

Wuwei

武威

Located 280 km (173 miles) north of the provincial capital Lanzhou, Wuwei ("Mighty Fighting") City is the second largest city in Gansu Province in northwest China. In the year 2003 the population of Wuwei surpassed one million for the first time.

Although today almost all of Wuwei's inhabitants are Han Chinese (apart from small numbers of Hui Muslims, Manchu, and less than one thousand Tibetans), there was a time in history when Wuwei was considered part of Tibetan territory and was the location for many fierce battles between the Chinese and Tibetans

for its control. Part of the original Great Wall was constructed here in a bid to separate the Chinese from the 'barbarians' to the north and west.

Traditionally Wuwei was one of the furthest reaches of the Chinese empire, near the western end of the Great Wall, where the Chinese believed

Population:
876,073 (1990)
977,435 (2000)
1,090,500 (2010)

Province:
Gansu

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han	99.6%
Hui	0.3%
Manchu	0.1%
Tibetan	0.1%

Christians:
22,000 (2.2%)

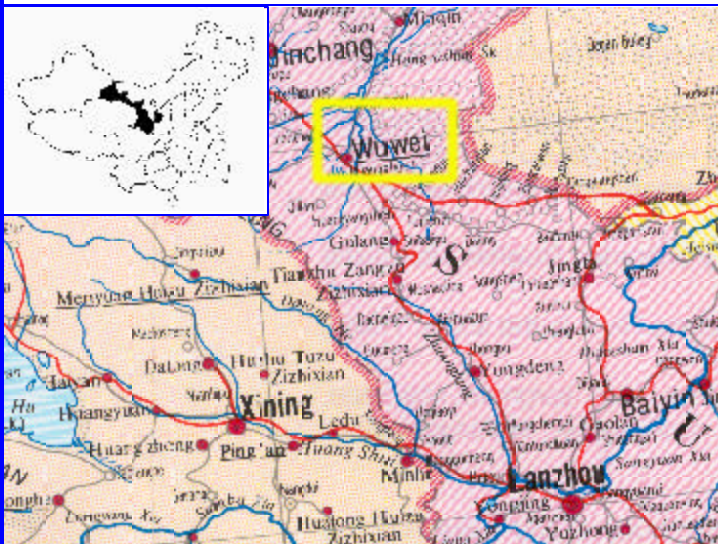
'civilization' stopped and the world of the barbarians began. It was the key city to capturing the whole Gansu corridor, and as a result, Wuwei today is a city of rich historical and cultural traditions, home to many important ruins and artefacts. Indeed, Wuwei is one of the centers of Buddhism in northern China today.

Wuwei was the first oasis city along the ancient Silk Road which linked China with the Middle East and Central Asia.

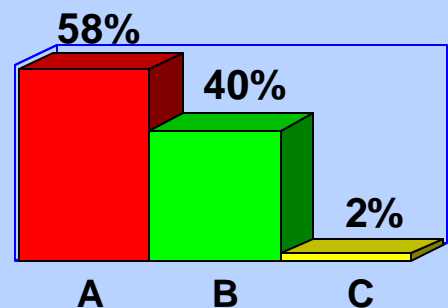
Wuwei became the first large capital city west of Chang'an (Xian) during the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD).

Only after the Han Dynasty (206 BC - AD 220), when the Chinese built fortifications there, was Wuwei considered part of China. It became an important political, economic, and cultural exchange center.

The dry climate has helped to preserve the more than 40,000 ancient an-



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



tiquities in Wuwei. The 2,000 year-old *Bronze Galloping Horse*, the symbol of Chinese tourism, was unearthed in Wuwei. Wuwei was also an important place during the Mongol world empire. In 1247 Sagya Pandit Gonggar Gyamcan, the religious leader of Tibet, met the Mongol prince Gotan at Wuwei, where they decided on terms for Tibetan submission to the Mongols. The Chinese conveniently claim this treaty is evidence of China's ownership over Tibet for many centuries.

Although most people in Wuwei today consider themselves non-religious, it was one of the major centers of Buddhism during the Tang Dynasty. One of the religious strongholds remaining today is called Leiguantai, or the Platform of the Thunder Temple. The temple gets its name because of its platform of packed earth about 25 feet high. The main hall of the temple is called the Hall of the Thunder god.

Protestant missionaries first arrived in Wuwei (then known as Liangchow) in 1888. By 1922 there were only 106 baptized believers meeting in four churches. Today things have improved a little, but still only about two percent of the city confess Christ, a number evenly divided between Protestants and Catholics. Wuwei remains a spiritually needy city.

Pray for Wuwei

- 1** Pray for God's glory to be manifest in the lives of men and women, boys and girls in every part of Wuwei City.
- 2** Ask the Lord to burden His Church in Wuwei with a zeal for evangelism.
- 3** Pray many Buddhists in Wuwei will hear and embrace Jesus Christ.

Overview of Wuwei (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation : "Woo-way"
Old Name : Liangchow
Location : central Gansu Province, NW China
Population : 876,073 (1990 census)
Males : 446,355 (50.95%)
Females : 429,718 (49.05%)
Households : 193,508
Average Household : 4.5 people
Divorced People : 1,838
% divorced of Population : 0.21
Centurions (1990) : 0 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City : 20,278
From same province : 15,058 (74.3%)
From other provinces : 5,214 (25.7%)

Employed People : 520,283 (59.4% of total population)
Main Industries : Agriculture 83.9%, Industrial 4.9%
Education : University: 1.9%
(highest level attended): High School: 33.5%
 Primary school: 49.7%
 Never attended any school: 14.9%
Population under 15 : 245,137 (28.0%)
Adult Illiteracy : 15.9% (men 10.0%; women 21.8%)
Major Nationalities : Han 871,449
 Hui 2,329
 Manchu 960
 Tibetan 876
 Others 459 (21 groups)
Christians (2003) : 22,000 (2.2%)