

Chapter 1 : On the Silk Road: Kashgar Old City, China - Ze Wandering Frogs

12 Characteristics Of Tibetan Rugs Photos Find this Pin and more on Carpets of China and Its Border Regions by Ars Ceramica, Ltd. The collection of antique animal rug design dates back to the most important rug, the Pazyryk carpet of BC.

East of the Tibetan Plateau, deeply folded mountains fan out toward the Sichuan Basin, which is ringed by mountains with 1,000 m elevation. The floor of the basin has an average elevation of 500 m and is home to one of the most densely farmed and populated regions of China. The Sichuan Basin is capped in the north by the eastward continuation of the Kunlun range, the Qinling, and the Dabashan. The Qinling and Dabashan ranges form a major north-south divide across China Proper, the traditional core area of China. This plateau, with an average elevation of 2,000 m, is known for its limestone karst landscape. South of the Yangtze, the landscape is more rugged. Like Shanxi Province to the north, Hunan and Jiangxi each have a provincial core in a river basin that is surrounded by mountains. The Wuling range separates Guizhou from Hunan. The southeast coastal provinces, Zhejiang, Fujian and Guangdong, have rugged coasts, with pockets of lowland and mountainous interior. The Nanling, an east-west mountain range across northern Guangdong, seals off Hunan and Jiangxi from Guangdong. Average elevation in the basin is 1,000 m. With temperatures that have reached Northeast of the Tibetan Plateau, the Altun Shan - Qilian Mountains range branches off the Kunlun and creates a parallel mountain range running east-west. In between in northern Qinghai is the Qaidam Basin, with elevations of 2,000 m and numerous brackish and salt lakes. North of the Qilian is Hexi Corridor of Gansu, a natural passage between Xinjiang and China Proper that was part of the ancient Silk Road and traversed by modern highway and rail lines to Xinjiang. Further north, the Inner Mongolian Plateau, between 1,000 m in elevation, arcs north up the spine of China and becomes the Greater Hinggan Range of Northeast China. The plateau is 1,000 m in elevation and is filled with loess, a yellowish, loose soil that travels easily in the wind. Eroded loess silt gives the Yellow River its color and name. The Loess Plateau is bound to the east by the Luliang Mountain of Shanxi, which has a narrow basin running north to south along the Fen River. From these towering heights in the west, the land descends in steps like a terrace. In the north, the plateau is hemmed in by the Kunlun Mountains, which extends eastward from the intersection of the Pamirs, Karakorum and Tian Shan. Tallest mountain peaks Besides Mt. In all, 9 of the 14 mountain peaks in the world over 8,000 m are in or on the border of China. Another notable Himalayan peak in China is Namchabarwa m, 28th, near the great bend of the Yarlungtsanpo upper Brahmaputra River in eastern Tibet, and considered to be the eastern anchor of the Himalayas. List of rivers of China Main rivers of China China originally had an estimated number of 50, rivers. However, due to statistical discrepancies, water and soil loss, and climate change, there are currently only an estimated 22, rivers remaining. The majority of rivers flow west to east into the Pacific Ocean. The Yangtze is 6,300 kilometers long and has a catchment area of 4 million. It is the third longest river in the world, after the Amazon and the Nile. It rises in Tibet and travels circuitously for 5,000 kilometers through North China, it empties into the Bo Hai Gulf on the north coast of the Shandong Province. It has a catchment area of 3.5 million square kilometers. The Heilongjiang Heilong or Black Dragon River flows for 3,000 kilometers in Northeast China and an additional 1,000 kilometers in Russia, where it is known as the Amur. Other major rivers are the Liaohe in the northeast, Haihe in the north, Qiantang in the east, and Lancang in the southwest. Many rivers and streams flow into lakes or diminish in the desert. Some are used for irrigation. These waters lie on the indented coastline of the mainland and approximately 5,000 islands. More than half the coastline, predominantly in the south, is rocky; most of the remainder is sandy. The Bay of Hangzhou roughly divides the two kinds of shoreline. Northern plain There is a steep drop in the river level in the North China Plain, where the river continues across the delta, it transports a heavy load of sand and mud which is deposited on the flat plain. The flow is aided by manmade embankments. As a result, the river flows on a raised ridge fifty meters above the plain. Waterlogging, floods, and course changes have recurred over the centuries. Traditionally, rulers were judged by their concern for or indifference to preservation of the embankments. Flowing from its source in the Qingzang highlands, the Yellow River courses toward the sea through the

North China Plain, the historic center of Chinese expansion and influence. Han Chinese people have farmed the rich alluvial soils since ancient times, constructing the Grand Canal for north-south transport during the Imperial Era. The plain is a continuation of the Dongbei Manchurian Plain to the northeast but is separated from it by the Bohai Gulf, an extension of the Yellow Sea. Like other densely populated areas of China, the plain is subject to floods and earthquakes. The Hai River, like the Pearl River, flows from west to east. Its upper course consists of five rivers that converge near Tianjin, then flow seventy kilometers before emptying into the Bohai Gulf. It is a cultural boundary as it influences the distribution of customs and language. South of the Qinling mountain range divide are the densely populated and highly developed areas of the lower and middle plains of the Yangtze River and, on its upper reaches, the Sichuan Basin, an area encircled by a high barrier of mountain ranges. Roughly million people live along its middle and lower reaches. The area is a large producer of rice and wheat. The Sichuan Basin, due to its mild, humid climate and long growing season, produces a variety of crops. It is a leading silk-producing area and an important industrial region with substantial mineral resources. The Nanling Mountains, the southernmost of the east-west mountain ranges, overlook areas in China with a tropical climate. The climate allows two crops of rice to be grown per year. Southeast of the mountains lies a coastal, hilly region of small deltas and narrow valley plains. The drainage area of the Pearl River and its associated network of rivers occupies much of the region to the south. West of the Nanling, the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau rises in two steps, averaging 1, and 1, m in elevation, respectively, toward the precipitous mountain regions of the eastern Qingzang Plateau. Geology and natural resources[edit] Energy and mineral resources.

Chapter 2 : Turkmenistan - Wikitravel

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The exact border with China is still a matter of dispute as the border passes through open grassland and desert with no convenient geographical feature to mark a boundary. Over the last few thousand years China has had troubled relations with the Mongol people to the north. It was an integral part of China in Mongol Yuan and Qing dynasty times. The division of Mongolia as a separate sovereign nation is a little accident of history. After the fall of the Qing Manchu dynasty in Outer Mongolia declared itself independent. Then came the Russian Communist revolution of and the Russians supported revolution in Outer Mongolia and it became a Communist state in In exchange for support in the war against Japan , China acknowledged Soviet Russian control of Mongolia. It remained allied with Russia through the years of poor Sino-Soviet relations and served as the base for many Russian military outposts. With the break-up of the U. Although a large country in land area it is sparsely populated. Many Mongolian are still nomadic herdsmen like their ancestors centuries ago. There are more ethnic Mongolians in northern China, particularly in Inner Mongolia than in Mongolia itself. Korea had been a vassal state at various times from Han dynasty all the way through to the Qing dynasty. Vietnam has a vague border with Guangxi and Yunnan provinces running across mountain ranges. Northern Vietnam came under Han dynasty influence 2, years ago. After the French were ejected from Indo-China in as a result of internal revolts it soon became prey to the political ambitions of U. China undertook a punitive, short invasion of Vietnam in A captive breeding programme has proved effective in bringing the cutest of animals back from the brink of extinction. China maintains territorial claims to much of the South China Sea which more logically should belong to Vietnam. Many indigenous tribes in Yunnan have historical links with related peoples over the border. Fa Ngum founded the Lan Xang kingdom in the 14th century. Theravada Buddhism remains the dominant religion and provides the cultural backdrop. In the mid 18th century the kingdom of Laos suffered incursions from neighboring Burma. Laos shared a similar fate to Vietnam , it was annexed by France during the years of dwindling Qing power after the Opium Wars. For this period the border with China was closed. It has only been since that relations with China have normalized. Laos remains a poor land-locked country. Road links with Yunnan have recently increased trade with China. It roughly follows the edge of the high mountains but the line does not follow a distinct geographical feature or a river. In Britain had a dream of building a railway from India via Burma into China to eventually link with its burgeoning treaty port at Shanghai. However British interest in protecting its Indian empire led to the conquest of Burma in The Burma Road was the principal over-land route for supplies to the Nationalist capital at Chongqing. It was built with the aid of , Chinese laborers. The road transport was brought to a halt with the Japanese invasion of Burma in April American and British trained Chinese forces led a fearsome attack against the Japanese. Intensive jungle warfare had by driven the Japanese out of Burma. Although we use a few targeted advertisements there are insufficient to maintain the web site. Please consider making a donation of however little or much you can afford. To make a donation, simply click on the Paypal button below, it will take you to the official Paypal web site to make your donation simply and securely. Many thanks, much appreciated. The highest Himalayan peaks including Everest are dotted along the border. For many centuries the Chinese thought of India as an enchanted land beyond the mountains. It was from India that Buddhism came to China and Buddhism had a very deep and lasting effect on Chinese culture and philosophy. Relations between China and India reached a state of war in The dispute was over small portions of territory along the border: The historical border had been drawn by the British Raj and apparently agreed by the Tibetans but not the Chinese. India feared the incursion by Chinese troops would lead to an all out invasion of the whole country. China pulled back on 21st November and the de facto agreement was that China would hold the Aksai Chin and India hold the N. This dispute pushed India into the U. The two most populous nations on Earth with a common border are still not the best of friends. Thereafter Buddhism has remained the principal cultural

influence. The country has since showed loyalty to its Tibetan neighbors. After the Nepal-Tibet-China War ended with Chinese victory, the modern border was fixed by the British, and although officially an independent kingdom it was effectively controlled by Britain. China, perhaps surprisingly, sided with the government rather than with the Maoist rebels. Details of early history are difficult to establish. When his kingdom was recognized by the British in , Bhutan achieved quasi-independent status. It was under British control, as a princely kingdom, up to when it became an independent nation. Buddhism is the principal religion of the peaceful people of Bhutan. Control of territory followed the Indus valley deep into Tibet. The border between Pakistan and India in the mountainous Kashmir district proved impossible to agree. There are major high passes through the mountains on this section: Muztagh; Khunjerab and Karakoram into Xinjiang province. In the s China helped arm Pakistan with weaponry including the atomic bomb. China and Pakistan are planning to build a major transportation link that would allow Chinese goods to rapidly reach an Indian Ocean port. It maintains good relations with China. Although historically the valley was a trade route, there is no maintained road at present. It served the purpose of denying Russia a direct border with British India. When Afghanistan was occupied by Soviet forces hostility between Russia and China were reflected in the status of the puppet regime at Kabul. The current Afghan government has friendly relations with Beijing. It is a relatively small and poor Central Asian nation. It has only a miles [kms] border with Xinjiang province. There are sizable minorities of Russians and Uzbeks in Tajikistan. On the other side of the border there are also many Tajiks in China. It has copious illustrations and useful panels describing key parts of Chinese culture and history. It covers the whole time period from pre-history to the present day - a lot to cover in one book. It is a fascinating and engaging read and to be recommended as a key reference work. In the 8th century the Kyrgyz culture and language developed around the Pamir Mountains. It forms the northern border of most of Xinjiang province for about miles [kms]. It remains a relatively poor nation of 5. There are many ethnic Kyrgyz people in Xinjiang. It came under Russian influence in the 18th century and part of the Russian Empire during the 19th. Kazakhstan is a large country covering an area similar to India; it has an miles [1, kms] border with Xinjiang province. Many Kazakhs live in Xinjiang and they have tribal affinity with Kazakhstan, this probably makes it the biggest external threat to China. It was recognized in as an independent nation when the Soviet Union broke up. It is now a market economy with extensive oil and gas reserves.

Chapter 3 : List of Chinese provinces and regions - Wikitravel

Carpets of China and Its Border Regions by Hu, William C.. Keramos. Hardcover. Yellow cloth covered boards with black title blocks and gold titles.

The large land was isolated from much of the rest of the world by dry deserts to the north and west, the Pacific Ocean to the east, and impassable mountains to the south. This enabled the Chinese to develop independently from other world civilizations. Map showing the geography of China from CIA. These major rivers were a great source of fresh water, food, fertile soil, and transportation. They also were the subjects of Chinese poetry, art, literature, and folklore. It was along the banks of the Yellow River where the Chinese civilization first formed. The Yellow River is 3,463 miles long making it the sixth longest river in the world. It is also called the Huang He River. Early Chinese farmers built small villages along the Yellow River. The rich yellow colored soil was good for growing a grain called millet. The farmers of this area also raised sheep and cattle. It is 3,463 miles long and is the third longest river in the world. Just like the Yellow River, the Yangtze played an important role in the development of the culture and civilization of Ancient China. Farmers that lived along the Yangtze River took advantage of the warm climate and rainy weather to grow rice. Eventually the land along the Yangtze became some of the most important and wealthy land in all of Ancient China. The Yangtze also served as a boundary between northern and southern China. It is very wide and difficult to cross. The famous Battle of Red Cliffs took place along the river. Mountains To the south and southeast of China are the Himalaya Mountains. These are the highest mountains in the world. They provided a nearly impassable border for Ancient China, keeping the area isolated from many other civilizations. They were also important to Chinese religion and were considered sacred. These deserts also provided borders that kept the Chinese isolated from the rest of the world. The Mongols, however, lived in the Gobi Desert and were constantly raiding cities of northern China. This is why the Great Wall of China was built to protect the Chinese from these northern invaders. The Taklamakan Desert has the nickname of the "Sea of Death" because of its temperature extremes and poisonous snakes. Much of the Silk Road traveled along the deserts to the north and west of China. The religion of Buddhism is closely associated with the Himalaya Mountains. Activities Take a ten question quiz about this page. Listen to a recorded reading of this page: Your browser does not support the audio element. For more information on the civilization of Ancient China:

Chapter 4 : China and its Neighbours: troubled relations

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The recent standoff between India and China at the Doklam plateau which lies at a tri-junction between the India, China, and Bhutan has gained much attention. It has turned into the biggest military stand-off between the two armies in years. There are many who even fear a war. This region which originally was a part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir is claimed by China as part of its autonomous Xinjiang region. After the war, it is administered by China. It is the second largest Indo-China border area covering over sq. However, it is an uninhabited land. It was formally called North East Frontier Agency. However, it has continued to assert its claim over the territory. Nowadays, almost the whole of Arunachal is claimed by China. This is the reason why the recent visit of Dalai Lama to Tawang monastery had become such a contentious bilateral issue Johnson Line vs McDonald Line The two nations have held on to their own stands even on the Johnson line and McDonald line which demarcates the territories of the two. The war was preceded by various conflicts and military incidents between India and China throughout the summer of Until the start of the war, India was confident that a war would not happen and made little preparations. After a month long War, China unilaterally declared a ceasefire on 19 November By then China has made significant advances on both the fronts. India suffered a huge setback and was badly defeated. China achieved its objective of acquiring control in the Aksai chin. In the eastern sector, their troops went back to the north of the McMahon line. India-China border conflicts after the war There have been several instances of Chinese troops entering the Indian side and Indian troops entering the Chinese side. Still, the Indo-China border has remained largely peaceful, except in when there were two incidents of armed conflict first at Nathu La and then at Cho La. The conflict at Nathu La lasted 5 days and the one at Cho La ended the same day. The outcome was more pleasing to India as they were able to send back the Chinese military and therefore the conflicts are seen as a success for India. Agreements and initiatives to resolve the border disputes Shimla agreement of Tibet, China and British India. After the discussion, the agreement was signed by British India and Tibet but not by the Chinese officials. Presently India recognises the McMahon line, as agreed by the Shimla convention, as the legal boundary between India and China. However, China rejects the Shimla agreement and the McMahon line, contending that Tibet was not a sovereign state and therefore did not have the power to conclude treaties. Panchsheel Agreement of Although we have come a long way since, from war to the cold peace era of , to the revived tensions of the present, the intent of the doctrine was well directed. It must have acted as a safeguard against any such disputes arising at the first place. It is to be noted that this border is not a legally recognised international boundary, but rather it is the practical boundary. Conventionally, India considers the Johnson line of , marked by a civil servant W. Johnson, which put Aksai Chin in Jammu and Kashmir. In India and China signed a Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation and also mutually decided to appoint Special Representatives to explore the framework of a boundary settlement from the political perspective. The India-China relations received a major boost in This was also followed by a framework of Guiding principles and political parameters to improve bilateral ties. It proposed a three-step resolution to the border disputes: A bilateral agreement on the laid down principles. This was to be followed by an exchange of maps between the two countries. Once satisfied with the markings, the final demarcation of borders was to take place. In India and China agreed on the establishment of a working mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India China borders. Clearly, the policies have not sufficed in realising a solution to the long-standing disputes. A status-quo exists owing to the face-off between differential aspirations of the two nations. What is the recent Doklam issue? However, India and Bhutan recognise it as Doklam, a Bhutan territory. The route is a better alternative to Lepu Lekh route via Uttarakhand and had been opened for pilgrims in Hereafter, both India and China increased the presence of their troops and since then there has been a war of words especially from the Chinese state media. Although a military standoff was averted, diplomatic negotiations have not yielded many

results to cool-off the passions across the border. Why is Doklam so critical? China believes Doklam to be a disputed territory between Bhutan and China. It, therefore, contests the presence of Indian army in the region as a transgression. Why is India supporting Bhutan in the Doklam issue? Bhutan and India have a very cordial relationship were as Bhutan and China do not have formal relations. Is Indian border ready to face challenges? India clearly is far ahead of what it was in , both militarily as well as infra-structurally. However, to undermine China would be to relive the fallacies that led to the war. Therefore, a rational policy of dialogue is essential. Along with that, seeking gains on the works which have already done must be the target. Theory of Asymmetry is an approach of capitalising on the huge asymmetry in resources by the major party, followed by a show of magnanimity and conciliation. As of now, only 21 of the proposed 73 roads have been developed by India for the Indo-China border Also the revised target is now instead of the original target, This exposes how we are lagging behind in connectivity of our border posts. Along with that, the force is not yet equipped with advanced armouries that were envisioned for them. A Brahmos cruise missile regiment is being deployed in Arunachal Pradesh. This clearly signals Indian intentions to China, that finds every opportunity to reiterate its sanction over the territory. Many abandoned airstrips in India are also being reactivated. Though thought-provoking, it is a step towards the right direction. Other issues between India and China The recent standoff is seen as a culmination of a number of disagreements between India and China and the relations between the two sides has soured in the last years. Few of them are: India supports the US and other countries in reaffirming the freedom of navigation in international waters, which includes the South China Sea. The recent visit of Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh has been a matter of conflict between the two sides. China is of the view that India is trying to pursue political gains in the name of counter-terrorism. Way forward From the recent incidents, although the possibility of an India-China armed conflict cannot be ruled out, any kind of military conflict is not in the interest of any country. Deepak Kaushik and Shuja Shabir.

Chapter 5 : Kids History: Geography of Ancient China

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China and its Neighbours: China has had, or still has, border issues with some of its neighbours. The biggest outstanding border issue is with India. There are, however, disputes mainly concerning the demarcation line in the middle of the rivers, ownership of islands and particularly Mount Paektu, which is the highest peak in the region and the source of the two rivers. Another source of tension is access to the Sea of Japan. Since the last part of the Tumen river defines the border between the DRPK and Russia, China has no access to the Sea of Japan which has further implications on its military strategy in the region. In the Yellow Sea, an economic and fishing zone has been drawn unilaterally by the North Koreans miles off the Chinese coast. But these disputes hardly constitute a serious problem in relations between the two countries. Russia China shares its second longest border of 4, km with Russia. China claims historical ownership over these disputed territories arguing that unfair treaties were signed between the Qing Empire and Tsarist Russia in the 19th century. The USSR refused to accept this interpretation and insisted on its ownership. Although both sides reached a preliminary agreement in the early s that Zhenbao Island would be under Chinese sovereignty, border clashes took place that lasted for seven months in . Consequently, Sino-Soviet relations soured after the conflict. Serious border negotiations did not take place until the fall of the Soviet Union in . The question of control over Zhenbao Island, and three other islands in the Amur and Argun rivers were finally settled in and respectively, whilst the demarcation of the western border was completed in . In , Heixiazi Island Bolshoy Ussurysky Island , once a bone of contention at the confluence of the Amur and Ussurui rivers, was officially opened up as an eco-tourism zone after Russia had ceded half of the square-km island to China in .

Mongolia Having been taken over by China in the Yuan Dynasty and gained international recognition of its independence in , Mongolia shares a border of km with China, the longest for both countries. The Sino-Mongolian border treaty was signed in , and a final agreement on the exact demarcation of the border was reached in . China increasingly turns to Mongolia to meet its energy needs. Having been effectively a Soviet colony until , Mongolia has since developed closer ties with China, not just in trade and natural resources but also on security issues. Border disputes date back to Soviet times. With the collapse of the Soviet Union in , the new Central Asian countries including Kazakhstan took over these border disputes with China. In , a treaty was signed between China and Kazakhstan, which settled a disputed area of square-km near the Baimurz pass and another square-km area near the Sary-Charndy River. Not only does it release China from relying excessively on imported oil from the Middle East through a lengthy and risky shipping route but it serves as a buffer zone between China and Russia. Kazakhstan is increasingly important for China in terms of security cooperation, especially combating Uighur separatism. Kyrgyzstan As with Kazakhstan, the border dispute between China and Kyrgyzstan is the legacy of Soviet times. An agreement was reached in , which defines out of 1, km of the Kyrgyz-Chinese border. The demarcation of the boundary was finally completed in . As a result of ethnic tensions in Kyrgyzstan, China temporarily closed its border in . China has offered to help Kyrgyzstan build a power grid in the South, which would be the largest inter-governmental project between the two countries. In an agreement was reached in which China would gain sovereignty over an area of 1, square-km in the Pamir Mountains, lying on the Tajik border with China and Afghanistan, less than 5. China looks to Central Asian governments to crackdown on Islamic fundamentalism and Uighur separatism. Historically, a caravan trade of fruit and tea flourished in the Wakhan corridor for centuries. Border disputes in the area were settled as early as .

During most of the Cold War period, China had very friendly relations with Afghanistan. In , the Afghan government proposed to open the border as an alternative supply route to help combat the Taliban. Pakistan Four years on from its independence in , Pakistan established diplomatic relations with China, one year after India. At the time, there were unresolved border issues to which neither side paid serious attention. After the Sino-Indian war in , China and Pakistan became aligned with each other, even though they clearly did not share the same political values. This agreement is considered economically beneficial for Pakistan and

bilateral relations between Pakistan and China have since improved significantly. Currently, China and Pakistan share a km long border, ending near the Karakoram Pass. There are no border disputes between them. China has sided with Pakistan in the dispute that Kashmir does not belong to India. If and when the Kashmir dispute is resolved there will need to be an additional agreement between Pakistan and China. India The borders between the Indian subcontinent and China have been peaceful for thousands of years and India was among the first nations to grant diplomatic recognition to the PRC in However, there have been disputes over competing historical claims, partly fuelled by the British penchant for drawing administratively convenient borders during the colonial period. Two territories currently in dispute are Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh. Despite being an uninhabitable area with no resources, Aksai Chin has strategic importance for China as it connects Tibet and Xinjiang. In China completed building a road in Aksai Chin, about which India did not know until a Chinese map was published in While the British and Tibetans signed the resulting Accord the Chinese did not. Today, India still recognises the McMahon Line as the border but the Chinese disagree, citing Arunachal Pradesh as being geographically and culturally part of Tibet since ancient times. China swiftly declared victory but voluntarily withdrew back to the McMahon Line. Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh remain sources of tensions between China and India and both sides have not managed to negotiate an agreement as to the precise border. Meanwhile trade and economic ties between China and India have developed substantially in recent years. Nepal China and Nepal share a border of 1, km, which was demarcated according to a treaty. Nepal considers China a major source of investment, development aid and economic support, whereas China sees Nepal as a strategic buffer state against India with regard to Tibet. Although Nepal stopped accepting Tibetan refugees in the s, they are generally allowed to cross Nepal on their way to India, an informal agreement, which does not seriously antagonise China. Bhutan Another buffer state between China and India and a traditional ally with the latter, Bhutan has not established official ties with China, thus relations have been frosty. Both sides share a border of roughly km with a disputed territory of square-km. Although there have been negotiations on border settlement in the last two decades, their competing claims have not been reconciled. Today, China and Burma share a 2, km border based on the border agreement of Relations between both sides were volatile throughout the Cold War, largely due to alleged discrimination of ethnic Chinese within Burma. Since China started supporting the military junta in , the Burmese regime has become highly dependent on the Chinese both financially and militarily, especially after the crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in in Burma. Today China is the largest trade partner for Burma. Whilst China has been helping Burma build its infrastructure and develop its industries, Burma in return offers China oil, gas and other natural resources. The economic relations between the countries have strong political connotations. China had for years sheltered the Burmese military junta from UN sanctions and ensured its domestic stability. Burma, on the other hand, is important for China, not just for its natural resources, but its strategic location in South Asia. However, a growing number of problems on both sides, evidenced by the sudden halt of the Myitstone dam project and incidents on the Mekong river, have shown the limitations of their relationship. In , violent clashes between the Burmese government and the Kokang, a group of armed rebels in northern Burma, resulted in Chinese casualties and Burmese refugees flooding into the Chinese province of Yunan. Laos China shares a border of km with Laos based on a border treaty signed in Vietnam China shares a land border of 1, km with Vietnam. For centuries, Vietnam was subject to Chinese domination resulting in conflicts and invasions. Following the Vietnamese invasion and occupation of Cambodia in , relations with Beijing deteriorated and in China invaded and fought a short but bloody war with Vietnam. While both sides claimed victory each suffered heavy casualties. A border agreement was eventually signed in following border skirmishes throughout the s. In , the building of the Hanoi-Kunming highway was announced that marked a significant improvement in Sino-Vietnamese relations. While China has now become the second-largest trading partner and the largest source of imports for Vietnam, tensions over territorial issues were recently rekindled over the Spratly Island, an oil rich area in the South China Sea. These borders are not agreed and the subject of continuing disputes. ASEAN has attempted to resolve the disputes through multi-lateral talks but China prefers to deal with each country on a bilateral basis. Another factor is the presence of the US in the Pacific and its determination to uphold freedom of navigation. China has

expressed concern at the American plans to increase its military presence in the region. The Central Asian borders were the easiest to resolve with China being willing to make concessions to enlist the support of these governments in combating a perceived security threat. The borders with the two fellow members of the UNSC were more difficult. It took a decade to reach agreement with Russia and the border with India remains unresolved. It is, however, the maritime borders that have caused most trouble in the past two years with China being accused of increasingly assertive behaviour towards its neighbours. It will be a difficult balancing act for China – on the one hand demonstrating that it is back as a major power after the century of humiliation; and on the other wishing to be regarded as an important but peaceful neighbour. The last thing that China needs in its current situation is an armed conflict with any of its neighbours. In an era of growing political and economic interdependence such a development could only impact negatively on China.

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Taiwan is a special case. At the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949, the Communists held most of China and the defeated Nationalists held only Taiwan, the Pescadores and a few islands in the South China Sea. In many ways Taiwan acts as a separate country with its own visas, currency and a separate government and political system. Lower-level divisions [edit] Some of this structure repeats at a lower level. Provinces and regions are generally broken up into prefectures and prefecture-level cities. Within a province or autonomous region, political geography can be broken down into: Prefectures are predominantly rural while prefecture-level cities are distinguished by a major anchoring urban area, which usually lends its name to the entire area. For major urban areas like Beijing, counties are rural and remote from the city proper. A county-level city will be larger than a township but not major enough to anchor the entire region. In the countryside, the county is divided into townships which are generally small towns that form the economic center for surrounding villages. Many villages have long since been absorbed by fast-growing cities and townships. For example, in the largest-to-smallest order generally used in China: For example "Chengdu" can mean either the city itself or the entire prefecture which includes significant amounts of countryside. Moreover, when a Chinese says their hometown is Chengdu, it might mean his family and his identity papers are from there even if he actually lives and grew up elsewhere. These began in as a provincial government initiative supported by Deng Xiaoping. SEZs tend to be prosperous, have large expatriate communities, and have more Western restaurants and facilities. In 1980, Shenzhen next to Hong Kong and Zhuhai next to Macau were groups of fishing villages, with a population of a few hundred thousand each. By 1990, Shenzhen had a population of 10 million and Zhuhai approached 2 million. The other SEZs have also undergone enormous changes. Pudong was mostly farmland in 1990, but now has more skyscrapers than New York. There are also many other areas where investment is encouraged. The national government started a program in 1984 that opened up 14 coastal cities, and all the capitals of inland provinces or autonomous regions, for investment. There are also many provincial, city, county and township-level economic development programs. However, the SEZs remain the most developed areas with the most advanced administrative systems for investment and spurring economic development. Treaty ports and concessions [edit] When Europeans came to China by sea, from the late 15th century on, the Emperor strictly controlled their trade and movements. For several centuries, the only Western base was the Portuguese colony of Macau, trade was permitted only at Canton Guangzhou under a variety of restrictions. After the Chinese defeat in the first Opium War, in 1842, much of that changed. These were known as "treaty ports" because it was a treaty that opened them up. After the Second Opium War, ending in 1860, other cities were opened to trade, including several inland cities such as Nanjing and Wuhan. Various Western powers also took pieces of China, called concessions, and administered them. Some of the treaties specifically provided that Chinese law did not apply in these areas, or to foreigners in China. To Western powers, this was an obvious precaution against a barbaric system; to many Chinese, it was a deeply felt insult. Several nations had concessions in Shanghai; today the old French Concession is one of the more elegant tourist attractions. Other areas such as Hankou part of Wuhan, Gulangyu in Xiamen, Shamian Dao in Guangzhou and parts of Tianjin also had concessions for several nations. These historic areas have been or are being remodeled and have become very popular tourist attractions for both Chinese and foreigners. In some areas, only one nation had a concession. Germans in Qingdao, which now makes its famous beer French in Zhanjiang, near their IndoChinese colonies Russians with a large naval base in Dalian, then called Port Arthur, and Harbin which was a base for their railroad construction. A British naval base in Weihai, just across the bay from Dalian. This is not a complete list. This is a usable article. It touches on all the major areas of the topic. An adventurous person could use this article, but please plunge forward and help it grow!

Chapter 7 : List of disputed territories of India - Wikipedia

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Siltation at the mouth of the Huang He extended the length of the river by about 35 km 20 miles between and Throughout the loessial uplands, some 40 million Chinese still live in cave-like or subterranean dwellings that are an especially appropriate response to the peculiar nature of loess and the absence of alternative building materials such as timber. Chang Jiang Yangzi River. The flow of the Chang Jiang is some 20 times greater than that of the Huang He. It is in the middle course of the Chang Jiang that the controversial Three Gorges Dam project is being constructed. Increasing clean energy, controlling floods, and stimulating economic development are but a few of objectives of the dam. Below the Three Gorges Dam are the great flood plains of the Chang Jiang as well as the major tributaries on its north and south banks. At the mouth of the river is the great and productive Yangzi delta and metropolitan Shanghai. With the completion of this project, disastrous floods are expected to be eliminated. The second worst flood of the past years struck the Chang Jiang valley in Summer and affected million people, killing some , and leaving 14 million homeless. On the adjacent infrared image, the extensive flooded area is shown in blue, other water areas in black, vegetation in red, and clouds in white. Zhu Jiang Pearl River Delta. Situated in Guangdong province just to the north of Hong Kong and Macao, the delta of the Zhu Jiang is the most significant farming area in southeastern China. Some regard it as one of the most productive and sustainable ecosystems in the world because of its integrated dike-rice paddy-fish pond agricultural system. Between and , land reclamation along the banks of the river and along the coast added farm land and space for fish ponds as well as created space for rapidly expanding settlements. Early Civilizations Looking at the map of historical borders and the map showing the major rivers highlights the important fact that the earliest hearths of Chinese civilization developed along its river valleys. The Shang dynasty c. Mountains and Deserts The west of China is comprised of mountains and deserts as well as plateaus that do not provide much arable land for agriculture. Throughout most of history, the civilization that grew up to the east in what is today China was not surrounded by other nearby major civilizations. To this extent the Chinese were "isolated" from competing civilizations although there was a broad and fluid frontier zone on the western margins. This geographical fact is important to remember when discussing the Western encroachment on China from the sea during the late imperial period. Although the mountains and deserts of the west limited contact between early imperial dynasties and other centers of civilization in the Inner Asia, Middle East, South Asia, and Europe, there were some important and notable exchanges of culture. The legendary Silk Road facilitated the exchange of goods and ideas between China and each of these areas. Historical Borders Like many other countries, the historical borders of china have varied over time. Bordering Nations China is at the core of a cultural sphere or region known as East Asia. The large number of countries with which China shares borders makes Chinese foreign policy especially complex unlike the U. Great Wall, Grand Canal, Terracing and Irrigation The Chinese attempted to correct perceived "deficiencies" in their physical geography by building massive civil engineering projects that would help bring about unity and provide defense as well as by countless smaller scale efforts at modifying their physical landscapes. Early walled ramparts were constructed of rammed or tamped earth. The brick-faced walls seen today were built much later during the Ming dynasty Although not a single continuous wall, the Great Wall and its associated military encampments and guard posts figured in attempts by many dynasties to manage the nomadic peoples, sometime referred to as "barbarians," who lived north of it on the grasslands or steppes. For the most part, the Great Wall should be viewed as a zone of transition " rather than a fixed border " between farming areas with sedentary villages and pasture lands with nomadic lifestyles. Constructed around AD to serve commercial as well as military considerations, the canal was extended several times, most notably to the Hangzhou in and eventually in to Dadu, the great Mongol Yuan dynasty capital. During the Ming and Qing dynasties which followed the Mongol dynasty, the Grand Canal ensured that Beijing, the great successor imperial capitals to Dadu, had sufficient grain from the southern rice bowl areas. The Grand Canal is the longest artificial waterway in the

world and has a long history of barge traffic along its course. Although many parts of it fell into disrepair over the years, today it is still possible to traverse the man-made Grand Canal from Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province northward km to Beijing. These human modifications traditionally focused on terracing hill slopes and controlling water via irrigation as well as reclaiming marginal land. In managing natural resources and expanding opportunities for the production of food, the Chinese have reclaimed, even created, land that in many areas of the world would have been considered impossible to farm. Creating level land through terracing of hill slopes. Throughout the rugged areas of northern and southern China, farmers over the centuries have sculpted the hilly land into step-like landscapes of terraces. Sometimes terraces are relatively natural features that need only be modified in order to produce level areas for planting, while in others extraordinary efforts must be carried out to move earth and rock, stabilize retaining walls, and create sluices for controlling the flow of water. Drainage control and water storage are as important as the level land itself.

Chapter 8 : - Carpets of China and Its Border Regions by William C. Hu

Carpets of China and Its Border Regions, By William C. Front Dust Jacket of book, published by Ars Ceramica, Ltd. Find this Pin and more on Carpets of China and Its Border Regions by Ars Ceramica, Ltd. Chinese carpets - Carpet.

Due to the One-China policy, it has no formal diplomatic relations with any of these states. Article 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of China states that "The territory of the Republic of China according to its existing national boundaries shall not be altered except by resolution of the National Assembly. It is approximately 35, sq km in size, not including the Demchok region sq km. India considers it as a part of its state of Jammu and Kashmir. What little evidence existing suggests that the few true locals in Aksai Chin have Buddhist beliefs, although some Muslim Uyghurs may also live in the area because of the trade between Tibet and Xinjiang. India claims the area as a part of the Ladakh District of the state of Jammu and Kashmir; however, it has agreed to respect the Line of Actual Control. The Chinese Army occupied most of the plains during its war with India; however, the Chinese retreated. The dispute remains unresolved. All of these are controlled by India i. However China claims all of it. There is another area called Barahoti section area whose grazing fields are named disputed by China, which is also in the state of Uttarakhand and is controlled by India. It is still claimed by India as part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan gave up its claim to the tract under a border agreement with China in with the proviso that the settlement was subject to the final solution of the Kashmir dispute. Arunachal Pradesh[edit] Arunachal Pradesh is a state of India created on 20 January, located in the far northeast. It borders the states of Assam and Nagaland to the south, and shares international borders with Burma in the east, Bhutan in the west, and the China in the north. The majority of the territory is claimed by China as part of South Tibet. The northern border of Arunachal Pradesh reflects the McMahon Line, a treaty between the United Kingdom and the Tibetan government which was never accepted by the Chinese government, was also considered invalid by Tibetans due to unmet condition specified in the treaty, [1] and not broadly enforced by the Indian government until This territory is administered by India. India controls all of the Siachen Glacier itself, including all tributary glaciers. They are located in the heart of the Karakoram, on the southwest side of the Siachen Glacier. In, India assumed military control of the main peaks and passes of the range, with Pakistani forces into the glacial valleys just to the west. Hence, despite high peaks and dramatic climbing opportunities, they are little visited except by military forces due to the ongoing Siachen conflict. Pakistan claims the line to follow the eastern shore of the estuary while India claims a center line differing interpretations of paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Bombay Government Resolution of signed between then the Government of Sindh and Rao Maharaj of Kutch. Thus affecting the maritime boundary negotiations in Arabian Sea waters.

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The shrine is set meters up a rocky mountainside overlooking the village and the steppe. It consists of a white mausoleum-like structure, a guest house and a roofed platform where the pilgrims congregate and have meals. According to the legend Paraw Bibi was a beautiful and virtuous maiden. A jealous woman wanted to hand over Paraw Bibi to invaders in exchange for the promise not to attack the village. Paraw Bibi cursed the woman and let her turn into black stone. When the enemy attacked, Paraw Bibi ordered the mountain to split into two parts so that she was able to enter it and to preserve her purity and virtue. The locals built a shrine to Paraw Bibi, as they believed that because of her bravery and refusal to submit she was a true hero blessed by the holy breath of the prophets. It is reported that at least at the end of the Soviet era pilgrims from all over western Turkmenistan visited the shrine, seeking fertility and a cure from insanity. Khoja Yusuf Hamadani is a well known figure in Islamic history. He is considered as the first in a line of Sufi masters from which the lineages of the most important Sufi orders Naqshbandi and Yasavi are derived, and is described as an exemplary Muslim, pious and unpretentious, devoted to Islamic scholarship and deeply inspired by his work to promote Islam. He died in and his body was interred at Merv, presumably at the site carrying his name. In the Soviet era the Mosque of Khoja Yusup Baba was declared an official architectural monument and one of the four official mosques in entire Turkmenistan. It is popular belief that two pilgrimages to Khoja Yusup Baba equal one to Mecca. The pilgrims circumambulate the tomb from right to left, surrounding the tomb three times. Most people repeatedly touch the wall of the tomb with both hand and bring their hands to the face. Some even kiss the wall. After they had completed the circling they sit together while the caretaker recites a blessing. When the blessing is finished they give the caretaker offerings of money. In the complex is a well said to contain holy water. Women tie small strips of cloth on the branches of the bushes or trees that line the path leading to the well. These strips signify prayers or wishes to the saint. For the same reason pilgrims set up two old bricks in the form of an upside-down "V". Baba Gambar has several shrines. The best known is in southeastern Turkmenistan, about km south of Mary: It is often considered as an example how a pre-Islamic deity was transformed into an Islamic saint. According to Islamic legend Gambar was the stableman of Ali and caretaker of his horse Duldul. In Turkmen legends Gambar is considered as the patron of musicians and creator of the first dutar, the traditional two-string music instrument. According to the legend Ali remarked that Duldul was ill and underfed. When he questioned Gambar, Gambar did not give an answer. Then, Ali saw Gambar playing the dutar to Duldul. When Ali confronted Gambar, Gambar commanded the earth to swallow him and fled underground to Mecca, saying that the two will meet again on judgment day. The site consists of the shrine-mausoleum, a "chile agach" and a tree the leaves of which have the shape of dutar tuning pegs. Hazret i Ali is located about 12 km southwest of Ashgabat, near the village of Bagir and the archaeological site of Nisa. The small mosque, called "namazga" hall of prayer, is considered as a place where Ali prayed when he was promoting Islam. Khoja Alem Baba is located near the town of Kaka, about km south east of Ashgabat. The tomb is housed in a clay mausoleum with two chambers, an entrance or sitting area and the tomb chamber proper. Tomb and chamber are decorated with votive offerings and objects connected with Khoja Alem Baba. Sites as Khoja Alem Baba are very common in Turkmenistan. Visa[edit] Except for short visits by residents of some nearby Kazakh and Uzbek regions, everyone needs a visa to enter Turkmenistan. For independent travel, a short days transit visa can be obtained, but a full visa may be difficult, as most embassies require an invitation letter LOI from a Turkmen tourist agency that is only issued upon booking a full tour. However, when you are visiting Ashgabat, you are able to explore the capital on your own. If tour company tells you that you are required to have a guide in Ashgabat, check with other tour companies, because this is not the case in Arranging a tour will make things easier, as the company can help in getting the LOI and visa. Bear in mind that, depending on how you enter the country, you might have to be met by a

guide. Entering Ashgabat by plane does not seem to require a guide. This can be particularly important, especially if your inward journey is delayed as is possible when entering across the Caspian Sea by boat. Remember that you do not have to have the tour company book all the hotels and internal airplane tickets. Request an itemization of the cost of these from the tour company, and check the prices on your own. The tour companies especially Stantour easily charge you many times the actual cost e. When you enter Turkmenistan your bags usually will be searched with an X-ray machine. You will have to fill a green Entry Travel Pass, an immigration card and a customs declaration. Taking with you psychotropic medication, for instance sleeping pills, is not allowed. The exact list of prohibited drugs is difficult to find. There are limits for bringing to the country alcohol and tobacco products. List all your valuables that you bring with you in the customs declaration, make sure that it is stamped and keep a copy with you. You will have to show it again when you leave the country. Vaccinations[edit] The World Health Organization recommends vaccinations against diphtheria, hepatitis A and B, measles, mumps, polio, rubella, tetanus, typhoid and varicella. In addition, vaccinations against meningitis, rabies and tuberculosis are recommended for long term travelers. Visa[edit] It is strongly recommended that you apply for a Turkmenistan visa before travelling to Turkmenistan. It is reported that travelers applying for visa at Ashgabat airport have been detained in the transit area of the airport for several days due to missing documents. A government approved letter of invitation is required of some tourists such as residents of the United States of America before a visa can be issued. Processing for the letter of invitation can only begin about 90 days before your trip and will take several weeks. The tour company will email you the letter of invitation, and then you can apply for the visa at the applicable embassy. Once you have the letter of invitation, obtaining the visa in advance from the Turkman embassy in Washington DC was pretty straightforward in summer It took about 3 weeks for processing. Make sure to follow the instructions exactly e. You do not need to obtain a physical tourist visa in advance. After OVIR registration, which is usually handled by the hotel or tour agency, one will receive a green entry and departure card. Take particular care of the departure card, as it must be presented when leaving the country. Travelers staying for more than 3 days in Turkmenistan must register with the Migration Service www. You are responsible for registration, even when staying in a hotel. Normally, however, the hotel or tour agency takes care of this. This confirmation and the receipt for the registration fee paid when entering the country have to be presented to the Migration Service. Registration will be stamped into your passport. You have to give notice to the Migration Service in order to be permitted to leave the country. This notice will be stamped into the passport as well. Border controls will check if you have registration and notice to leave stamped into your passport. Travel permits[edit] Travel permits are required for many border regions. You do not need a travel permit for Ashgabat , Merv , Turkmenabat and Balkanabat. Transit visas allow you to travel along the main roads on your way to the next country on your itinerary. It is, however, absolutely necessary to have a travel permit for the following regions: Current flight schedules are listed on the airline website. Turkish Airlines flies to Ashgabat from Istanbul. Lufthansa flies from Frankfurt to Ashgabat. See Ashgabat page for more detailed information. By train[edit] There are railway connections to Uzbekistan , Kazakhstan and Iran. No passenger trains cross the border at any of them, however, essentially isolating the country. By car[edit] If you want to enter Turkmenistan with your own car, you need a liability insurance. The green International Insurance Card is not valid in Turkmenistan. In addition you have to pay an additional tax for the government subsidized fuel prices, depending on the distance of your travel in Turkmenistan. This tax has to be paid on the border in US Dollars. Be prepared to have long waiting times at border controls. By vehicle, you can get in through Kazakhstan, Iran, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. By bus[edit] Visitors holding visas can enter Turkmenistan from all neighbouring countries. Checks at the border usually take one or two hours and maybe even more. Border points are open daily from 9AM to 6PM. From Iran[edit] Since no public transportation goes across the Turkmen border, to get to Ashgabat in Turkmenistan from Mashhad Iran , the following option is the most convenient: Take a bus to Quchan: From Quchan , take a private taxi to Bajgiran village at the border.