. Sun Yat-sen, the father of modern China, envisioned a better future through railway development, an outlook incorporated into President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative today.



Part 2. The Arc of Crisis

Bernard Lewis and Zbigniew Brzezinski
Geopolitics for the Cold War
Operation Cyclone – Afghan Mujaheddin
'He who sows the wind...'



American National Security Advisors Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski revived geopolitics as policy in the 1970s, while the mastermind of an Arc of Crisis in Eurasia was the Anglo-American orientologist Bernard Lewis, also known as godfather of the neocons. Brzezinski wanted to destabilise the Soviet Union even at the risk of nuclear war, by backing Islamist guerrillas to strike at its "soft underbelly" in Central Asia. Thus began Operation Cyclone, CIA funding and weapons for the mujaheddin in Afghanistan.

Part 3. Xinjiang becomes a target

Mujaheddin fan out
CIA's 'marvellous' practices turned vs China

Foreign fighters came to combat Soviet forces in Afghanistan, 1979-88. They then continued as a presence there and in Pakistan, giving rise to al-Qaeda and turning up in combat from Bosnia to post-Soviet Central Asia to Syria. The CIA considered the mujaheddin operation against the USSR a success, which could be replicated against China. Establishment strategists began to probe ethnic tensions in Xinjiang as a vulnerability, as in the 2003 pamphlet *The Xinjiang Problem* by Graham E. Fuller and S. Frederick Starr.



Part 4. Pan-Turkism

The Young Turks
Central Asia between the Wars
The 'Gladio' template
Alparslan Turkes and the Grey Wolves
Post-Soviet Pan-Turk revival

Pan-Turkist ideology, which seeks a Turkic-ethnic belt from the Mediterranean to Xinjiang, including a Uyghur entity, stems from a long history of Venetian and British Intelligence meddling in Turkey and Central Asia. Between the World Wars Pan-Turkism was a factor in struggles among British, Chinese, German and Soviet interests in Central Asia. After World War II the CIA used extreme Turkish nationalists, with radical Pan-Turkist views, as assets in the Cold War. From them came "Grey Wolves" terrorism. Pan-Turkist activity rose sharply after the collapse of the Soviet Union.



Part 5. The Anglo-American-Saudi promotion of violent jihad

Wahhabite education, jihadist training
The Central Asia blueprint
Pakistani madrassas recruited Xinjiang Uyghurs



USA-UK-Saudi Arabia-Pakistan support for the mujaheddin fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan included Saudi-funded religious schools in Pakistan, meant as recruitment centres. They preached Wahhabism, the official Saudi form of Islam, which can include a fanatical interpretation of an obligation to kill non-believers; they trained violent jihadists—terrorists. With Chinese cross-border travel restrictions relaxed in 1978, young men from Xinjiang studied at the schools in Pakistan.

Part 6. 'Afghan' jihadist terrorism comes to Xinjiang

The impact of Afghanistan on separatism in Xinjiang
ETIM in Pakistan and Afghanistan
Terror attacks in China
International jihadis call for attacks on Xinjiang
'Foreign fighters' from Xinjiang

Uyghur Islamist radicals in Xinjiang, some of them veterans of Afghanistan, launched disturbances and terrorism around 1990. Leaders of the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) visited al-Qaeda chiefs in Pakistan, then set up their headquarters in Afghanistan, fleeing after 2001 when the USA invaded. ETIM leader Hasan Mahsum was killed in Pakistan in 2003. Uyghur separatist terrorism sharply escalated in China in 1996-97 and again in 2014. Al-Qaeda leaders have made solidarity videos for their "brothers in East Turkistan", while ISIS wanted Xinjiang within its new Caliphate. Thousands of Uyghur fighters joined with ISIS against the Syrian government after 2011.



Part 7. The 'East Turkistan' narrative

China moves to stop terrorism
Intelligence agencies manipulate diasporas
The CIA's Captive Nations
Project Democracy



Anglo-American strategists seized on China's counterterrorism measures, which included mandatory deradicalisation programs and increased surveillance alongside huge investment in the economic betterment of Xinjiang, to drive a narrative of indiscriminate oppression of the Uyghur population. The Uyghur diaspora was targeted to play a role, on the model of the so-called Captive Nations during the Cold War, when the CIA adopted and deployed East European extreme nationalists, some of them ex-allies of the Nazis. Today's National Endowment for Democracy (NED) plays the part of the Cold War CIA, and promotes "East Turkistan" separatism.



Part 8. The 'East Turkistan' narrative (conclusion)

After the USSR
Pan-Turk inroads in Central Asia
Special-purpose NGOs
The World Uyghur Congress
The 'East Turkistan Government in Exile'
'Peaceable' groups whitewash terrorism
A Belt and Road to the future

Pan-Turkist inroads in Central Asia after 1991 melded with Afghanistan-spawned Islamist terrorism, threatening China as its economic power grew. American "Project Democracy" institutions sponsor numerous Uyghur diaspora organisations. The World Uyghur Congress and the separatist East Turkistan Government(s) in Exile (there are several) claim to be peaceable, but many of their leaders, as individuals and for their groups, have solidarised with terrorists. They uniformly oppose the Belt and Road Initiative, which is raising standards of living in China and abroad. It should be clear, upon honest reflection, that one does not help the Uyghur people by attacking China.



Appendix

Richard Bardon, "Uighur 'mass detention' reports fabricated by US, British propagandists", AAS, 26 Sept. 2018.

Richard Bardon, "ASPI doubles down on Xinjiang 'detention centre' fakery", AAS, 30 Sept. 2020.

Melissa Harrison, "ASPI: forced labour hypocrites and academic fraudsters", AAS, 14 Oct. 2020.

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