

Location: A 1987 study listed 3.12 million speakers of the Huizhou Chinese language.¹ The majority are located in the southern part of Anhui Province — in an area previously known as Huizhou Prefecture — on the banks of the Xi’an River. Since 1912 the city of Huizhou has been known as Shexian. In addition, 800,000 Huizhou live in the northern part of Jiangxi Province, especially in Wuyuan, Yuanling, and Dexing counties. Small numbers also live in Chun’an County of Zhejiang Province. The Huizhou region was badly hit by the Taiping Rebellion and lost as much as half of its population.²

Identity: One linguist believes the Huizhou Chinese should be treated “as a separate sublanguage and its speakers as a distinct entity within the mosaic of Sinitic peoples.”³

Language: Huizhou is unintelligible with other Chinese languages. It is spoken in a widespread geographical area of 25,000 square kilometers (9,750 sq. mi.). The five dialects reportedly “differ greatly from each other.”⁴

History: *The Western Zhou Dynasty (1100–771 BC):* It is thought that the Western Zhou rulers were a nomadic tribe who based their capital in Hao, near present-day Xian. The Western Zhou Dynasty came to an abrupt end in 771 BC, when barbarian tribes destroyed the capital of Hou. *The Eastern Zhou Dynasty (770–221 BC):* The Chinese consider the Eastern Zhou period as one of the greatest in

their long history. During this time the great Chinese philosophers Confucius and Laozi roamed the countryside. Since then, Confucianism, and the Daoist religion founded by Laozi, have left their mark on every generation of Chinese thought and their religions. During this era the “mandate of heaven” was instituted. Political rulers were believed to have gained their position from heaven itself.

Customs: The Huizhou have a reputation as expert merchants and businessmen. A Chinese saying states: “No marketplace is so small there are no Huizhou people.” By the sixteenth century, Huizhou merchants “began to assume a major role in the entire national economy [and] soon came to control much of the nation’s rice, lumber, and tea trade.”⁵

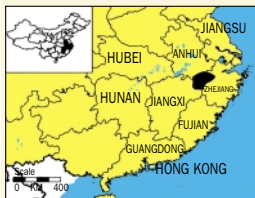
Religion: After taking control of the country, the Communists gradually implemented the atheistic, antireligion policies of Soviet Marxist Vladimir Lenin, who had stated, “Religion is the opium of the people. Religion is a kind of spiritual vodka in which the



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slaves of capitalism drown their human shape and their claim for any decent human life.” But it begs the question whether the Communist system functions merely as a political system, or whether it also has some of the characteristics of a dynamic missionary movement with aspirations for world conquest.

Christianity: Since 1949 Christianity has boomed in the region where the Huizhou live. There are an estimated 120,000 Huizhou believers. The three provinces where Huizhou is spoken contain some of the highest concentrations of Christians in China.



Population in China:
 3,120,000 (1987)
 3,647,300 (2000)
 4,121,400 (2010)
Location: Anhui, Jiangxi, Zhejiang
Religion: No Religion
Christians: 120,000

Overview of the Huizhou Chinese

Countries: China
Pronunciation: “Hway-joe”
Other Names: Chinese: Hui, Wannan, Huichou, Hewichow
Population Source:
 3,120,000 (1987 LAC);
 Out of a total Han population of 1,042,482,187 (1990 census)
Location:
 S Anhui; N Jiangxi; Zhejiang
Status: Officially included under Han Chinese

Language: Chinese, Huizhou
Dialects (5): Jishe (850,000), Xiuyi (750,000), Qide (700,000), Yanzhou (700,000), Jingzhou (200,000)
Religion: No Religion, Daoism, Buddhism, Christianity
Christians: 120,000
Scripture: Chinese Bible
Jesus film: None
Gospel Recordings: None
Christian Broadcasting: None
ROPAL code: CZH00

