

# Weinan 渭南

Weinan City is located on the Guanzhong plain in central Shaanxi Province, about 45 km (28 miles) northeast of the ancient Chinese capital city of Xian.

Although Weinan ("South of the Wei River") City itself contains just 884,000 people according to 2000 figures, the larger Weinan Prefecture is home to 5.3 million inhabitants.

Being part of the cradle of Chinese civilization, Weinan possesses a long and auspicious history, dating back to at least 500 BC. Many armies fought over the city in the past. Today visitors can see many remnants from past wars, including part of the

Great Wall. There are 619 "historical spots" in Weinan City, some of the most famous including the Xiye Temple, and the Tomb of the Tang Dynasty Emperor.

The city's long history is attested to by numerous archaeological finds, including a white marble horse and a jade ox that were unearthed in Weinan. These treasures date from the Qin and Han dynasties (221 BC to 220 AD).

Many famous people in Chinese history came from Weinan, including the famous historian Sima Qian, and Baijuyi, a renown poet.

Weinan is a rich, well-watered agricultural region. Major cash crops include cotton, rape, and

**Population:**  
766,268 (1990)  
884,399 (2000)  
1,020,700 (2010)

**Province:**  
Shaanxi

**Major Ethnic Groups:**

Han 99.6%  
Hui 0.2%  
Manchu 0.1%  
Miao 0.1%

**Christians:**  
17,000 (1.9%)

various fruit. The main mineral resources in the area are iron, manganese, chromium, titanium, aluminium, copper, gold and silver; as well as limestone, graphite, quartzite and jade.

Although Weinan City is highly industrialized, the prefecture contains some lovely nature spots. It's home to more than 300 species of protected animals, including cranes and swans, and contains more than 2,500 species of wild plants.

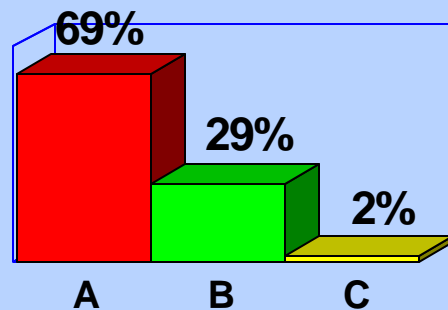
In 1988 the government set up the Weinan High and New Technology Industrial Development Zone, to encourage business and foreign invest-

ment in the city. Numerous factories have sprung up, bringing billions of dollars into the local economy each year.

The economic growth has not always been smooth, however. Several major disputes and riots have taken place in recent years. During one incident in November 1999, a thousand laid off workers from a textile factory in Weinan protested for four days against government corruption and poor management. They blocked three roads into the city. Riot police were called in to attack the demonstrators. They injured six women, dragging them by the hair and throwing them into a ditch, causing one of them to suffer a broken arm.



**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



Weinan has also produced some of China's leading political dissidents. Xu Jianxiong was one of the leaders of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests. He was imprisoned in Weinan, before his release in 2001. Another pro-democracy leader, Liu Qing, staged hunger strikes while imprisoned in Weinan. Liu was charged as an "enemy of the people."

Although central Shaanxi first received the Gospel via Nestorian merchants in 635 AD, the Gospel has only started to flourish again in recent years. Weinan contains a number of officially-recognized Three-Self churches as well as unregistered house churches. Just ten years ago the house church networks in Shaanxi Province had few members, but their boundless zeal and fervor for soul winning has resulted in rapid growth. Today Weinan contains an estimated 17,000 Christians of all descriptions.

The growth of the Church in Weinan has been stunted by the presence of the Mentu Hui (Discipleship) cult, founded by a man named Ji Sanbao. They are particularly strong in Shaanxi and have led many Christians astray with their false teaching. Their movement is characterized by extreme control and legalism. Disciples are taught to obey their teaching and not the Bible.

## Pray for Weinan

- 1** Pray God will breath His revival life into the churches in Weinan, resulting in tens of thousands of salvations.
- 2** Ask God to protect his sheep against the false teachings of cults.
- 3** Pray all people in Weinan will soon clearly hear the Gospel of Jesus.

## Overview of Weinan (based on 1990 census)

<b>Pronunciation</b>	: "Way-nahn"	<b>Employed People</b>	: 445,958 (58.2% of total population)
<b>Old Spelling</b>	:	<b>Main Industries</b>	: Agriculture 79.3%, Industrial 7.8%
<b>Location</b>	: central Shaanxi Province, north China	<b>Education</b>	University: 2.3%
<b>Population</b>	: 766,268 (1990 census)	<b>(highest level attended):</b>	High School: 48.7%
<b>Males</b>	: 386,603 (50.45%)		Primary school: 36.3%
<b>Females</b>	: 379,665 (49.55%)		Never attended any school: 12.7%
<b>Households</b>	: 182,459	<b>Population under 15:</b>	210,707 (27.5%)
<b>Average Household</b>	: 4.2 people	<b>Adult Illiteracy</b>	: 13.5% (men 6.6%; women 20.5%)
<b>Divorced People</b>	: 2,811	<b>Major Nationalities</b>	: Han 764,439
<b>% divorced of Population:</b>	0.37		Hui 1,530
<b>Centurions (1990)</b>	: 1 person aged 100 or more		Manchu 161
<b>Immigrants to City</b>	: 29,161		Miao 28
<b>From same province</b>	: 21,570 (74.0%)		Others 110 (14 groups)
<b>From other provinces</b>	: 7,573 (25.9%)	<b>Christians (2003)</b>	: 17,000 (1.9%)