

ZIBO

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Approximately 3.3 million people inhabit Zibo City in the north-central part of Shandong Province in eastern China. Zibo is one of several large cities in the region. Thanks to improved roads, Zibo is now only a 90-minute journey from Qingdao. It takes just 60-minutes to cover the 102 km (63 miles) from Zibo to Jinan.

Zibo City is part of Zibo Prefecture, which contains more than five million people. The prefecture administers five districts and three counties. Zibo has been ranked among China's top 50 cities for production and GDP, and rates ahead of Qingdao. Ninety-nine out of every hundred people in Zibo belong to the Han Chinese nationality. The major minority groups found in the city are 13,000 Hui Muslims, 1,200 Manchu and 1,000 Mongols.

The history of Zibo is difficult to trace because the city has changed names so many times. It was founded as Panyang County in the second century BC, but the town was abandoned in the third century AD. Panyang was later revived in the sixth century under the name Beijiu. In 596 AD it became the seat of a prefecture and was renamed Zuchuan, which it has been best-known as throughout its long history. The city was strategically placed and an important administrative center, being located on the route through the northern edge of the Taishan Mountains

Population:
2,484,206 (1990)
3,338,500 (2000)
4,486,500 (2010)

Province:
Shandong

Major Ethnic Groups:

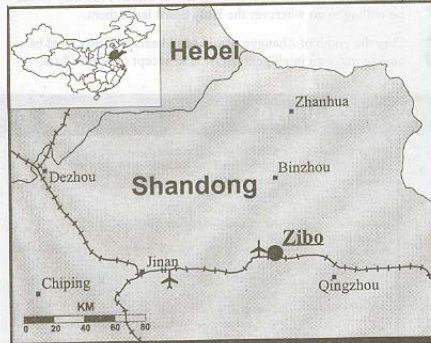
Han 99.3%
Hui 0.5%
Manchu 0.1%
Mongol 0.1%

Christians:
16,000 (0.5%)

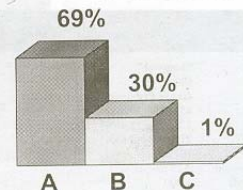
and at the mouth of a valley leading to Boshan. The city was also an important ceramic and glass producer. By 1734 the city had developed to become an independent county. To confuse matters even more, Zibo is also known today as Zhangdian to many people in this part of China.

Two events contributed massively to the growth and development of Zibo as a city. The first was the completion of the Qingdao-Jinan railway in 1904, which passed through Zibo. The trainline opened Zibo up to the outside world and turned it into a major industrial complex. Coal mining developed quickly. By 1937, more than 1.6 million tons of coal were being mined every year in Zibo. During World War I the Japanese controlled both the coal industry and the trainline. By 1924 all the mines in Zibo has passed to the control of Sino-Japanese companies. Consequently, most of the coal was exported to Japan with little benefit for the local economy.

After the advent of Communism in 1949, several small towns in the area were merged together into one municipality. Between 1953 and 1958 the population of Zibo exploded from 259,000 to 859,000. Today, mining and heavy industry continue to be the economic heartbeat of Zibo, in addition to machine-building and the manufacture



Status of Evangelization (Awareness of Christ and the Gospel)



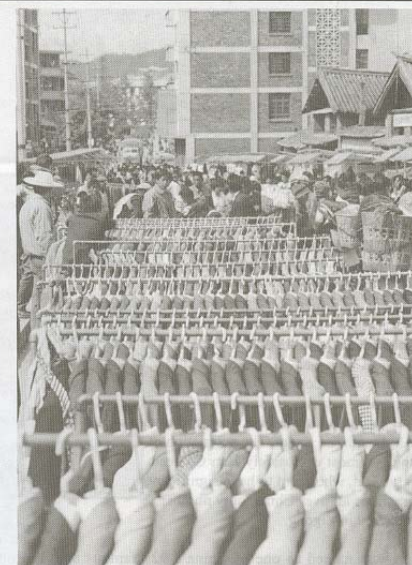
A = have never heard the Gospel or the name of Christ
B = were evangelized but have not yet become Christians
C = Adherents to any form of Christianity

of electrical equipment and batteries. The ceramic and glass industries also continue to flourish here.

Being a working-class city, few tourists bother to stop in the city, although the people of Zibo are considered extremely friendly and polite. Not far from Zibo, at Linzhi, a pit of horses was excavated, believed to date back 2,500 years. More than 600 horse skeletons have so far been uncovered. Chariots have also been found in the ground, leading archaeologists to believe the horses were buried along with their master at the time of his funeral.

The True Jesus Church, a movement which now encompasses most parts of China, was started in Shandong in 1927 by a young man named Jing Dianyong. Christian communities sprang up as members denounced their traditional family bonds and lived together sharing fields and houses. The central government strongly opposed the True Jesus church in the 1950's, forcing them to disband. Although the believers were forced to meet in secret, the movement continued to grow throughout the harsh years of the Cultural Revolution, overcoming severe persecution and hardship along the way.

Only about half of one percent of the population of Zibo today are followers of Jesus Christ. Shandong Province has a smattering of Christians throughout, but the majority are located in rural areas, with comparatively few believers living in the cities.



A back-street market in Zibo. Goods from all around the world are now available in this unevangelized working-class city.

Pray for Zibo

- 1 Most people in Zibo know nothing about God or the demands of His Word. Pray the Gospel would soon spread throughout the city like a wild fire.
- 2 Ask the Lord of the Harvest to thrust forth laborers into the needy cities of Shandong Province. Pray for revival to break out as tens of thousands find liberty in Christ.
- 3 Pray the members of the True Jesus church would continue to be faithful witnesses of the Lord in their communities.

Overview of Zibo

Pronunciation	: "Zee-bo"	Employed people	: 1,542,463 (62.1% of total population)
Old Spelling	: Tze-bo	Main Industries	: Agriculture 42.8%; Industrial 36.0%; Professional 7.7%
Location	: Shandong Province, eastern China	Educational	: University: 0.7%
Population	: 2,484,206 (1990 census)	Attainment	: High School: 51.6%
Males	: 1,271,194 (51.17%)	(highest level attended)	: Primary School: 32.9%
Females	: 1,213,012 (48.83%)		: Never attended any level of school: 14.8%
Households	: 709,684	Population under 15	: 21.6%
Average household	: 3.50 people	Adult Literacy	: 84% (men 93%; women 75%)
Divorced people	: 6,368	Major Nationalities	: Han 2,468,799
% of population	: 0.26%		: Hui 12,905
Centurions (1990)	: 2 people aged 100 or more		: Manchu 1,147
Immigrants to City	: 20,226 per year		: Mongol 953
From same province	: 15,244 (75.4%)		: Korean 106
From other provinces	: 4,980 (24.6%)	Christians	: 16,000 (0.5%)
			: Others (21 groups): 296