

## INDEPENDENT AND DISSIDENT PERSPECTIVES

The following online resources provide viewpoints and information on China which are independent of China's government and may be censored or banned within China.

### Contents

1. Resources in the Chinese language
2. Resources in English
3. Resources for teaching and events related to Tibetan culture

## 1. CHINESE-LANGUAGE RESOURCES

The websites listed below are general websites and blogs, not primarily intended for student use, and many may only be suitable for more senior language students. Some provide English translations (noted with asterisk).

### CHINA GENERAL

- **BBC China:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/zhongwen/simp>
- **China Digital Times:** <http://chinadigitaltimes.net/chinese/>  
US-based compendium of news articles in Chinese and English, focussing on material censored or prohibited in China.
- **Boxun:** <http://www.boxun.com/>  
News portal used by Chinese dissidents.
- **\*China Change:** <http://chinachange.org/>  
Respected web forum for dissidents. Original Chinese articles are translated into English but link to original Chinese language source.
- **\*Human Rights in China:** <http://www.hrichina.org/chs>  
Chinese non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in March 1989 by overseas Chinese students and scientists.
- **Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor:** <http://www.hkhrm.org.hk/>  
Independent HK-based organisation which aims to promote better human rights protection in Hong Kong.

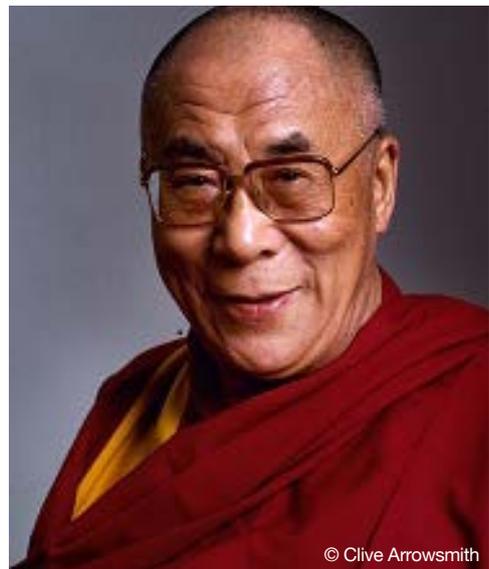


### TIBET

- **Woeseer:** <http://woeser.middle-way.net/> (blog); <https://twitter.com/degewa> (Twitter)  
Tsering Woeseer is a Tibetan writer, based in Beijing. She is married to Chinese dissident Wang Lixion and is the recipient of a Woman of Courage Award from the US State Department. Woeseer is regularly placed under house arrest by the authorities in Beijing but her output is frequently uncensored. (See also High Peaks Pure Earth, below)
- **BBC Chinese service Tibet news:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/zhongwen/simp/topics/tibet>
- **\*High Peaks Pure Earth:** <http://highpeakspureearth.com/?lang=zh-hans> UK-based site featuring Chinese-language material, including Woeseer's blogs, also translated into English.

\* provides English translation.

- **The Central Tibetan Administration:**  
<http://xizang-zhiye.org/%E8%A5%BF%E8%97%8F%E7%B0%A1%E5%8F%B2/?variant=zh-hans>  
 Based in India, the CTA is effectively the Tibetan government-in-exile, democratically elected by Tibetans outside Tibet. CTA news from Tibet is here:  
<http://xizang-zhiye.org/category/news/>
- **Dalai Lama:**  
<http://www.dalailamaworld.com/topic.php?t=48>  
 The leader of Tibetan Buddhism. He was the political leader of Tibet until he was forced into exile in 1959 and, until 2011, the political leader of Tibetans in exile (replaced by the Sikyong, the elected leader of the CTA).

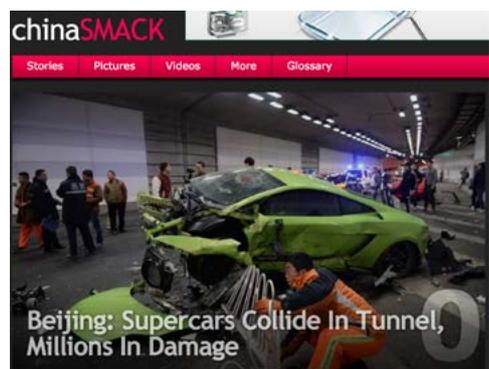


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## 2. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE RESOURCES

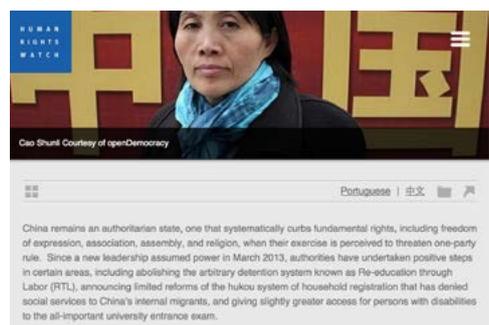
### INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCES

- **Chinasmack:** <http://www.chinasmack.com/>  
 Alternative, irreverent news source (may use bad language).
- **BBC News China section:**  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/asia/china>
- **BBC News blog:**  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/correspondents/carriegracie>  
 by China editor Carrie Gracie.
- **Wall Street Journal: China Real Time Report:**  
<http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/>
- **South China Morning Post:**  
<http://www.scmp.com/frontpage/international>  
 Independent newspaper based in Hong Kong



### CHINA AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- **Foreign and Commonwealth Office Human Rights and Democracy Report 2015:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/china-country-of-concern--2> (updated annually)
- **Human Rights Watch World Report 2015-China:** <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015/country-chapters/china>  
 An international non-governmental organisation that conducts research and advocacy on human rights.
- **Human Rights in China:** <http://www.hrichina.org/en>  
 A Chinese non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in March 1989 by overseas Chinese students and scientists.
- **Reporters Without Borders, China section:**  
<http://en.rsf.org/china.html>  
 An international non-profit organisation which monitors freedom of information, fight restrictions on freedom of information and supports persecuted journalists.



## CONTROVERSIAL AND CENSORED ISSUES IN CHINA

The following subjects are considered highly sensitive by the Chinese government. Online content regarding them is blocked or censored inside China. Chinese citizens publicly advocating positions opposed to those of the government are at risk of arrest and imprisonment.

# 西藏

### a) Tibet

Tibet was invaded by China in 1950. China claims it is part of the Chinese nation but Tibetans continue to resist and oppose the rule and policies of China's government. Tibet is subject to greater repression than Han-majority areas of China and activities deemed "separatist" face particularly severe punishment under Chinese law. Tibetans are deeply concerned about threats to their culture and language, their religious freedom and the economic marginalisation arising from Han Chinese immigration. For more detailed information see separate Power Point presentation.



- **BBC Tibet overview:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-16689779>
- **The Guardian Tibet section:** <http://www.theguardian.com/world/tibet>
- **Freedom House Freedom in the World Index (Tibet):** <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2014/tibet#>  
US-based non-governmental organisation that conducts research and advocacy on democracy, political freedom, and human rights. Partially funded by the US government.
- **Central Tibetan Administration (CTA):** [www.tibet.net](http://www.tibet.net)  
Tibetan "government-in-exile", elected by Tibetans outside Tibet.
- **Dalai Lama:** [www.dalailama.com](http://www.dalailama.com)  
Leader of Tibetan Buddhism and former political leader of Tibet.
- **Free Tibet:** [www.freetibet.org](http://www.freetibet.org)  
UK-based NGO campaigning for self-determination for the Tibetan people and the respect of their human rights.

### b) Hong Kong

China assumed full control of Hong Kong in 1997 and has since pursued a "One country, Two Systems" approach, allowing greater democracy and freedom of expression in Hong Kong than in the rest of China. Many people in Hong Kong fear threats to their freedoms and greater control being exercised by the Chinese Communist Party. Mass demonstrations took place in 2014.

- **BBC Hong Kong overview:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-16517764>
- **Human Rights in China:** <http://www.hrichina.org/en/hong-kong-preserving-rights-honoring-promises>
- **Larry Ferlazzo:** <http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2014/09/29/the-best-resources-for-learning-about-the-hong-kong-protests/>  
US educational blog, including teaching resources

### c) Tiananmen Square

In June 1989, China's government responded to mass protests seeking greater freedom in China by shooting protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Total number of fatalities is unknown.

- **BBC Tiananmen Square timeline:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-27404764>
- **American Forum for Global Education:** <http://www.globaled.org/chinaproject/teachingmaterials/seminar/8l.php> Lesson Plan.
- **Lessonplans.org** <http://lessonplanspage.com/ssartlaciexperiencingtiananmensquare612-htm/> Lesson Plan.

#### d) Taiwan

China lays claim to Taiwan, originally a part of China but which has been effectively independent since China's previous government fled there after the Communist Revolution in 1949.

- **BBC** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-16164639>

#### e) Uyghurs

The Uyghur people are an ethnically-distinct Muslim community, living in north-west China's Xinjiang Province (also called East Turkestan). Their culture, language and religious practice are under threat from immigration of Han Chinese people, economic marginalisation and the policies of the central government (including restrictions on religious freedom). The region has seen violent protest and severe repression in recent years.



- **World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous People:** <http://www.minorityrights.org/5335/china/uyghurs.html>  
International NGO with UN consultative status
- **World Uyghur Congress:** <http://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/>  
Representative body for Uyghurs outside China

### 3. RESOURCES TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING OF TIBETAN CULTURE

China recognises 55 ethnic minorities, including Tibetans, whose languages and culture are theoretically guaranteed protection under its constitution. Tibetans, however, do not consider themselves a “minority” or their culture to be Chinese. Almost all Tibetans believe their culture to be under threat because of Chinese domination and policies such as the banning of images of the Dalai Lama and the national flag. Portrayals of Tibetan culture sanctioned by China's government are extremely unlikely to reflect it accurately.

The **Tibetan Community in Britain** represents Tibetans in the UK. They can offer help in promoting Tibetan cultural events led by UK-based Tibetans. **Contact them via their website** <http://tibetancommunityuk.net/>

The **Office of Tibet** represents the Dalai Lama and the CTA in the UK and may also be able to provide assistance and information <http://officeoftibetlondon.net/>

For other Tibetan-sourced representations of their culture see:

- **High Peaks Pure Earth:** [www.highpeakspureearth.com](http://www.highpeakspureearth.com)  
UK-based site translating original Tibet-sourced material, including contemporary and traditional music, blogs and poetry.



- **Tibet House Trust:** <http://www.tibet-house-trust.co.uk/>  
UK-based charity dedicated to the preservation of Tibetan culture.

*This list of resources has been compiled by Free Tibet. Free Tibet is also available for talks and presentations in schools. For further information or feedback, please contact [info@freetibet.org](mailto:info@freetibet.org)*