

# China: House Church Christians



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# Greater Fuzhou City



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# Unregistered “House” Churches

- Why should a church register?
  - Regulation on Religious Affairs requires it
- With whom does a church register?
  - State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA)
  - Religious Affairs Bureau (RAB) -- locally
- Why is “House” in quotation marks?
  - Unregistered Christians don’t only meet in houses.



# What religions are recognized?

- Buddhism
- Catholicism
- Islam
- Taoism
- Protestantism



# What religious groups are not recognized?

- “Evil Cults” (examples)
  - Falun Gong
  - Eastern Lightning, a/k/a Church of the Almighty God
  - Shouters

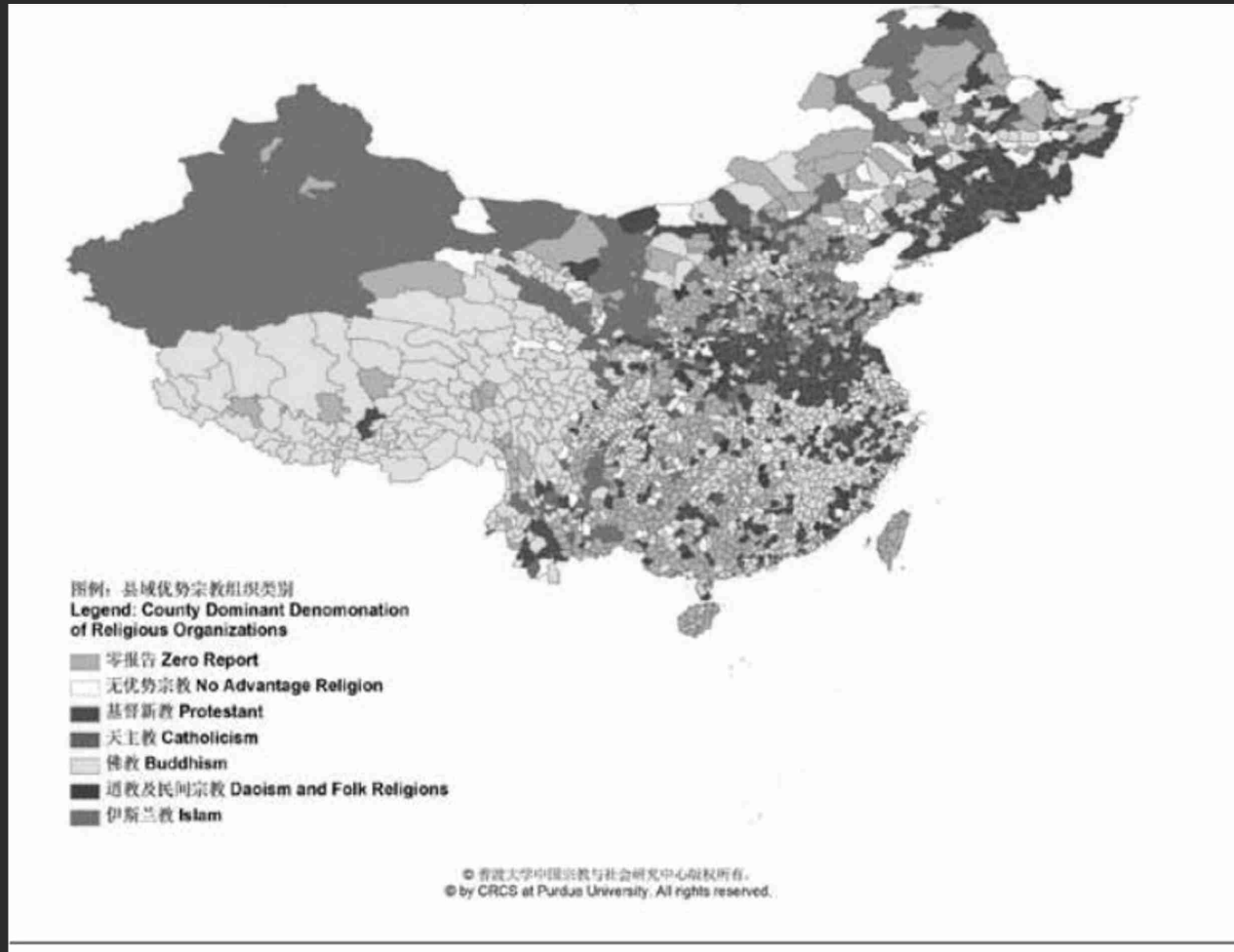


# Registered Churches: Patriotic Religious Associations

- Catholic Patriotic Association
  - 5.7 million worshipers at CPA churches
  - 3.3 million worshippers at unregistered Catholic churches (Another estimate: 10-12 million total)  
("underground churches"?)
- Three-Self Patriotic Movement (Protestant)
  - 23 million worshippers at TSPM churches
  - 35 million worshippers at unregistered Protestant churches (Another estimate: 93-115 million total)



# Where are China's registered Christian churches?



# Are all those who worship in unregistered churches targeted?



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# Are only worshippers in unregistered Churches targeted?



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# How many worshippers in unregistered churches have suffered abuses?

- ‘Sinicization’ of Christianity
- Temporary detentions (many case)
- Long-term imprisonment (few cases)
- Are detainees charged with crimes?



# How many worshippers in unregistered churches have been detained?

- 2012: 1441 detentions
- 2013: 1470 detentions
- 2014: 2994 detentions
- 2015: 3178 detentions
- 2016: 3526 detentions
- 2017: 3700 detentions

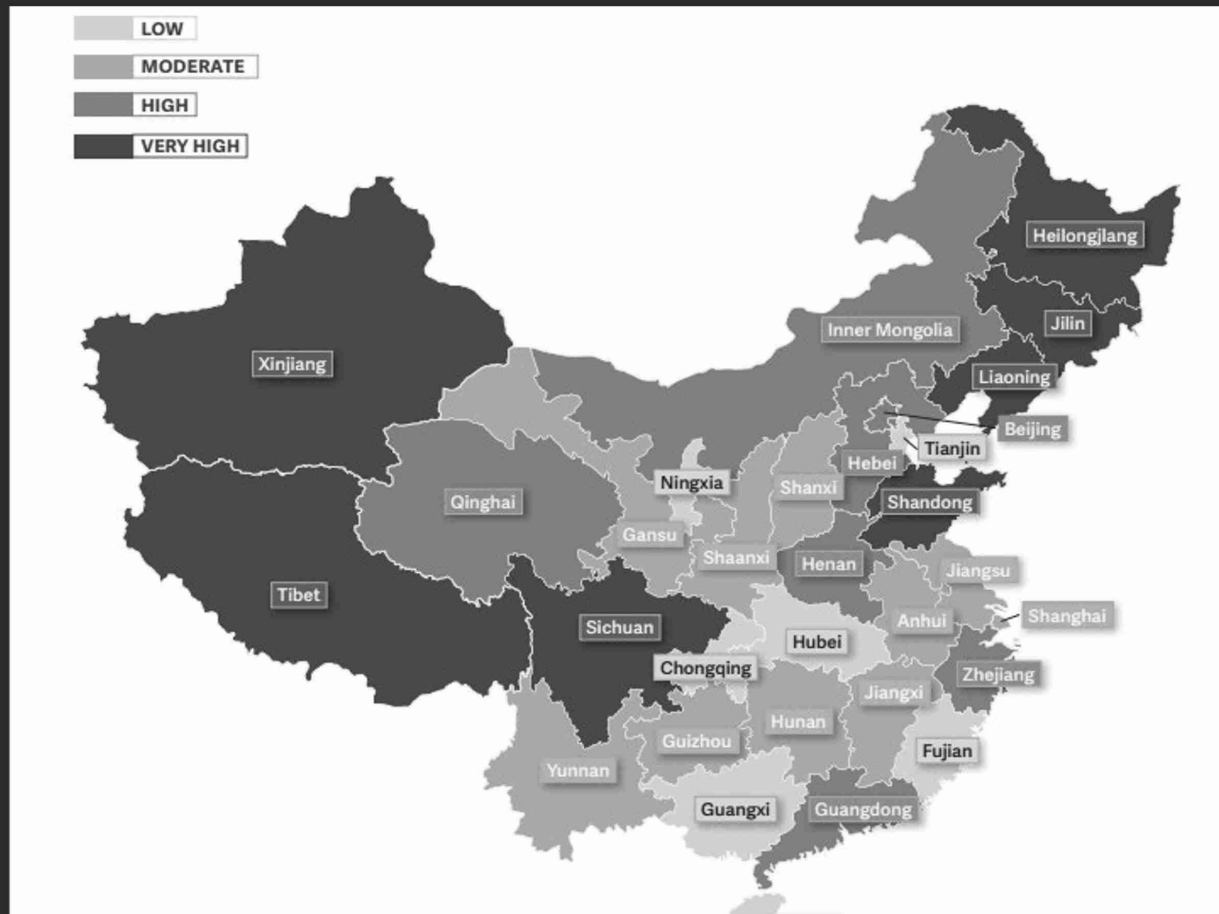


# What factors influence which Christians may suffer abuses?

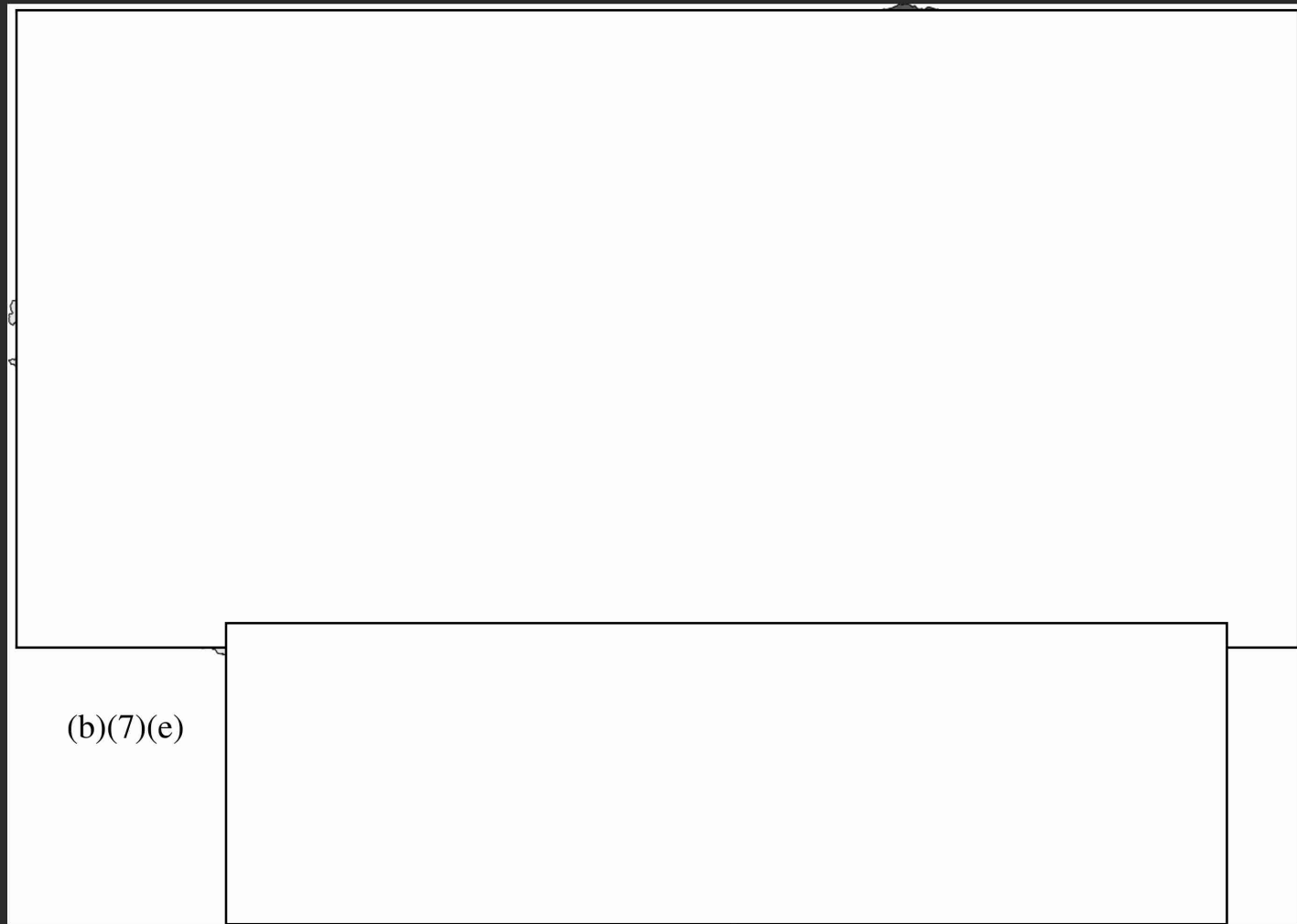
- Location of the church
- Political connections of the church
- Priorities of local authorities
- Behavior of the church



# Where is religious persecution most intense?



# Where is NIV fraud most prevalent?



# Conclusion



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# Recommended Readings

- *The Battle for China's Spirit*, Freedom House, Feb. 2017.
- *Annual Report – 2018: Freedom of Religion*, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, 2018.
- *China: An Emerging Destination for Economic Migration*, Migration Policy Institute, May 31, 2011.
- *Migration within China and from China to the USA: The effects of migration networks, selectivity, and the rural political economy in Fujian Province*, *Population Studies*, 67(2): 209–223 (2013).
- *Bibliography on Christianity in China*, RAI0 Research Unit, Oct. 2016.
- *China's Great Migration: Why Leave Changle?*, Slate, Apr. 11, 2008.





# Recommended Readings (cont.)

- Country Information Report People's Republic of China, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Oct. 3, 2019 (*For informational purposes only: Not to be interpreted as guidance for USCIS Officers*)
- Query response on Christian house churches (2017-October 2019), Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Oct. 22, 2019 (*For informational purposes only: Not to be interpreted as guidance for USCIS Officers*)
- Country information and protection guidelines for British asylum authorities on Christians, U.K. Home Office, Nov. 2019 (*For informational purposes only: Not to be interpreted as guidance for USCIS Officers*)

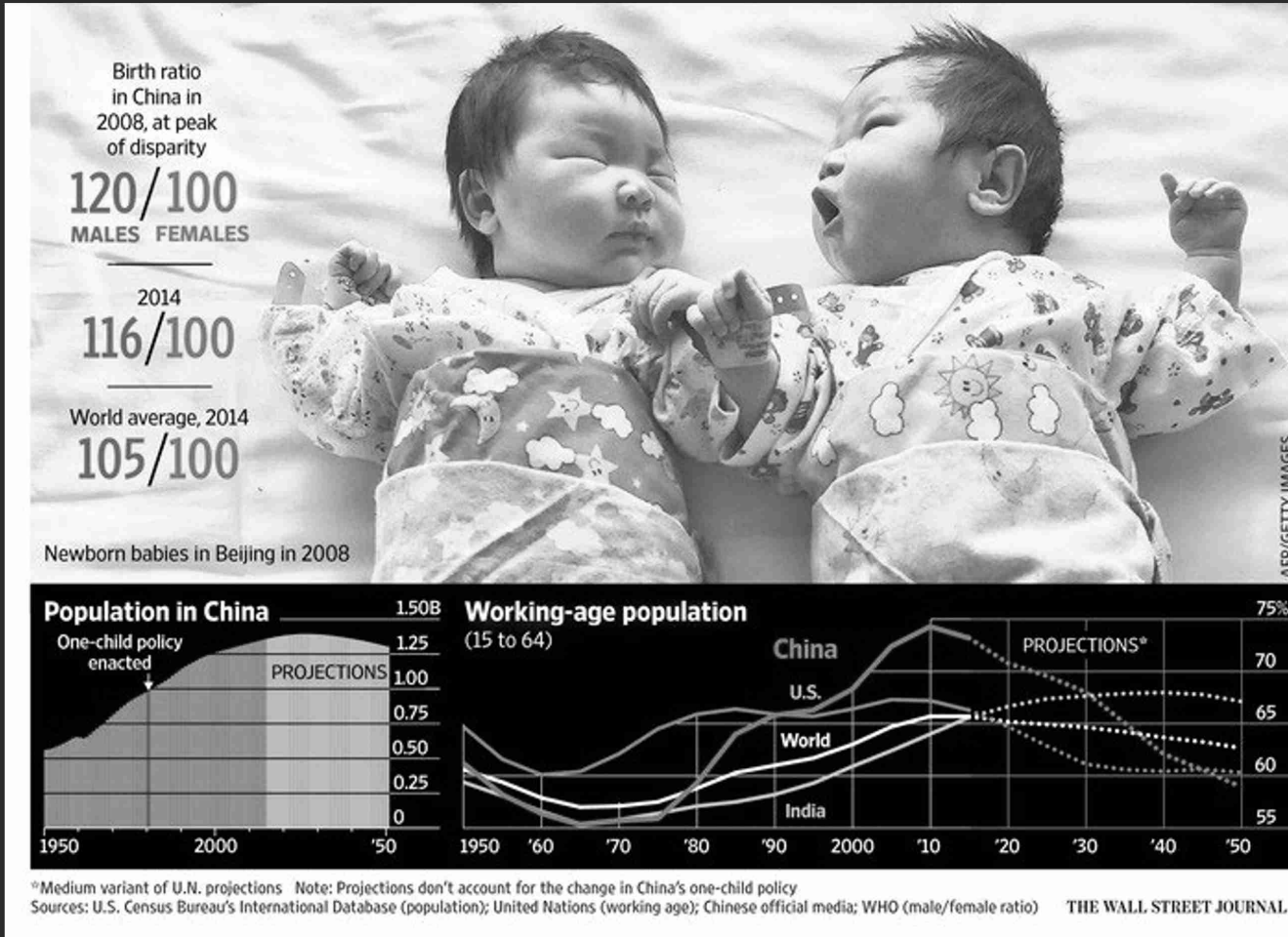


# Church of the Almighty God/Eastern Lightning



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# Coercive Birth Planning Policies



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# Coercive Birth Planning Policies

Evolution of the  
Policies over  
Time

Abusive  
Implementation:  
Past and  
Present



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# Coercive Birth Planning Policies: Recommended Readings

- Two-Child Policy Becomes Law, Law Library of Congress, January 8, 2016
- Translations of Provincial Regulations, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, April 11, 2019
- Annual Report – 2019, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, November 18, 2019
- Enforcement of the Two-Child Policy, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, December 18, 2019
- China's Two-Child Policy: What's Next?, The Diplomat, March 4, 2016



# Forced Relocation and Home Demolition



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# Forced Relocation and Home Demolition



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# Forced Relocation and Home Demolition: Recommended Readings

- Urban Housing Demolition and Relocation Management Regulations (English), Congressional-Executive Commission on China, June 4, 2001
- Annual Report – 2019, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, November 18, 2019
- Corruption and Weak Property Protections Fuel Protests in Rural China: The Case of Wukan Village, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, May 31, 2017
- Forced Eviction Family Who Fought Back Jailed, Beaten, Threatened in China's Shandong, Radio Free Asia, November 30, 2019





# Uyghurs & Other Xinjiang Muslims



## Resources:

- [Presentation to RAIO by Prof Rian Thrum, part of the RAIO Research Unit Speaker Series](#)
- Sinica Podcast (linked on Slack - [#raio-research-asia](#)), especially '[Update on Xinjiang](#)', an interview with Nury Turkel



# China: Exit Restrictions



## ■ Resources:

- [Information on Exit Restrictions in China](#), RAIO Research Unit (November 16, 2018)
- [Procedures and requirements to obtain a biometric passport](#), IRB Canada (May 6, 2013)
- [A Summer Vacation in China's Muslim Gulag](#), Foreign Policy (February 28, 2018)

