

academicians and policy makers but also professionals. The author has made a very sincere effort to bring to the fore the complexities of the relationship between the Chinese and the Uighur people.

Yet the paper can be further enhanced if the author can investigate further, from a strongly grounded historical perspective (by also citing several stronger sources), on questions such as Who are the Uighur? On the other hand this investigation can also help to answer questions with regards to how it is not only a political conflict but also an ethnic conflict. There are ethnographic essays on the Uighur which the author can refer to in order to substantiate his or her argument.

While definitely there is a stress on the religious aspect of the conflict, it should also be noted that in several cases it is ethnicity which lies at the fulcrum of the splinter which has been the cause for a volatile conflict. For example the monolithic worldview of the Arabs as a single homogenous entity stands challenged by examples of people such as Tariq Aziz who was a Christian and so was George Habbash, who was a Marxist Palestinian revolutionary of Christian origin.

Therefore given the core concerns of a new emerging discipline such as ethnogeopolitics, I would recommend that any papers submitted to the journal present an account of the ethnographic reality in detail. Possibly there are no contradictions, but whether there are or were any in any historical period before the emergence of Islam, is another question.

My understanding of Central Asia is that there are layers of meanings when it comes to understanding the nuances of its diverse societies and the Uighur are representative of the same. I am sure that with editorial intervention the paper would be much better than what it is now, indeed can turn into a brilliant paper. Still, the current paper does throw light on the dominant perception of the present conflict in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

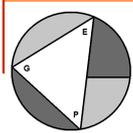
The author is certainly capable of adopting the abovesaid recommendations if he or she agrees with them and is willing to do so, as he or she clearly has a deep knowledge about the history of the discussed areas. The author indeed discusses a historical phenomenon across a vast region. Therefore, the relatively short paper cannot fulfil such a task in full. However, I am aware of the limitations in word limit and other conventions of publications. This paper deserves publication given that a few salient points are addressed or corrected. Despite certain shortcomings, I recommend the publication of this paper.

- Anonymous

The Main Drivers of Conflict among the Uighur (and Other Minorities)

(Editorial Note to Jennifer Loy's "Seek Truth from Facts": The East Turkistan Islamic Movement and the Uighurs in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China")

The review has formulated really scholarly arguments that may be of use to the author. In my understanding, the Uighur's conflict main driving engines are twofold: religion, and related to



this center versus periphery issue. Ethnicity rests on denominators such as language and religion. While language is not a likely engine of creating conflicts, it is still a source of identity.

In the context of China, Muslims as a whole are put in the periphery. The Uighur as the largest group is more active and more visible in formulating grievances. A remarkable group are Hui; they are Han Chinese who are Muslims. On the one hand they are in the periphery based on their religion and their geographical location (the East and South coast are the center of China); on the other hand they are Muslims who remain loyal to the Chinese state.

Indeed, I have heard from Uighur nationalists of Pan-Turkic rather than Islamic-centered orientation, that the Hui comply with China and oppose the Uighur independence movement. It may be so, but I still wonder the credibility of such claims. The Hui may not be attracted by the Uighur Pan-Turkic movements but still be aware and aggrieved by their peripheral position in China.

Another issue is the perception of discrimination versus the real policy of discrimination. The Chinese policy on the regional languages and religions is self-reportedly very liberal. However, it is regulated and this makes it politicized.

In cases the state does not intervene at all, a more relaxed situation may be created. In this case, the facts are that Western China is less economically developed and is less invested by the Chinese state to develop it. On the other hand, and this is one of the main strengths of our new 'multidisciplinary discipline' of ethnogeopolitics, geographic facts are compelling.

In this regard demography in and of its own already has a heavy influence on the perception of discrimination among the Uighurs and other Muslims, by the dominant Han non-Muslim population. Hence the latter's influence on the politics and economy of China, is a multiple of times larger than that of any other groups, with or without any intended discriminatory policy targeting these minorities. I hope these editorial comments can be of use to the author's present and future endeavors as a scholar.

- Babak Rezvani, Editor-in-Chief

Author's Response

I would like to emphasize and state here that the reviewer's and editor-in-chief's published comments concern my original(ly submitted) paper of November 25, 2017. The version that is published here concerns a revised one that I resubmitted on May 8, 2018. The revisions mainly are in response to the reviewer's and editor-in-chief's comments, and hopefully assuage at least some of their concerns.

- Jennifer Loy

NB: do you have any comments on Jennifer Loy's article and/or the Critical Response, the Editorial Note and the Author's Response to these? The other peer-reviews remain anonymous and unpublished. Your comments may be published as follow-up Critical Responses in one of the next issues if you wish so, under your name or anonymously. Please send these to info@ethnogeopolitics.org, or through the contact form at www.ethnogeopolitics.org.