

Population in China:

250,000 (1998)
264,500 (2000)
341,200 (2010)

Location: Guizhou, Yunnan
Religion: Animism
Christians: 2,000

Overview of the Hmong Shuad

Countries: China, Vietnam

Pronunciation: "Hmong-Shoo-ah"

Other Names: Hmong Sua, Chinese Miao, Sincized Miao, Hmong Sa, Hmong La, Paddy Field Miao, Waishu Miao, Biantou Miao, Mushu Miao, Shuixi Miao, Han Miao

Population Source:

250,000 (1998 M. Johnson);
Out of a total Miao population of 7,398,035 (1990 census);
2,000 in Vietnam (1998 M. Johnson)

Location: *Guizhou:* Zhijin, Anshun, Shuicheng, Nayong, Dafang, Qinlong, Xingren, Pu'an, Anlong, Xingyi, Puding, Ziyun, Guanling, Qinglong, and Qianxi counties; *SE Yunnan:* Wenshan Prefecture and Jinping County

Status:

Officially included under Miao

Language: Hmong-Mien, Hmongic, Western Hmongic, Farwestern Hmong, Hmong Shuad

Religion: Animism, Polytheism, Ancestor Worship, Christianity

Christians: 2,000

Scripture: None

Jesus film: None

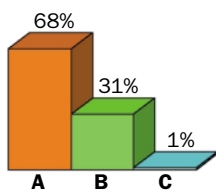
Gospel Recordings:

Miao: Waishu #04948

Christian Broadcasting: None

ROPAL code: MSC00

Status of Evangelization



A = Have never heard the gospel
B = Were evangelized but did not become Christians
C = Are adherents to any form of Christianity

Location: More than 260,000 Hmong Shuad live in southern China.¹ They primarily occupy parts of Zhijin and Anshun counties in the western part of Guizhou Province. Small communities are also found in southeastern Yunnan,² and southward into Vietnam where about 2,000 Hmong Shuad live.

Identity: The Hmong Shuad are a distinct ethnolinguistic people group. Their language is very different from all other Miao languages. Most of this group use the autonym *Hmong Shuad* which means "Sincized Miao." However, the Hmong Shuad still speak their own Miao language and wear traditional clothing. The Chinese call different Hmong Shuad subgroups by local names, such as *Waishu Miao* (Lopsided Comb Miao), *Biantou Miao* (Flat Head Miao), *Mushu Miao* (Wooden Comb Miao), and *Shuixi Miao* (West of the Water Miao).³

Language: Linguist Michael Johnson has researched the Hmong Shuad language. He says, "It is one of the most divergent Miao dialects.... There are many phonological features which are not shared with other dialects... that show a close relationship with Hmong Daw — especially as regards kinship terms in the lexicon — and also to some degree with A-Hmao."⁴

History: The Miao have a woeful history of warfare and genocide inflicted on them by the Chinese. One attack was launched in 1726. Qing Dynasty troops set more than 1,000 Miao villages on fire, butchered

tens of thousands of people, and destroyed their farmland.⁵ In response, in 1727 various Miao tribes unified against the Chinese, constructing stone signal towers at one-mile intervals along mountain ridges. The Miao took blood oaths to fight the Chinese to the death. They even killed their own wives and children, so they could face the advancing enemy as men with nothing to lose.⁶ In 1795 the Miao took up knives and long poles in another revolt against Qing troops. The Miao occupied many townships for more than a decade. Another uprising occurred from 1851 to 1874. The Miao forces were victorious and gained control of almost the entire northwest area of Guizhou Province.⁷

Customs: Some Hmong Shuad claim their ancestors were soldiers sent to Guizhou from Jiangxi. The

soldiers settled down and married Miao women. As a result, today many Hmong Shuad do not even claim Miao ethnicity. Other Miao groups call them "Chinese Hmong."

Religion: The majority of Hmong Shuad are animists. They also worship their ancestors, a practice that probably stems from their Chinese origins.

Christianity: Because they are such a widespread group, the influence of Christianity among the Hmong Shuad is difficult to gauge. However, there is a Christian presence in Anshun and Shuicheng, two of the areas where the Hmong Shuad live. Jinping County in Yunnan also contains many Hmong Daw believers. A number of Hmong Shuad attend Han Chinese churches in the region.



Paul Hattaway