



## Intro to Uyghurs

Uyghurs are a people from East Turkistan, currently occupied by China. Officially, the province is known as Xinjiang, means “new territory”. Culturally and linguistically, Uyghurs share similarities with other Turkic nations in Central Asia such as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

### Language

The Uyghur language is a Turkic language, written in a unique Perso-Arabic script, which was adopted when Islam arrived in the region in the 10th century.

### Religion

Predominantly Muslim since the 10th century.

### Population

The number is contested due to politically motivated attempts by China to downplay the number of Uyghurs. Estimates range from 12 million to 25 million. Significant populations also exist in Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkey, Europe, North America, and Australia.

## How Can You Help?

Avoid buying products linked with Uyghur forced labor and Made in China products.

Contact your members of Congress to urge them to support or co-sponsor:

- Transnational Repression Policy Act (S.831/H.R.3654)
- Uyghur Policy Act (S.4073)
- Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act (H.R.1154/S.761)

Other bills can be found on the UHRP website.

Spread the word! Be a volunteer for Uyghur organizations.

## Who are we?

Boston Uyghur Association is a non-profit organization established in 2020. We are working to promote the preservation and flourishing of a rich, humanistic and diverse Uyghur culture, and to support the rights of the Uyghur people to use peaceful, democratic means to determine their own political future.

## Contact Us



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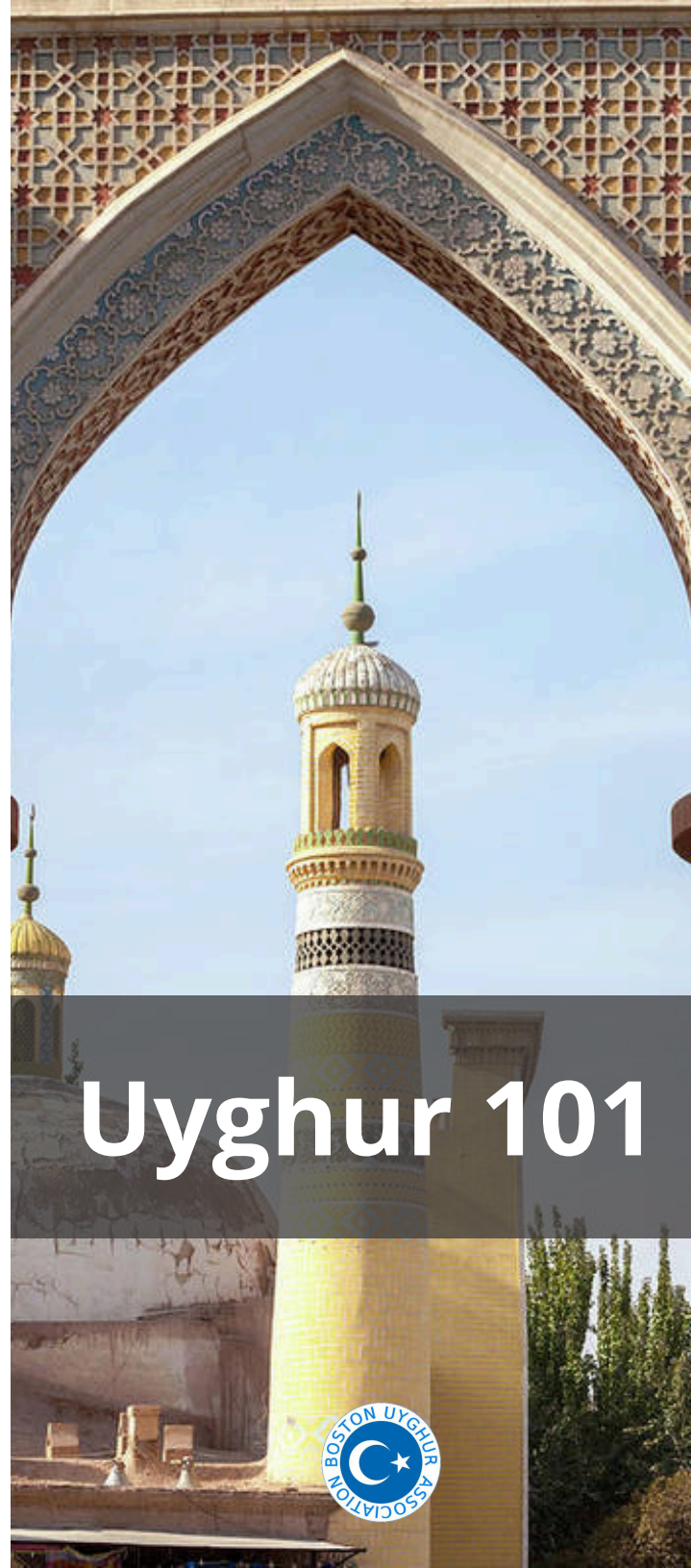
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## Culture

Uyghur tradition encompasses a rich tapestry of cultural practices, deeply rooted in the heritage of the Silk Road, expressed through music such as muqam, dance, including shaman and sufi-influenced rhythms, distinctive clothing like doppa and etles, and the warm hospitality of a community shaped by centuries of diverse influences.

Uyghur cuisine is a vibrant and flavorful fusion of Central Asian, Middle Eastern, and Asian influences.

Literature and calligraphy appeared as a crucial aspect of cultural development. Fundamentals of Uyghur classical literature were laid by Makhmut Qashqari ("Divan lugat at-turk" – "Dictionary of the Turkic peoples") and by Yusup Khas-Khajip Balasaghuni ("Qutatqu Bilik" – "Beneficial lore").



## History

Modern Uyghurs are thought to be the descendants of a myriad of empires and kingdoms, such as the Huns, Tocharians and Scythians, the Gokturks and Old Uyghurs, the Idiqt and Qarakhanids, Ili, Khoten, Chaghatay, Altisheher, and most recently the two republics of East Turkistan, established in 1933 and 1944, from which we derive our flag.

East Turkistan was colonized by the People's Republic of China in 1949 and renamed the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Xinjiang meaning "new frontier").

The Uyghur homeland borders at least 9 countries and was a trade center of the remarkable Silk Road, which has brought about a unique and fascinating cultural blend.



## Political Situation

The Uyghur people are undergoing a genocide by the Chinese government, facing issues such as mass incarceration and disappearances,, re-education, forced labor, restriction of movement, the removal of Uyghur language, history, religion, and cultural education, forced abortions, and other methods of intensive assimilation and policing of Uyghur bodies. Much of China's policies have an economic purpose in terms of labor, trade routes, and natural resources.

These actions by China affects not only Uyghurs, but everyone in the world - through forced labor-tainted supply chains for all your clothes and electronics, to policing apparatus and AI-based security being exported and modelled in many other countries, to environmental issues that contributes to the destruction of arable land, food shortages, and global warming.