

Pingdu

平度

The large city of Pingdu ("Peaceful Pass") is situated within Qingdao Prefecture in east-central Shandong Province in eastern China. With a population of approximately 1.35 million people, Pingdu is one of the largest cities in Shandong, although visitors soon gain the impression it is a largely rural county-style place with few high buildings and a comparatively relaxed atmosphere compared to other large cities in China.

The 1990 census reported an exact total of 1,296,815 people in Pingdu, of which 1,296,603 were Han Chinese. Just a handful of people residing in the city belonged to a minority group. Even the Hui, a Muslim nationality who are found in considerable numbers almost everywhere throughout the nation, are barely represented here, with just 11 individuals reported in 1990. The population of Pingdu officially grew by just 2.9% between 1990 and 2000, possibly due to a redrawing of the city's boundaries rather than actual growth.

Although the city leaders like to advertise Pingdu as a coastal city, it is in fact 100 km (62 miles) from Qingdao Harbor.

Pingdu has a long history, having risen from being a small farming community to a progressive metropolis ranked among China's top 100

Population:

1,296,815 (1990)

1,334,555 (2000)

1,373,400 (2010)

Province:

Shandong

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 99.7%

Manchu 0.1%

Zhuang 0.1%

Korean 0.1%

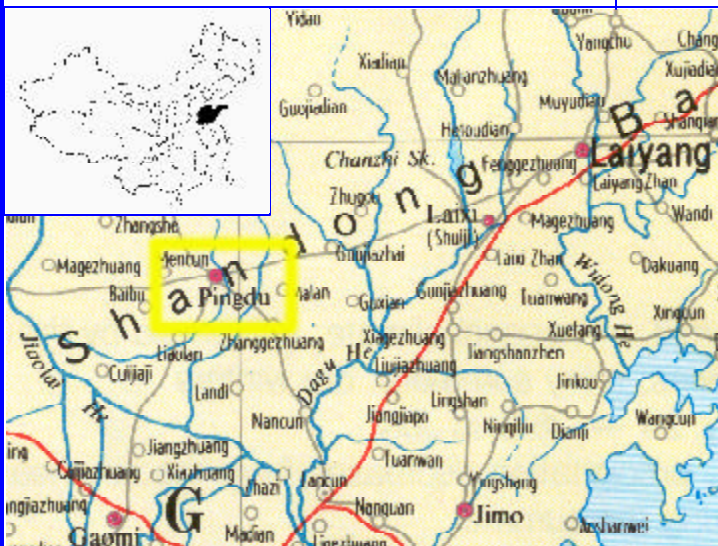
Christians:

35,000 (2.6%)

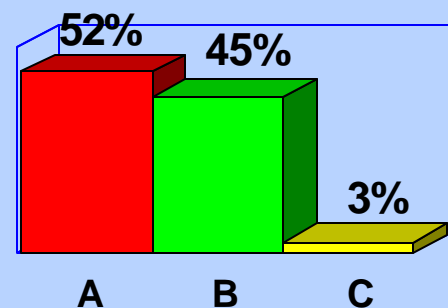
strongest cities. Over the past 15 years a plan has been implemented to give the city an emphasis in education, science and technology. This was particularly needed after the 1990 national census revealed a poor showing for Pingdu in education and illiteracy. At the time a mere 1,010 people in Pingdu had ever attended university (although a further 13,000 had attended a 'technical' tertiary school). Twenty-two percent of respondents said they had never attended any formal education in their lives, not even primary school.

In 1990, two hundred thousand adults in Pingdu were illiterate; of which 52,000 were men and 148,000 women. As a result of the government's drive for better education, today there are 770 schools operating in the city. Pingdu's high illiteracy rates were comparable with many rural areas of China. In 1990 a staggeringly-high 708,000 out of the 817,000 (86.7%) employed people in the city held jobs in the agricultural sector. Pingdu is an ideal location for crop production, with fertile soil and abundant rainfall. Some of its high-yield crops include cereals, cotton, vegetable oil, grapes, ginger, and peanuts.

Pingdu is also rich in mineral deposits. More than twenty different kinds of minerals are mined, including gold, graphite, marble, granite, and talcum.



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



These raw products bring millions of dollars of revenue into the city each year.

Shandong Province has had an established Protestant church for almost 150 years. The believers in the province are generally thought of as mature and zealous. During the Cultural Revolution in the 1960s and '70s many pastors were martyred for their faith in Christ and the Church went through a time of severe testing. Yet despite the strengths of the Shandong Church, its numbers have remained comparatively low compared to some other provinces in China where revival over the past 20 years has resulted in phenomenal growth. Most China church watchers believe the number of believers in Shandong is between two and four percent of the population today.

The first Protestant missionaries started working in Pingdu in 1893. By 1922 three different denominations: the Presbyterians, Southern Baptists, and Seventh-Day Adventists, were working in Pingdu. Between them they reported 6,801 believers in 20 congregations. Since that time, however, the Church in Pingdu has not grown in proportion to the strong start it experienced. Today fewer than 3% of Pingdu's population claim faith in Christ.

Pray for Pingdu

- 1** Pray for an increase of believers in Pingdu City. Pray the people would not perish without a Gospel witness.
- 2** Pray the dead religious traditions in the Pingdu Church would fall off.
- 3** Pray Jesus would truly be Lord and Master of every church in Pingdu.

Overview of Pingdu (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation : "Ping-doo"
Old Spelling : Pingtu
Location : central Shandong Province, East China
Population : 1,296,815 (1990 census)
Males : 664,029 (51.20%)
Females : 632,786 (48.80%)
Households : 351,795
Average Household : 3.7 people
Divorced People : 3,944
% divorced of Population: 0.30
Centurions (1990) : 2 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City : 13,387
From same province: 5,202 (38.9%)
From other provinces: 8,177 (61.1%)

Employed People : 817,081 (63.0% of total population)
Main Industries : Agriculture 86.7%, Industrial 6.1%
Education : University: 1.2%
(highest level attended): High School: 32.5%
 Primary school: 44.2%
 Never attended any school: 22.1%
Population under 15: 292,227 (22.5%)
Adult Illiteracy : 20.0% (men 10.3%; women 30.0%)
Major Nationalities : Han 1,296,603
 Manchu 91
 Zhuang 32
 Korean 23
 Others 66 (17 groups)
Christians (2003) : 35,000 (2.6%)