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Securing China's Northwest Frontier

In the first study to incorporate majority Han and minority Uyghur perspectives on ethnic relations in Xinjiang following mass violence during July 2009, David Tobin analyses how official policy shapes identity and security dynamics on China's northwest frontier. He explores how the 2009 violence unfolded and how the party-state responded to ask how official identity narratives and security policies shape practices on the ground. Combining ethnographic methodology with discourse analysis and participant-observation with in-depth interviews, Tobin examines how Han and Uyghurs interpret and reinterpret Chinese nation-building. He concludes that by treating Chinese identity as a security matter, the party-state exacerbates cycles of violence between Han and Uyghurs who increasingly understand each other as threats.

DR DAVID TOBIN is Hallsworth Research Fellow at the University of Manchester.

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Identity and Insecurity in Xinjiang

David Tobin

University of Manchester



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This book is for my friends of all ethnicities in Xinjiang
whose lives can help us understand China.

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Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	x
Introduction	1
1 Securing China on the Multi-Ethnic Frontier	27
2 Mass Education as an Identity-Security Practice	59
3 ‘East Turkestan’ in China’s Identity and Security Narratives	87
4 Identity and Insecurity after ‘7-5’	114
5 Performing Inclusion of the Uyghur Other	139
6 Han and Uyghur Narratives on Ethnic and National Identity	166
7 Han and Uyghur Narratives on Identity and Insecurity	192
Conclusion: Identity and Insecurity in Xinjiang	222
<i>Appendix 1 Cast of Characters</i>	244
<i>Appendix 2 Lyrics to ‘One Family’ (Yi Jiaren) Song – Original</i>	
<i>Mandarin and English Translation</i>	246
<i>Bibliography</i>	248
<i>Index</i>	278

Figures

2.1 Photograph of image, (a) ‘Bilingual Education Hastens Buds (<i>Shuangyu Cuibeilei</i>)’, from exhibition celebrating 60th anniversary of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), organised by XUAR government. Photograph of image, (b) ‘Rain and dew moisten seedlings’, from XUAR government’s 60th anniversary exhibition.	page 81
4.1 Photograph of unofficial slogan pasted around residential areas: ‘Xinjiang has been an indivisible part of the motherland since ancient times’, taken in Ürümqi.	130
4.2 Photograph of vandalised People’s Armed Police public display on ‘7-5’ outside Children’s Park in Ürümqi: ‘Regional Party Secretary Wang Lequan makes his important speech regarding the “7-5” incident’.	135
5.1 Photograph of MG car dealership advertisement with government slogan (‘The Han can never leave ethnic minorities, ethnic minorities can never leave the Han, and all ethnic minorities can never leave each other’), taken in gent’s urinal of an Ürümqi coffee shop.	144
5.2 Photograph of image, ‘Alikä Kedehan, “Loving Mother”’, from official exhibition celebrating 60th anniversary of the People’s Republic of China.	145
5.3 Photograph of public political slogan and art: ‘I look to the party as I look to my mother’.	147
5.4 Photograph of exhibit from PRC 60th anniversary exhibition celebration: ‘The mighty army – the troops of Xinjiang’s People’s Armed Police’.	150
5.5 Photograph of image from PRC 60th anniversary exhibition celebration: ‘Ürümqi People’s Square’.	150
5.6 Photograph of public political slogan: ‘Strengthen <i>Minzu Tuanjie</i> , Strike Hard against “The Three Evils”’.	151

List of Figures	ix
5.7 Photograph of public political slogan: ‘Ethnic Unity is prosperity, ethnic separatism is disaster’.	151
5.8 Photograph of two public banners. Top slogan: ‘Joyfully celebrate National Day, happily welcome Mid-Autumn Festival’. Bottom slogan: ‘Strengthen ethnic unity, protect social stability’.	155
5.9 Photograph of patriotic stickers distributed across Ürümqi: ‘Love China (<i>Zhonghua</i>), Love Xinjiang’. All photographs taken by the author.	155

Abbreviations

CCP	Communist Party of China
ETIC	East Turkestan Information Center
ETIM	East Turkestan Islamic Movement
IR	International Relations theory
PAP	People’s Armed Police
PLA	People’s Liberation Army
PRC	People’s Republic of China
SCO	Shanghai Co-operation Organisation
WDP	Western Development Project
WUC	World Uyghur Congress
XUAR	Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region