

CLIMATE CHANGE IN
TIBET
ASIA'S RIVERS AT RISK

Maura Moynihan 01.15.14

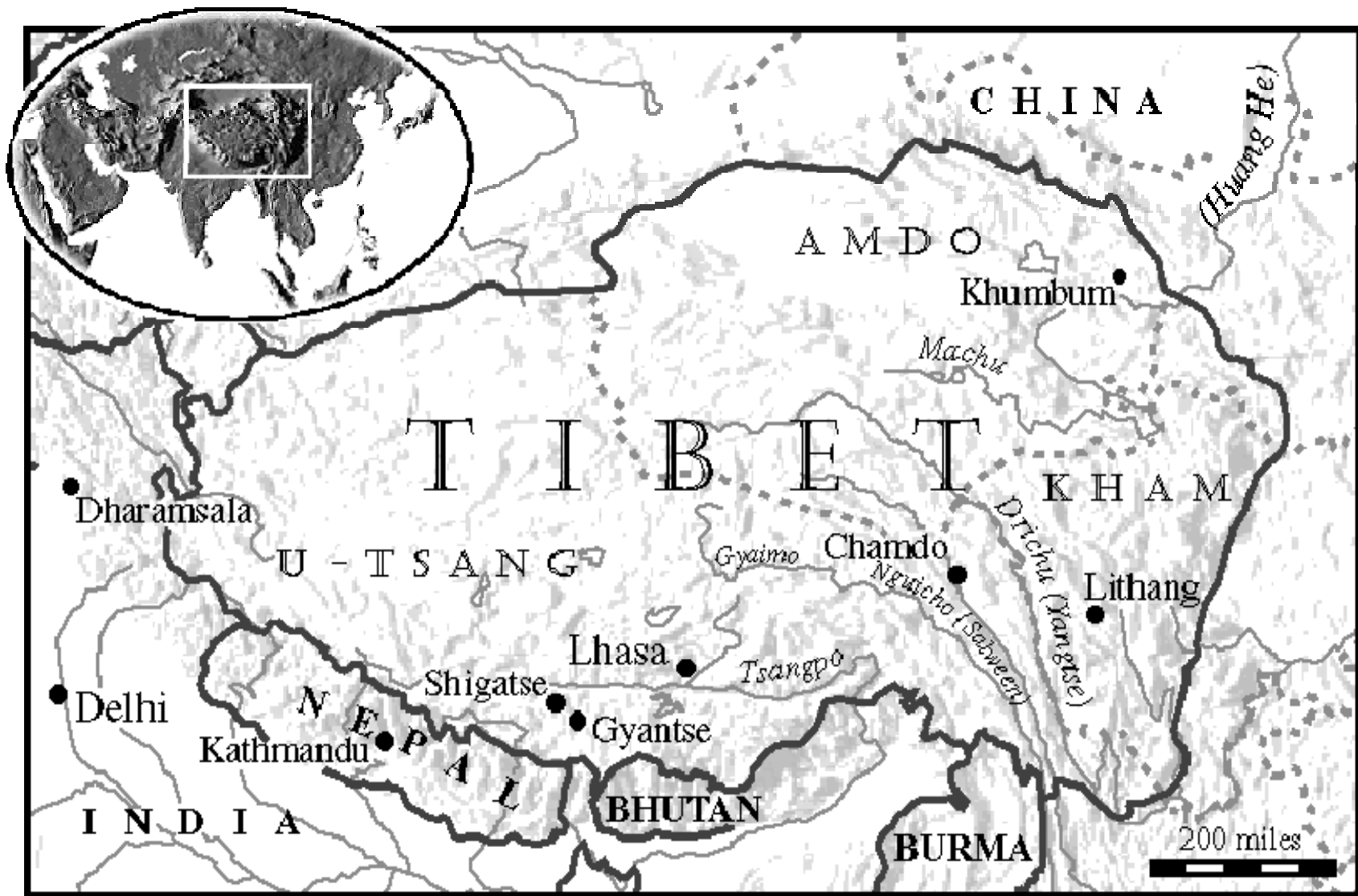
NASA Astronaut Photograph of TIBET



NASA satellite photograph of the TIBETAN PLATEAU, known in Asia folklore as the “Western Treasure House”



British map of independent Tibet in the 1920's



TIBET: PLANET EARTH'S THIRD POLE

The Tibetan Plateau is a unique geomorphic entity, its 46,000 glaciers comprise the Earth's third largest ice mass. This "Third Pole" is a vital component of the planet's ecosystem, filled with minerals, timber and above all, water; Tibet is the fount of the Yangtze, Yellow, Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra, Chenab, Sutlej, Salween and Mekong, which flow through 11 nations, nourishing three billion people from Peshawar to Beijing.

The preservation and management of Tibet's glaciers and the rivers they sustain is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity in the 21st century. Tibet's waters flow through eleven countries, where population growth and industrial development is projected to double within 50 years. The combined effects of rapid development, desertification and water scarcity has already created extreme cycles of droughts and floods, food shortages and pandemics.

SHRINKING GLACIERS, DEPLETED AQUIFERS

- In 2009 the United Nations Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change reported that the glaciers on the Tibetan Plateau, the source of fresh water for a fifth of the world's population, are receding at an alarming rate. Temperatures in Tibetan are rising 7 times as fast as in China. Scientists predict that most Tibetan glaciers could vanish by 2035 if present levels of carbon gas emissions are not reduced. Carbon emissions must be cut by 80% by 2030 to preserve the glaciers, of Tibet, the source of water for, China, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos.
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- Asia is now facing a shrinkage of river-based irrigation water supplies, which will disrupts grain and rice harvests. Overpumping is swiftly depleting underground water resources in India and China. Water tables are rapidly falling in the North China Plain, East Asia's principal grain-producing region. In India, wells are going dry in almost every state.
- The United States international climate negotiator Todd Stern stated "the science is clear, and the threat is real. The facts on the ground are outstripping the worst case scenarios. The costs of inaction-or inadequate actions-are unacceptable."

Industrial Development in an Age of Scarcity

70% of the world's irrigated farmland is in Asia. China and India, the world's most populous nations and largest grain producers, have millions of new irrigation projects that are rapidly depleting aquifers. Satellite images released in August 2009 by the National Aerospace and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States show massive depletion of groundwater storage in Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana during the 2002-2008. Indian government data shows that major reservoirs have shrunk by 70% since 2000.

Deglaciation on the Tibetan Plateau, combined with depletion of underground water resources, could create “permanent famine conditions”, as described by the environmental scientist Lester Brown in his 1995 Worldwatch Institute report “Who Will Feed China?”

China's growth has pushed rivers system to a dangerous tipping point. Two thirds of all cities in China are short of water, agricultural runoff from chemical fertilizers, industrial effluent and urban waste have poisoned reservoirs. China's Environmental Protection Administration reports that that environmental protests are rising by 50% a year. Since 1949, two-thirds of the Yangtze Valley lakes have disappeared, today the total surface area of lakes in the middle and lower Yangtze Valley has shrunk from 18,000 square kilometers to 7,000 in 50 years.

Today, all but one Asia's major rivers - the Ganges - are controlled at their sources by the Chinese Communist Party

- In a mere quarter century the People's Republic of China has risen from poverty and isolation into the 21st century's emergent superpower. China's rise as an industrial and military super power has dramatically altered the global balance of power in the quest for what remains of the planet's resources. The Chinese government dismisses concerns of its own scientists and those of neighboring states, alarmed by a sudden decline in water levels and fish stocks, caused by hydro dams. China has increased militarization of the Tibetan Plateau and strictly controls journalists, scientists and international observers who seek to research conditions in Tibet.
- Few international agreements exist for sharing data and coordinating usage of these rivers. As developing nations manage water supplies as economic commodities in an age of scarcity, water rights and laws must be reappraised in the context of the climate crisis. The effects of receding glaciers and rivers choked by hydro dams will be felt well beyond the borders of the Tibetan Plateau, with profound impacts over a wide area in Asia and great risks of increased poverty, reduced trade and economic turmoil. In the 1990's China refused to sign the UN treaty on trans-boundary rivers.
- Since Chairman Mao invaded Tibet in 1951, China has administered a huge military infrastructure across the Tibetan Plateau, which gives China a continuous border with Thailand, Burma, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan, and is now filled with military airfields and PLA battalions. **In the coming age of "water wars", China has a firm hand on the water tower of Asia.**

TIBET: ASIA'S WATER TOWER, Headwaters of Asia's Great Rivers



Chinese Communist Conquest and Partition of TIBET



The Strategic and Resource advantage of owning TIBET



MAO'S ANNEXATION of TIBET, EAST TURKESTAN and INNER MONGOLIA doubled the size of the CHINESE COMMUNIST EMPIRE. Chinese officials are intensifying military assaults on minorities who resist Sinification, citing ETHNICITY as a large factor in the collapse of the former Soviet Union.

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|-----------|-----------|-------|
| 上記四地域の総面積 | 5,849,088 | 60.9% |
|-----------|-----------|-------|



THE THREE PHASES of the CHINESE COMMUNIST OCCUPATION of TIBET

PHASE 1: 1950's - 1960's: MILITARY INVASION

From 1951-56, Khampa Warriors fight back against Chinese aggression. THE PLA sends reinforcements, thousands of survivors from Kham and Amdo are driven into Utsang.

In 1957 HHDL and Panchen Rinpoche go to Varanasi for Buddha Jayanti: HHDL asks Nehru for refuge to expose Chinese atrocities in Tibet. Cho EnLai tells Nehru to send HHDL back to Tibet. Two years later, the Chushi Gandruk delivers HHDL to Indian custody. Nehru's Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai policy, which gave China control of Tibet, becomes one of the great blunders of the 20th century.

1959; HHDL escapes to India. PLA troops slaughter Tibetan civilians and commence looting and razing of over 6,000 monasteries. The PLA advances to the borders of India, Bhutan, Sikkim, Nepal and Ladhak.

- In 1962 China invades India from the Tibetan Plateau and occupies large swaths of Indian territory, India is defeated, China commences its military consolidation the plateau, unhindered.
- 1963: Tibet is sealed behind the Bamboo Curtain and caught in the catastrophe of the Great Leap Forward, wherein 60-80 million people die under Mao's adoption of the Soviet model of collectivized farming. 1.2 Tibetans, likely more, are killed through armed conflict and famine. NO news of conditions inside China Tibet reaches international governments or media. US launches the Vietnam War to contain Chinese expansionism, while millions in China are starving to death.
- Chinese Military Engineers build roads across and install military bases and armed encampments across the Tibetan Plateau. Millions of acres of virgin forest is clear-cut and shipped to the mainland.

CHINA IN TIBET: Phase 2: 1970-1980's: The DEATH of MAO and the rise of DENG

- **ORPHANS OF THE COLD WAR:** The Tibetan people are imprisoned behind the Bamboo Curtain throughout the Cultural Revolution, which is extremely vicious in Tibet.
- 1976 Mao Zedong dies. 1981 Deng Xiaoping comes to power. Deng launches the policy of “Reform and Opening Up”. China builds the Friendship Highway linking Lhasa and Kathmandu.
- 1980; Yu Habong visits Tibet and writes his famous White Paper condemning China's treatment of the Tibetan people. The Deng regime relaxes restrictions on Tibetan religion and culture. In 1981, China issues the first tourist visas to Tibet for western travelers.
- **MILITARY ROADS** built by the PLA across Tibet in Phase 1 of the occupation, allow massive population transfer of Han Chinese onto the Tibetan Plateau.
- The roads also facilitate a 2nd exodus of refugees to escape from Tibet: since the 1980's over 20,000 people have escaped from Tibet.
- 1987: Anti-Chinese demonstrations break out in Lhasa. For the first time since the Chinese invasion, tourists capture images of extreme military repression.
- *These images reach the international press; China's Tibet is at last EXPOSED - and CHINA DECLARES MARTIAL LAW*

CHINA IN TIBET: Phase 3: 1990's 2000's MINES, DAMS and WAR GAMES

- 1988-1989; **MORE** demonstrations in Lhasa are captured by tourist cameras. China starts restricting western tourists by periodically banning western tourists.
- 1989: The Berlin Wall goes down, but the Tiananmen Square Massacre follows: The death of Hu Yabong summons millions of Chinese mourners into the streets of Beijing. Gorbachev arrives in Beijing, students from Beijing University launch a hunger strike in support of democratic reforms in China's government. After a month-long stand-off, Deng orders PLA troops into the square to crush the protestors. Thousands of unarmed Chinese citizens are slaughtered.
- In response to the Tiananmen Square Massacre, HH Dalai Lama is awarded the 1989 Noble Peace Prize. The true history of the China's rape and pillage of Tibet is exposed. ***BUT as HHDLs' start rises, China cracks down harder on the people of Tibet.***
- 1995 : Despite pressure from the US congress and rights groups, US President Bill Clinton grants China MFN: Most Favored Nation Trading Status, removing all trade sanctions imposed on the PRC after The Tiananmen Square Massacre. China implements the "Strike Hard" Policy: banning all images of HH Dalai Lama, enforcing Communist Re-education at monasteries, aggressive suppression of Tibetan ethnic identity.

CHINA IN TIBET: Phase 3: 1990's 2000's

Mines, Dams and War Games *continued...*

- **2000: China is granted entry into the World Trade Organization and launches XI BU DAI FA:** "The Opening Up of the Western Regions" a vast industrial development plan, to exploit and extract Tibet's vast natural resources, facilitated by rail and roadway expansion.
- **2001: 9/11 strikes New York City.** China fades from international attention and scrutiny, and accelerates exploitation of Tibet's natural resources. Chinese engineers launch construction of huge mining operations and hydro dams on Tibet's rivers, which flow into South and Southeast Asia.
- **2006: The Qinghai-Xizang railway OPENS in LHASA, bringing millions of tourists into Tibet.** The railroad also facilitates the transport of minerals, stone and lumber from Tibet, and brings over 250,000 Chinese engineers into Tibet.
- **2010: China announces that it has built 6 military airfields in Utsang, and debuts a new fleet of drone aircraft,** with technology the US claims has been stolen by Chinese spies. A 2012 US Dept. of Defense report to Congress on China's military capabilities notes Beijing's push to develop longer-range unmanned aircraft, including armed drones, "expands China's options for long-range reconnaissance and strike."

In 2000 China launched a vast development project entitled “Xi bu dai fa”, the “Opening and development of the Western Regions” of Xinjiang and Tibet, which together comprise half of China’s land mass.

POPULATION TRANSFER: A massive influx of Chinese settlers, urbanization and forced relocation of nomads swiftly followed. The Xizang railway, which opened in 2006, transports Tibet’s vast supplies of minerals, stone and lumber to the mainland and brings in a flood of Chinese engineers and laborers who have built at least 160 hydro dams across Tibet and have plans for hundreds more.

The Chinese government is aggressively re-settling Tibetan nomads and pastoralists into concrete housing complexes. Xinhua, the Chinese state run media, claims the resettlement is necessary to protect the source area of key Chinese rivers in north-west China's Qinghai province. Dr. Andreas Schild, the Director General of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development said; “Mountains without mountain people will be not sustainable.”

MINES and DAMS: Chinese engineers now operate multiple dams and mines all across Tibet, polluting the rivers at their source - you can find images on [Google](#) Earth and on Michael Buckley’s comprehensive website www.meltdownintibet.com

The Chinese mainland is also imperiled: in April 2013, Yangtze River water flows were at their lowest level in record. Dams and industrial waste have caused the Yellow River to dry up before it reaches the sea. Large swaths of northern China have had no snow or rain since 2008. Nearly half of China's wheat crop, covering of 9.5 million hectares, was afflicted by drought. In 2008 China’s State Council admitted: “ By 2030, China will have exploited all its available water supplies to the limit”.

To date, at least 131 people inside Tibet have self-immolated to protest of Chinese Communist assaults on Tibetan religion and culture and the desecration of Tibet's ancestral lands.

There is another potent source of this explosion of Tibetan outrage, which receives negligible international coverage; the covert history of China's rape and pillage of Tibet's ancestral lands and waters.

The elemental facts about Tibet's size, wealth of natural resources, and its strategic location on the Eurasian Continent, are not widely understood, but satellite images, maps and environmental studies of the Tibetan Plateau reveal the enormous resource and strategic advantage gained by its capture. and explains why China refuses to enter into dialogue with the Dalai Lama, or share information with the nations of South and Southeast Asia about the exploitation of Tibet's lands and waters.

CHINA'S OCCUPATION of TIBET has created a looming environmental catastrophe for the nations of South and Southeast Asia, but China refuses to discuss its development plans with neighboring states.

TIME MAGAZINE states that despite the wave of self-immolations in Tibet is the "Most under-reported story of 2013"

Dorjee, an 18 year-old Tibetan , self-immolated in Amdo, Tibet on March 5th, 2013, to protest Chinese rule.



Sonam Dhargyal, a 44-year-old farmer, shouted for the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet before setting himself on fire in Rongbo in the morning of 17 March, 2012



CHINESE Hydro-dam on the Sengye Kabab...the INDUS

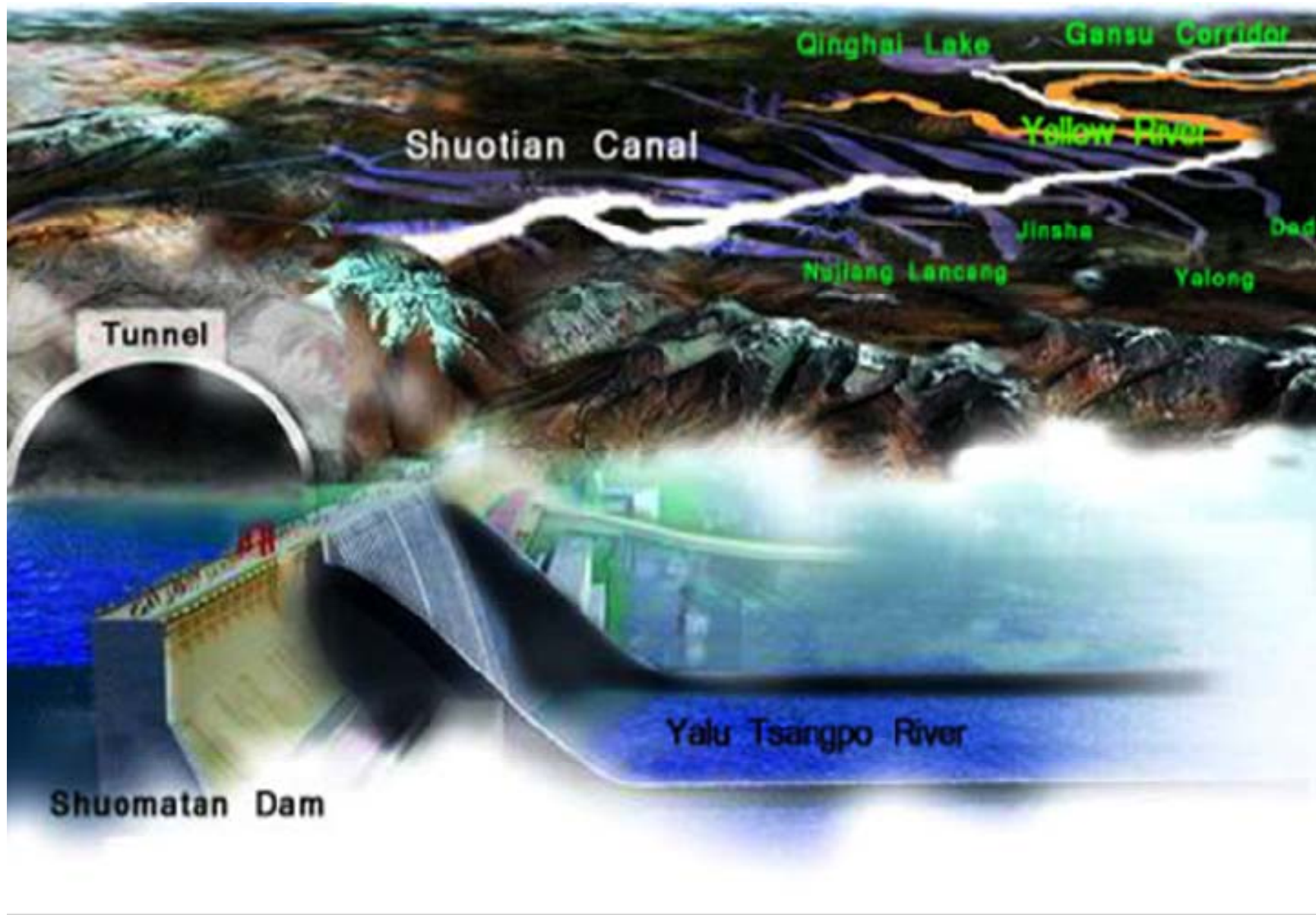


已建成的阿里獅泉河水电站，投资 4.2581 亿元，
装机容量 6400 千瓦



With an installed capacity of 6,400 kilowatts, the Sengye
Tsangpo Hydropower Station, now in operation, cost 425.81 mil-
lion yuan to build

DIVERTING the YARLUNG SANGPO, the BRAHMAPUTRA



Xiaowan Dam, Mekong River, Yunnan(Kham)

Capacity 4,200 MW, wall-height: 292m



Yamdruk Tso Powerstation on Yarlung Tsangpo, Central Tibet



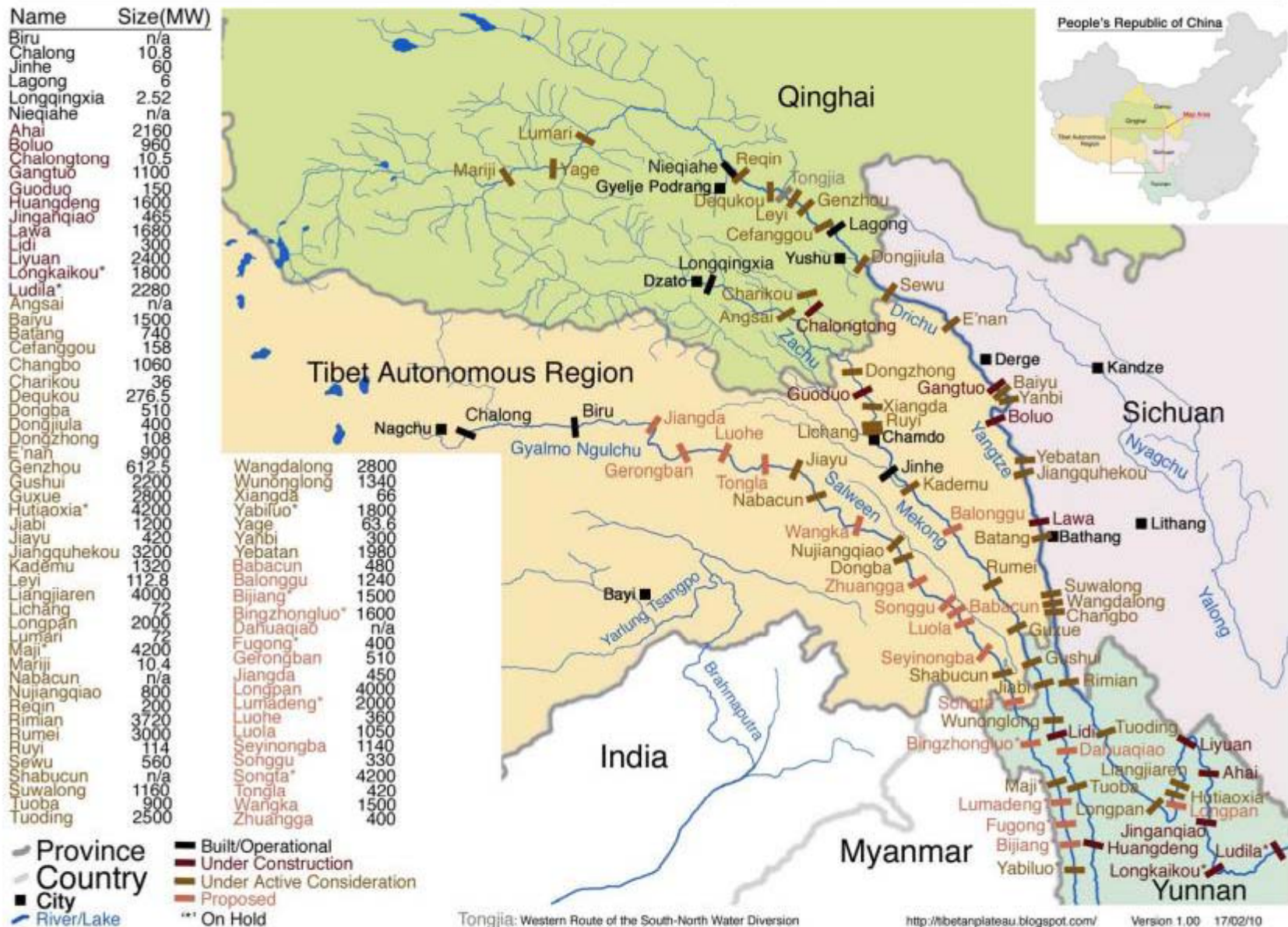
Manwan Dam, Mekong River, Yunnan

Capacity 1,750 MW, wall-height 132m



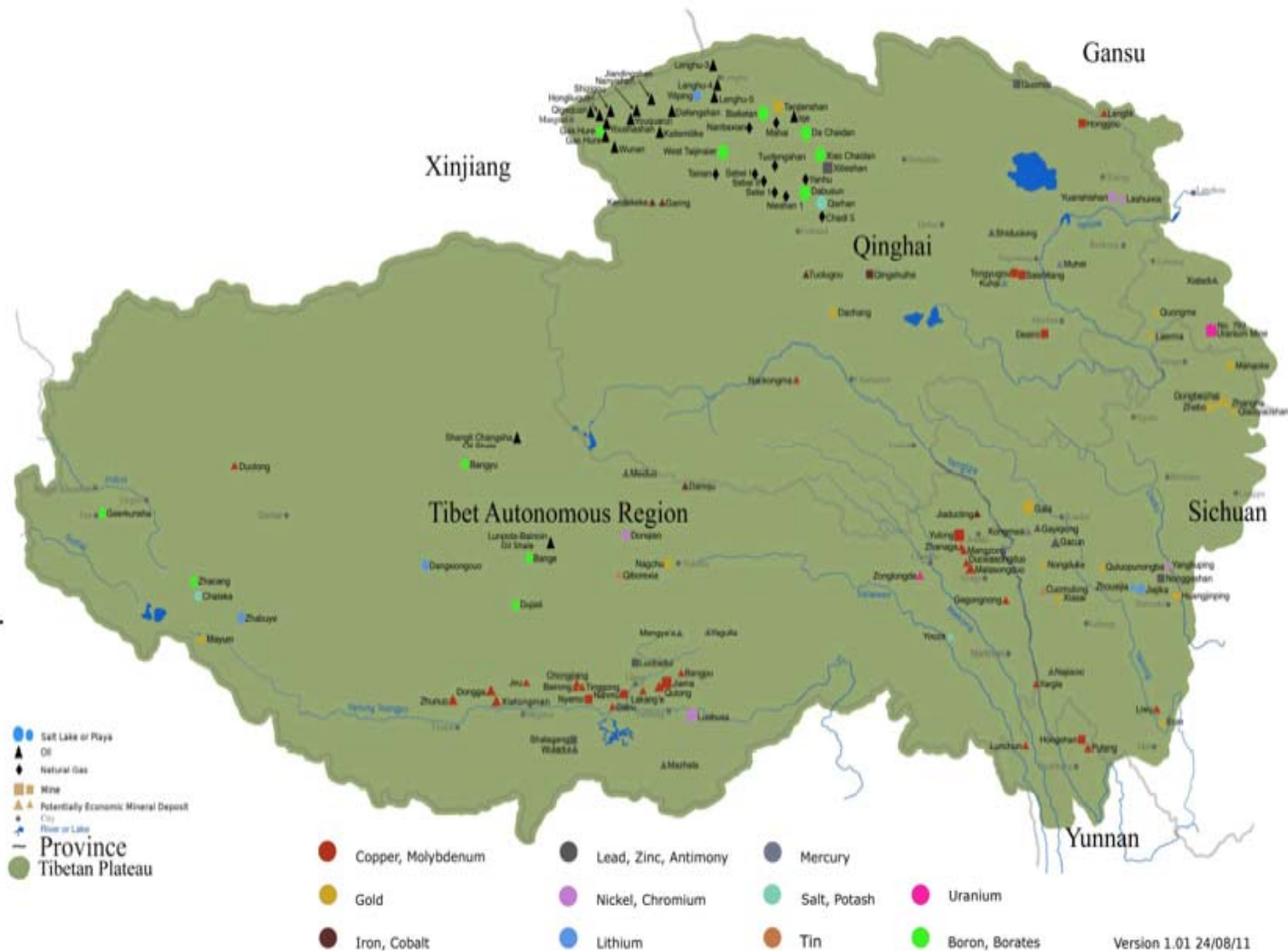
HYDRO-DAMS in on the Drichu, Dzachu and Gyalmo Nyulchu...

Drichu (Yangtze), Zachu (Mekong) and Gyalmo Ngulchu (Salween) Hydropower Projects

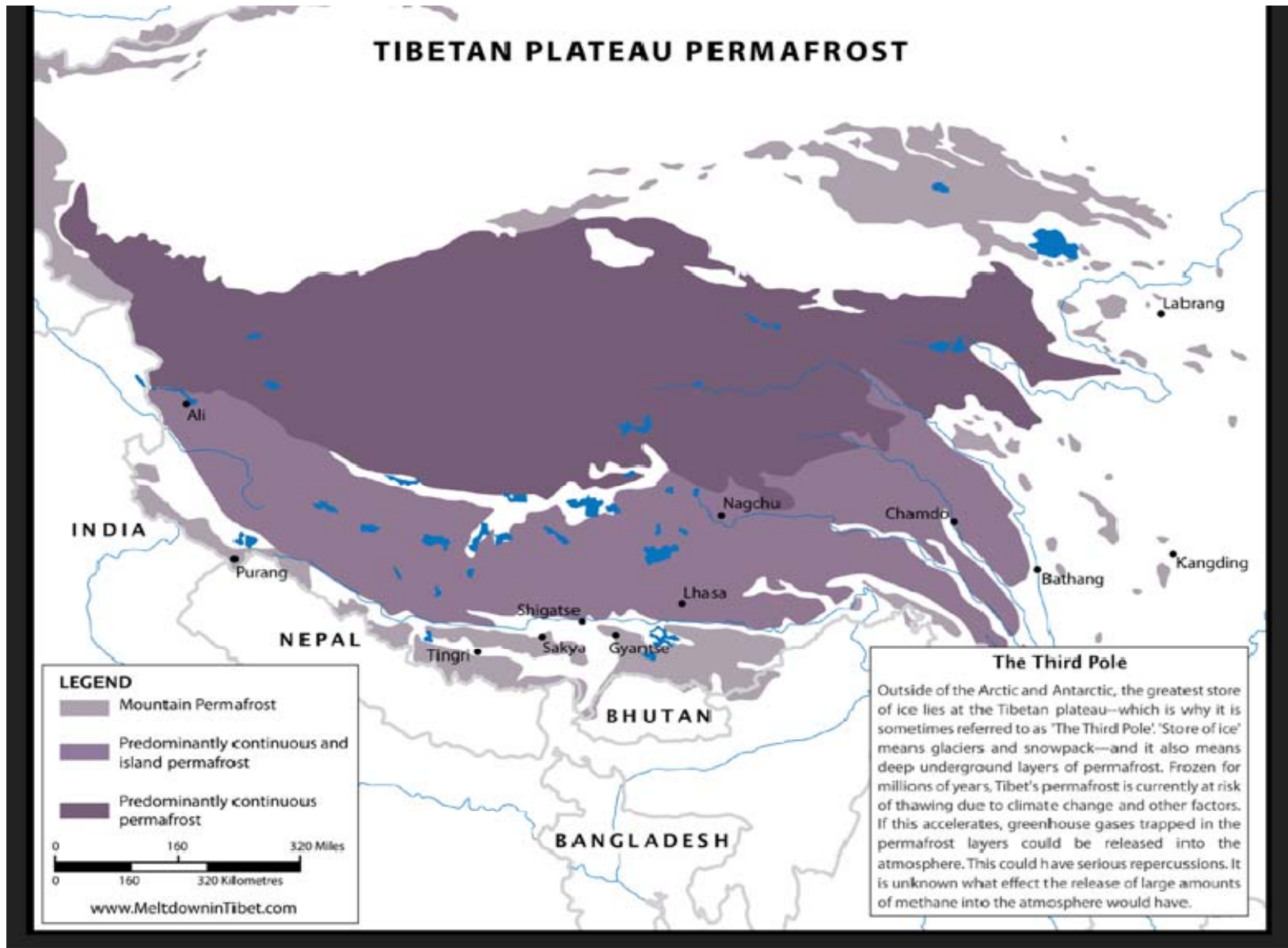


TIBET'S UNTAPPED NATURAL RESOURCES

Mineral, Oil, Gas, and Salt Lake Deposits of Tibet



Map of permafrost in TIBET



NEW lakes caused by glacial melt near Rongbuk Glacier, north side of Mt. Everest, Tibet. In the last 90 years the glacier's tail has lost over 90 vertical meters in depth



TIBET'S MELTING GLACIERS: EVEREST over 50 YEARS, from David Breashears' exhibition "River of Ice" at the Asia Society



Glacier
River of Ice
Everest
Asia Society

More images from “Rivers of Ice”



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CHINA'S ATTACKS on the DALAI LAMA SUBVERT DISCUSSION of the EXPLOITATION of TIBET'S RESOURCES

China has succeeded in its mission to isolate and discredit the Dalai Lama by punishing heads of state who meet with the Tibetan leader and threatening any institution that invites him to speak, thereby stifling any discussion of China's oppressive and destructive governance of Tibet.

A study from the University of Gottingen in Germany of countries whose top leadership met with the Dalai Lama, showed that they incurred an average 8.1 percent loss in exports to China in the two years following the meeting. Called the "Dalai Lama Effect," the study found the negative impact on exports began when Hu Jintao took office in 2002.

China's obsessive demonization of the Dalai Lama, the distinguished Nobel Peace Prize Laureate who has lived in exile in India since 1959, has succeeded in subverting all rational and increasingly urgent discussion of China's exploitation of Tibet's resources, and how Chinese mining and hydro dams projects across Tibet have created a looming environmental catastrophe in Asia, the world's most populous continent.

Despite irrefutable evidence of the dangers of over-exploiting Tibet's water resources, the Chinese government will not modify or downscale plans for dams, tunnels, railroads and highways across the Tibetan plateau. Of all the countries which depend on Tibet's waters, the People's Republic of China alone, can finance any project it chooses without recourse to international lenders.

TIBET IS A WAR ZONE

In 2012, Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie stated: "In the coming five years, our military will push forward preparations for military conflict in every strategic direction...We may be living in peaceful times, but we can never forget war, never send the horses south or put the bayonets and guns away."

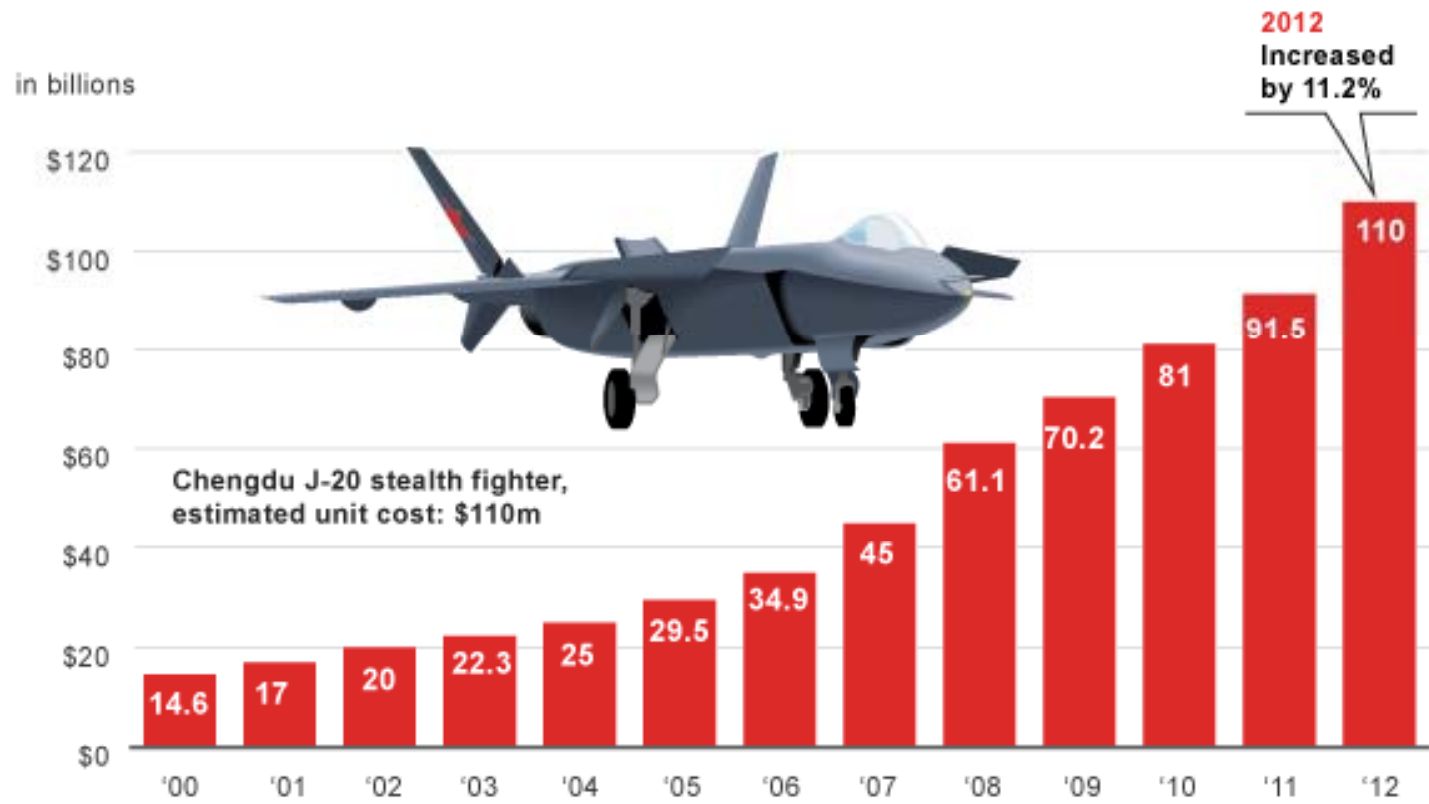
In 2009, computer analyst Greg Walton examined computers in the Dalai Lama's Private Office in Dharamshala and uncovered "Ghost Net", a massive Chinese cyber-espionage hacking system which penetrated 103 countries, as far as the personal laptop of US Defense Secretary Robert Gates. Sec. of Defense Robert Gates stated that "Chinese cyber espionage intrusions into US defense networks is nothing less than an act of war".

Tourists who have visited Tibet provide witness: A physician from Boston who went to Tibet in Nov. 2013, observed; "The Tibetan people appeared totally dominated by a chilling degree of militarization and repression. I did not see any ways or means by which the Tibetans could fight back against such overwhelming force. I could see people wanted to talk to me but were too afraid...I have never seen such a ruthless, cruel and effective police state in my life."

CHINESE MILITARY INVESTMENT and EXPANSION

China's military budget

China will boost military spending by 11.2 percent this year. The increase will bring official outlays on the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to 670.3 billion yuan (\$110 billion) for 2012, after a 12.7 percent increase last year and a near-unbroken string of double-digit rises across two decades. [READ MORE](#)



Source: Chinese government

REUTERS

The Chinese Communist leadership is facing a crisis of legitimacy, at home and abroad

- **The Chinese economy is in decline** . For decades CCP propaganda has been highly effective in promoting China as the new military and economic super power of the 21st century, but financial analysts are concerned about bad debt, a real estate bubble and declining exports.
- **There are violent uprisings in China EVERY DAY:** in 2010 over 100,000 “incidents” occurred. The CCP propaganda machine is weakening. Chinese netizens are subverting Xinhua and censorship: images of police brutality are now widely circulated.
- **China’s “Peaceful Rise” is now seen as a threat to global stability. China has installed a formidable military-industrial infrastructure across the high ground of the Tibetan Plateau, with military roads, airfields, army bases, dams, mines bordering Burma, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Pakistan.** At the ASEAN Conference in Bali in Nov. 2011, representatives from Vietnam and Cambodia vehemently criticized Chinese aggression in Southeast Asia and asked for American protection from the “Chinese Threat.”
- **In 2013 Chinese Troops made over 200 incursions into Indian territory from TIBET. Chinese soldiers planted the Chinese flag in three regions of Bhutan that border Tibet, and are now claiming sovereignty over “Southern Tibet”, all Tibetan cultural zones in India, Nepal and Bhutan.**

***The man CHINA FEARS MOST...HH Dalai Lama with
Tibetan Refugees in Dharamshala, India, 1961***



THE PRICE OF APPEASEMENT

**For six decades the People's Republic of
China has raped and pillaged Tibet
without impediment or penalty**

*But the world will pay a high price for
IGNORING the Chinese Communist occupation
of Tibet....So goes the old saying:*

**HE WHO CONTROLS TIBET
CONTROLS THE WORLD**