the non-violent approach, when, for fifty years and more, they have seen no sign of gaining their motherland back. His Holiness the Dalai Lama defines "violence" to be any action, physical, spoken, or thought, that is motivated by the act of harming or gaining something from someone, or from an action of untrue intentions. Where is Tibet now? Tibet today lies within China in a section called TAR (Tibetan Autonomous Region). Many of the places written about in this history are not included in TAR, as a result places like Derge, Kanze, Lithang, Markham, Jyekundo, Bathang, Dartsendo, the entire Golok district and much of Amdo, which also happen to be the most populous areas of ethnic Tibet, have been lost by the inclusion into mainland China.

In today's world, there are more Chinese living in Tibet than there are Tibetans, which makes the indigenous population a minority in their own country! As Bangladeshis, we all know that killing a language is the best method of killing a culture, as the West Pakistanis had tried to implement this plan less than half a century ago. Similarly, Tibetan parents, living inside the occupied Tibet, must choose between either handing down their national heritage to their children or providing them with the opportunity to survive in a Chinese-speaking world. Children sent to Tibetan-speaking schools are automatically excluded from higher education or meaningful occupations.

Tibetans themselves have rebuilt, on a very modest scale, many of the nearly 6,000 monasteries destroyed by the authorities. Thus, making way for the Chinese to provide yet another propaganda tool for Westerners and the world at large -- that there is freedom of religion in Tibet. Tourism in Tibet is a major economic consideration for the central government, and this needs showcasing religious tolerance. Behind the veil, the monks are continuously monitored, and the population of the monasteries is kept to a fraction of the pre-communist numbers.

For example, Samye monastery, in which thousands of monks practiced and studied in the old days, now accommodates only 175. The moment a monastery shows "spiritual" success, for instance, of building up a local following, the place is unceremoniously shut down. The monks and nuns are also expelled right away.

In today's Tibet, monasteries are only for tourists.



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The holiest building in Tibet -- the Jokhang of Lhasa is the ideal Chinese "Tibetan" monastery, where tourists are made to pay admission fees and, of course, much higher fees if they want to take pictures. There are vending machines on the rooftop of Jokhang, so that tourists can drink coca-cola while enjoying the view of a modern, Chinese, sprawl, replete with smog, karaoke bars, and brothels.

This is only the beginning.

Tibetans will be the next Aborigines or Native Americans if the world fails to bring any change to the strictly controlled occupation in the next fifteen years.

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