

# Laiwu

# 莱芜

Located in the center of Shandong Province in eastern China, the city of Laiwu is home to more than 1.2 million people. The only ethnic minority group with any significant presence in Laiwu are the Muslim Hui people, who number approximately 2,500.

Laiwu is strategically located in a highly populated area. It is encircled by the large cities of Tai'an, Zibo, Jinan, and Liaocheng, which are all about one to two hour's drive from Laiwu. Laiwu is a comparatively clean and pleasant city. In 1995 it won the national title as the cleanest city in China, and in 1997 Laiwu was voted the nation's "model city."

Laiwu has a history of about two thousand years. Near the city lies ruins of the original Great Wall built by the ancient state of Qi. Laiwu has been the site of several major battles in Chinese history, including the Changshao Battle which took place during the Warring State Period (453 - 221 BC). During China's War of Resistance against Japan (1937-45), Laiwu was the center for anti-Japanese operations in Shandong Province. The Laiwu Battle proved to be a pivotal victory for the Communist forces during the Civil War, who annihilated 60,000 enemy troops.

The economy of Laiwu has a strong agricul-

**Population:**  
1,105,473 (1990)  
1,231,853 (2000)  
1,372,681 (2010)

**Province:**  
Shandong

**Major Ethnic Groups:**  
Han 99.6%  
Hui 0.2%  
Manchu 0.1%  
Mongol 0.1%

**Christians:**  
27,000 (2.2%)

tural base. Wheat, corn, peanut, sweet potato and various kinds of fruit and vegetables are grown in and around the city. Laiwu is especially famous throughout China for its ginger, garlic, scallion and prickly ash.

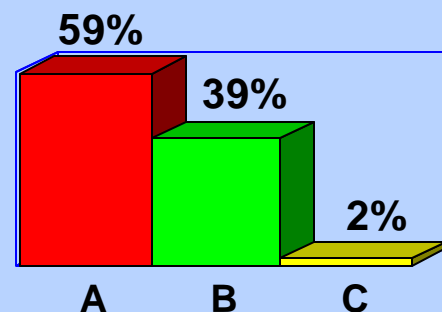
The whole central Shandong area has some of the richest natural resources of any place in the world, with massive deposits of coal, iron, copper, gold, zinc, phosphorus, granite, marble, and limestone. Reserves of coal in Laiwu are estimated to be 500 million tons, while its iron reserves of 650 million tons ranks it first in eastern China.

Although today there are few visible signs of Christianity in Laiwu, Shandong has been blessed over the years to have strong Christians who counted the cost to keep the flame of the Gospel burning. During the Cultural Revolution (1966-76) many Christians in Shandong spilled their blood for Christ.

Just north of Laiwu, in the coal mining area of Zibo, an old preacher was arrested for the sake of the Gospel. A few years ago the preacher's son recalled what happened to his father: "The Red Guards beat my dad almost to death. He was covered in blood and many of his bones were broken. The tortures they gave him were indescribable. The guards made me and my son (his grandson) witness the



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



torture and beatings. My father's near-dead body was placed on a trolley. We were ordered to push my father around the city streets so that the people could hurl insults and missiles at us. We struggled to protect our beloved father's body from the taunts and fury of the crowds. My father, who had served the Lord for many years, was labeled an "enemy of the state". But I knew that nobody loved China more than my father. He had wept in prayer many times for the salvation of the Motherland. The guards forced us to enter a cemetery, where they had erected a platform for a mock trial. Hundreds of people gathered to watch. They propped my dad up and told him he had one last chance to be forgiven of his crimes. If only he would renounce Christianity and his belief in God he would be set free. If not, the guards threatened, he would regret his decision. "We offer you this precious chance for life. Choose wisely," they said.

Waiting for the crowd to silence, he boldly declared, "You can cut my head off, and you can spill my blood, but I will NEVER forsake Jesus Christ! He has been faithful to me and has blessed me for many years, and nothing you do can ever make me renounce my loving friend and Saviour. The guards leaped onto him and savagely beat him to death in front of our eyes."

## Pray for Laiwu

- 1** Pray the blood of the martyrs will be the seed for revival of the Church in Laiwu and throughout Shandong
- 2** Ask God to break down every hindrance to the Gospel in Laiwu.
- 3** Pray a large and healthy church would soon emerge in Laiwu City.

## Overview of Laiwu (based on 1990 census)

<b>Pronunciation</b>	: "Lai-woo"	<b>Employed People</b>	: 683,016 (61.8% of total population)
<b>Old Spelling</b>	:	<b>Main Industries</b>	: Agriculture 73.2%, Industrial 15.4%
<b>Location</b>	: central Shandong Province, East China	<b>Education</b>	: University: 1.8%
<b>Population</b>	: 1,105,473 (1990 census)	<b>(highest level attended):</b>	: High School: 40.9%
<b>Males</b>	: 565,826 (51.18%)		: Primary school: 39.6%
<b>Females</b>	: 539,647 (48.82%)		: Never attended any school: 17.7%
<b>Households</b>	: 313,830	<b>Population under 15:</b>	: 243,328 (22.0%)
<b>Average Household</b>	: 3.5 people	<b>Adult Illiteracy</b>	: 19.8% (men 11.0%; women 29.0%)
<b>Divorced People</b>	: 1,868	<b>Major Nationalities</b>	: Han 1,102,697
<b>% divorced of Population:</b>	: 0.17		: Hui 2,480
<b>Centurions (1990)</b>	: 3 people aged 100 or more		: Manchu 180
<b>Immigrants to City</b>	: 21,250		: Mongol 36
<b>From same province:</b>	: 16,900 (79.5%)		: Others 80 (9 groups)
<b>From other provinces:</b>	: 4,349 (20.5%)	<b>Christians (2003)</b>	: 27,000 (2.2%)