

China's "Go West" Policy: A case study of Yunnan Province

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China's "Go West" Policy

- Launched in the early 1990s
- Aim: to stimulate economic development in the remote western fringes
- Reasons:
 - Fulfilling a dream - "all of us will get rich"
 - Growth slowing in crowded & costly coastal centres, Beijing ushered investors into the hinterlands.

By 2005

- “Go west – going, going, gone”
- Been commented as a disaster:
 - US\$48 billion being poured into the region
 - Yet, only about US\$3 billion in FDI
- “Beijing feels ready to (sort of) take a deep breath and move on”

Western Fringes

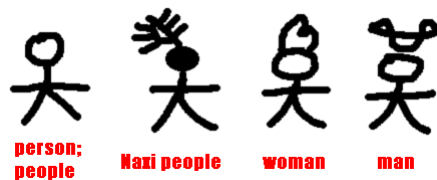


Yunnan Province

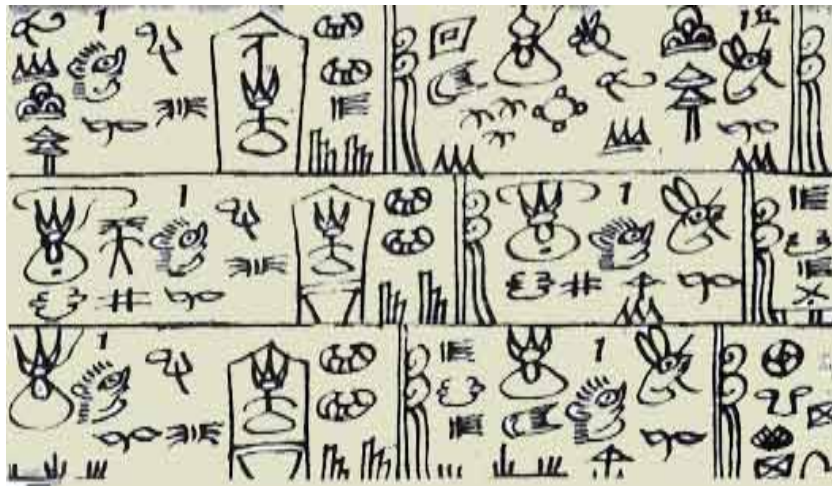
- Home to most ethnic minority groups in China (est. more than 40 groups)
- Han – accounts for 92% (> 1 billion) of population in China are only minority in certain parts of Yunnan
- Different customs in different minority groups

Naxi Minority Group

- Naxi (Dongba) Pictograph (only pictograph alive in the world today) is still used



Put all the characters together



Mosou Minority Group

- “Walking marriage”
 - Man – visits woman (only after dark and must leave before dawn)
 - Properties – remain with the woman
 - Any offsprings – taken care by the woman and her brother

NB: Can have as many “partners” as they like (just not on the same night!)

One local govt. official:

- Walking marriage may not be 100% consistent with marriage law
- BUT, it does reflect the true spirit of communism!
 - Love is pure
 - People are together because of love
 - No money is involved
 - Thus, no messiness of capitalist system of property division after separation

Some afterthoughts

- Differences between people in the western hinterland and eastern coastal cities:
 - Ethnic background
 - Languages
 - Customs
 - Culture
 - Understanding of the law

Result: difficulties in implementing Beijing's "go west" policy