



Population:
 127,600 (2000)
 164,600 (2010)
 202,800 (2020)
Countries: China
Buddhism: Tibetan
Christians: 10

Overview of the Golog

Other Names: Ngolok, Mgolog, Golok, Lhardi, Ngura, Amchok, Rimong, Kangsar, Kanggan, Tsokhar, Ngawa, Gatse, Butsang, Shahrang, Jazza, Ggolo

Population Sources:
 80,000 to 90,000 in China (1982, G Rowell)

Language: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Himalayish, Tibeto-Kanauri, Tibetic, Tibetan, Northern

Dialects: many

Professing Buddhists: 96%

Practising Buddhists: 55%

Christians: 0.1%

Scripture: none

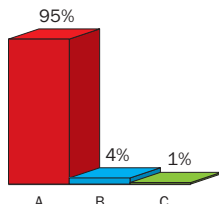
Jesus film: none

Gospel Recordings: none

Christian Broadcasting: none

ROPAL code: GOC

Status of Evangelization



A = Have never heard the gospel
B = Have heard the gospel but have not become Christians
C = Are adherents to some form of Christianity

The February 1982 *National Geographic* listed a figure of between 80,000 and 90,000 Gologs, living in six counties of the remote Golog Tibetan Prefecture in Qinghai Province, China.¹ A total of 100,343 people lived in the Golog Prefecture in 1953, but by 1964 the population had diminished to only 56,071.² Thousands of Golog migrated from the area. Thousands more were either killed in battle or starved to death by the Chinese army. The Golog region's extreme isolation was described by a visitor in the late 1920s: 'A miserable land it is, of poverty and incredible filth; a land cut off from the modern world, a region which,

for uncounted centuries, has had its own forms of government, of religion and social customs; yet a region which knows no railway, no motor car, no radio, or aught of all that science and invention have given the world since Marco Polo's day.'³

According to one source, *Golog* means 'those with heads on backwards'.⁴ This name comes from

their reputation as an extremely stubborn and rebellious people. Many wild animals inhabit the Golog region, including 'blue sheep, gazelles, bears, wolves, and deer'.⁵

The Golog language is 'largely unintelligible to most Tibetans'.⁶ It is a variety of Amdo, with differences that make communication between the Golog and Amdo difficult.

There are numerous dialects spoken by dozens of different Golog tribes and clans.⁷

The Golog are the descendants of Tibetan warriors sent to guard the northern borders. 'In the seventh century AD, the Tibetan king dispatched his fiercest warriors, ancestors

of the present-day Gologs and neighbouring Khampas, to guard the country's mountainous northern frontier against Chinese invasion. When the Tibetan kingdom eventually collapsed, the Gologs stayed in their mountain retreat, defiant of outside authority.'⁸

Almost all Gologs are Tibetan Buddhists. Many Golog women have 108 braids of hair, considered an auspicious number by Tibetan Buddhists. Few Golog have ever heard of Jesus Christ or his offer of salvation. They have been separated from all outside influence, including Christianity, for centuries. In 1921 some missionaries

passed through the Golog area and distributed gospel literature. They later received the following letter from Kurung Tsering, the head lama at a monastery in Kokonor: 'I, your humble servant, have seen several copies of the Scriptures and having read them carefully, they certainly made me believe in Christ. I understand a little of the outstanding principles and the doctrinal teaching of the One Son,



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but as to the Holy Spirit's nature and essence, and as to the origin of this religion, I am not at all clear, and it is therefore important that the doctrinal principles of this religion should be fully explained, so as to enlighten the unintelligent and people of small mental ability. The teaching of the science of medicine and astrology is also very important. It is therefore evident if we want this blessing openly manifested, we must believe in the religion of the only Son of God. Being in earnest I therefore pray you from my heart not to consider this letter lightly. With a hundred salutations!'⁹