

Jining

济宁

Jining ("Tranquil River Crossing") is one of the largest cities in Shandong ('East of the Mountains') Province in eastern China. Jining is in the south-western part of the province, just north of Weishan Lake and not far from the provincial borders of Jiangsu, Anhui. The Grand Canal passes through the city.

During its long history Jining was known as Ren State during the Xia Dynasty (2200 - 1700 BC), and Lu State during the Zhou Dynasty (1100 - 221 BC). It was renamed Jining because of its elevated terrain that protects it from flooding.

Apart from the Han Chinese, who make up almost 98% of the one million population, Jining is home to a sizeable Muslim community of 18,500 Hui people. The larger Jining Prefecture, which includes twelve counties and townships, has a total population of 7.7 million. Jining is strategically located along the Beijing-Shanghai-Hong Kong railway.

Jining is one of the eight largest coal production bases in China. Its annual coal reserve reaches 2.4 billion tons, accounting for more than 50% of Shandong's total coal reserves. Other important industries in Jining include metallurgy, machinery, electronics, chemicals, medicine and textiles. Jining is also famous in China for its pick-

Population:
871,170 (1990)
1,021,044 (2000)
1,196,700 (2010)

Province:
Shandong

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 97.7%
Hui 2.1%
Manchu 0.1%
Korean 0.1%

Christians:
21,500 (2.1%)

les and for the production of leather and handicrafts.

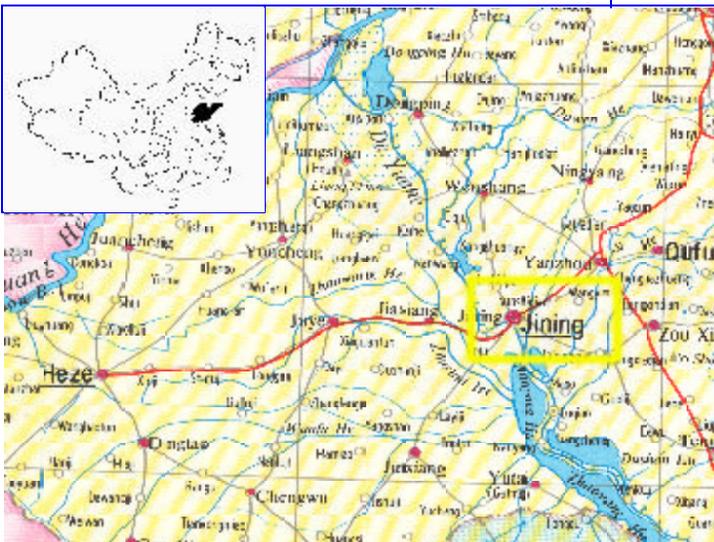
The leaders of the Jining region have been quick to promote the area as "the cradle of Chinese civilization." They have zealously pursued economic development. Today, Jining has sister-city relationships with cities in Japan, France, Sweden, and the United States. Hundreds of foreign enterprises have invested in the city, greatly enhancing the economic plight of its population.

Jining is known as "the city of 72 famous springs." In 1996, owing to underground changes, a spectacular gushing spring reappeared in the city.

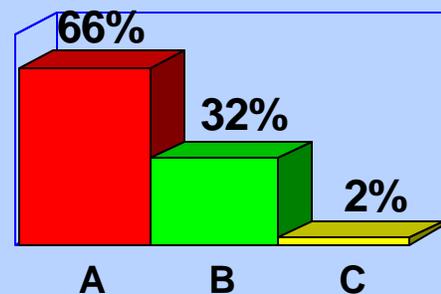
Jining is credited as being the place where the Hua Quan style of boxing originated. It is said that during the Kaiyuan reign of the Tang Dynasty (713-741) a knight named Cai Mao killed an enemy in Xian. The dead man came from a noble family. They pursued Cai Mao relentlessly, thirsting for revenge. Cai Mao fled to Shandong where he hid in Jining and excelled at combat and sword-fighting. Over time his style was formed into a specific boxing form.

In keeping with its location near the birthplace of Confucius, ancestor worship holds a strong sway over the people of Jining. Buddhism and Daoism are also prevalent.

The Iron Tower Temple is situated near the center



Status of Evangelization
(Awareness of Christ and the Gospel)



A = have never heard the Gospel or the Name of Christ
B = were evangelized but have not yet become Christians
C = Adherants to any form of Christianity



of Jining City. These days, however, the temples in Jining are usually attended only by the elderly. Most youngsters look upon the religious devotion of their forefathers as foolish superstition.

Although Catholic missionaries have been active in Shandong Province since the 17th century, they had moderate success. Most of the people resented foreigners and shut their ears to their message.

The first Protestants arrived in Shandong in 1860, when J. L. Holmes and J. B. Hartwell arrived in Yantai (formerly Chefoo) with their families. Karl Gutzlaff had entered the province as he distributed Gospel literature up and down the coast between 1851 and 1853, but the Holmes and Hartwell families were the first Protestants to actually reside in the province.

Jining City was first entered by Protestant missionaries in 1895. By 1922 three different denominations were working in the city: the Methodist Episcopal Church, the American Presbyterian Mission (North), and the Southern Baptists. Independent missionaries were also working in Jining. Between all of these groups a total of four churches were established by 1922, containing a total of 568 baptized converts. Today only about two percent of Jining's population confess Christ.

Pray for Jining

- 1** Pray all barriers to the Gospel would be bound so that all people in Jining would see Jesus Christ.
- 2** Ask God to make Jining a city of worship and praise.
- 3** Pray God would be glorified among every part of Jining's society.

Overview of Jining (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation	: "Gee-ning"	Employed People	: 500,192 (57.4% of total population)
Old Spelling	: Tsining	Main Industries	: Agriculture 62.6%, Industrial 20.0%
Location	: SW Shandong Province, eastern China	Education	: University: 3.8%
Population	: 871,170 (1990 census)	(highest level attended):	: High School: 39.8%
Males	: 445,772 (51.17%)		: Primary school: 34.6%
Females	: 425,398 (48.83%)		: Never attended any school: 21.8%
Households	: 219,425	Population under 15:	: 241,545 (27.7%)
Average Household	: 4.0 people	Adult Illiteracy	: 24.2% (men 12.2%; women 36.2%)
Divorced People	: 1,735	Major Nationalities	: Han 852,356
% divorced of Population:	: 0.20		: Hui 18,516
Centurions (1990)	: 0 people aged 100 or more		: Manchu 152
Immigrants to City	: 31,580		: Korean 53
From same province:	: 24,675 (78.1%)		: Others 93 (13 groups)
From other provinces:	: 6,901 (21.9%)	Christians (2003)	: 21,500 (2.1%)