

Tianjin

天津

Almost seven million people inhabit one of China's greatest cities, Tianjin. The 1990 census listed the city population at only four million. Six satellite districts surrounding the city were counted separately in the census. In this book we have added the populations of these six nearby districts to Tianjin City itself to form our statistics.

Tianjin was formerly part of Hebei Province. In the 1950s the government decided to form a new administrative region called 'Tianjin Municipality.' This municipality, which has the same administrative status as a province, covers an area of 11,361 square km (4,431 sq. miles) and includes several rural counties in addition to the city. The total population of the Tianjin Municipality in 2000 was just over ten million.

Tianjin, which means "Heavenly Ford," first rose to prominence in the 13th century as a protection to the northern capital of Beijing, which is located just 85 miles (137 km) away. The city's name is derived from a story of a powerful emperor and his army fording the rivers there while on his way back to Beijing after a major victory.

During the 14th century Tianjin was a fortress located strategically near the Yellow Sea and at the point where the Northern and Southern Grand Canal and the North River meet. As one study

Population:
5,855,044 (1990)
6,557,600 (2000)
7,344,600 (2010)

Province:
Tianjin Municipality

Major Ethnic Groups:
Han 97.1%
Hui 2.5%
Manchu 0.2%
Mongol 0.1%

Christians:
100,000 (1.5%)

explains, "Since the purpose of this city was to protect the Son of Heaven [the Emperor in Beijing], its inhabitants were suspicious of outside influences and zealous in their regard for the traditions of the Middle Kingdom." (John A. Swem, "Understanding Tianjin's Resistance to the Gospel," 1998).

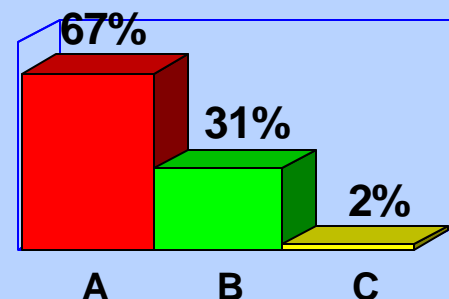
Foreign armies forced the emperor to sign unequal treaties allowing Westerners to live and trade in Tianjin and other cities. Along with the opium merchants and soldiers came the emissaries of Jesus Christ. Karl Gutzlaff first arrived in Tianjin in 1831, although the first Protestants

to reside in the city were the American Baptists in 1860. Not surprisingly, most of the Chinese people living in the occupied city could not distinguish the Christians from the armies that protected them. They rejected both the missionaries and their strange doctrines.

Resentment against the foreigners soon spilled over in Tianjin. In 1869 French Catholic missionaries built a new cathedral on the site of a former temple, spurning the complaints of the local community. On June 21, 1870 a riot broke out and 21 foreigners were killed, including ten female missionaries. The cathedral was burned to the ground and about 100 Chinese converts were murdered. During the 1900 Boxer Rebellion Christians in Tianjin were again



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 = Adherents to any form of Christianity



attacked by a population tired of being controlled by foreign powers. To quell the uprising an army of 20,000 foreign troops was sent to Tianjin. In the aftermath, the Ford of Heaven was divided into nine separate foreign “concessions” (British, French, American, Japanese, German, Russian, Belgian, Austrian and Italian).

To this day, despite a long missions history, Tianjin remains one of the most unreached cities in China. In Tianjin City there are an estimated 20,000 members of Three-Self churches, and perhaps as many as 50,000 registered and “underground” Catholics. In the past ten years various house church networks have sent workers to Tianjin, but they have struggled to make a great impact in the city. One house church leader reported, “We have established our work in the densely populated suburbs of Tianjin, especially among factory workers. The younger Christians and the older Christians seem to have little to do with each other and can’t see eye to eye about the future of the church in Tianjin. Overall however our churches are doing quite well on the outskirts of the city and in the towns of Tianjin Municipality, but the city area itself is quite difficult.”

Pray for Tianjin

- 1** Pray Tianjin would truly become a Heavenly Ford, a place where God’s presence overflows to all people.
- 2** Ask God to break down the barriers within the Body of Christ in Tianjin.
- 3** Pray multitudes of people would soon know Jesus Christ in Tianjin City.

Overview of Tianjin (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation	: “Tee-ahn-jin”	Employed People	: 3,394,789 (58.0% of total population)
Old Spelling	: Tientsin	Main Industries	: Industrial 48.2%, Professional 15.7%
Location	: Tianjin Municipality, NE China	Education	University: 8.9%
Population	: 5,855,044 (1990 census)	(highest level attended):	High School: 54.4%
Males	: 2,987,121 (51.02%)		Primary school: 26.4%
Females	: 2,867,923 (48.98%)		Never attended any school: 10.3%
Households	: 1,762,697	Population under 15:	1,196,147 (20.4%)
Average Household	: 3.3 people	Adult Illiteracy	: 9.4% (men 3.8%; women 15.2%)
Divorced People	: 30,512	Major Nationalities	: Han 5,689,557
% divorced of Population:	0.52		Hui 145,676
Centurions (1990)	: 20 people aged 100 or more		Manchu 13,205
Immigrants to City	: 233,833		Mongol 2,422
From same province:	30,223 (12.9%)		Others 2,609 (33 groups)
From other provinces:	202,944 (86.8%)	Christians (2003)	: 100,000 (1.5%)