

BRIEF HISTORY OF TIBET SESSION I



The area (including U-Tsang, Kham and Amdo provinces) is 1.2 million km².
The average height of the territory is 4000 meters above sea level.

The great rivers originate in Tibet, that flow through the territory of other peoples and therefore are better known by their names in the languages of these peoples (indicated in parentheses). Those are:
Yarlung-Tsangpo (Brahmaputra),
Ma-Chu (Yellow River),
Ji-Chu (Yangtze),
Nag Chu (Burm: Salween) and Dza-Chu (Mekong).

The largest lakes are Tsonag, Nam-Tso, Yamjou-Yumzo, Mapam-Yumtsu (Manasarovar), Migrgjiangjam-Tso.

The average temperature: 14 °C in July and -4 °C in January.

The average level of precipitation varies greatly, in the western regions 1 mm in January and 25 mm in July; in the eastern regions of 25-30 mm in January and 80 mm in July.

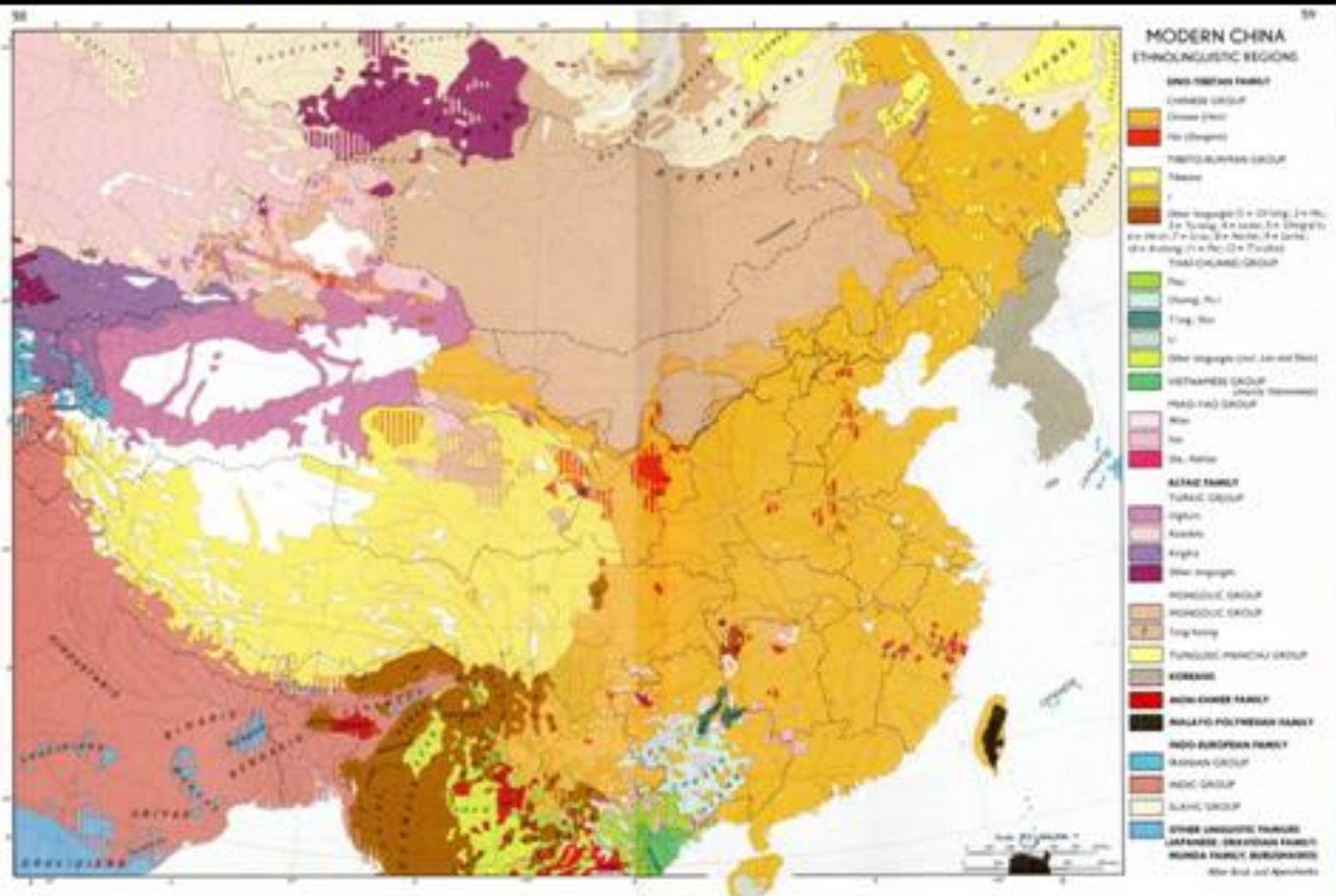
Minerals: 126 different minerals, including borax, uranium, iron ore, chromite, gold, lithium, bauxite, copper, coal, salt, mica, tin, oil and others.

HISTORICAL TIBET HAS BEEN PARTITIONED BETWEEN A FEW CONTEMPORARY COUNTRIES:



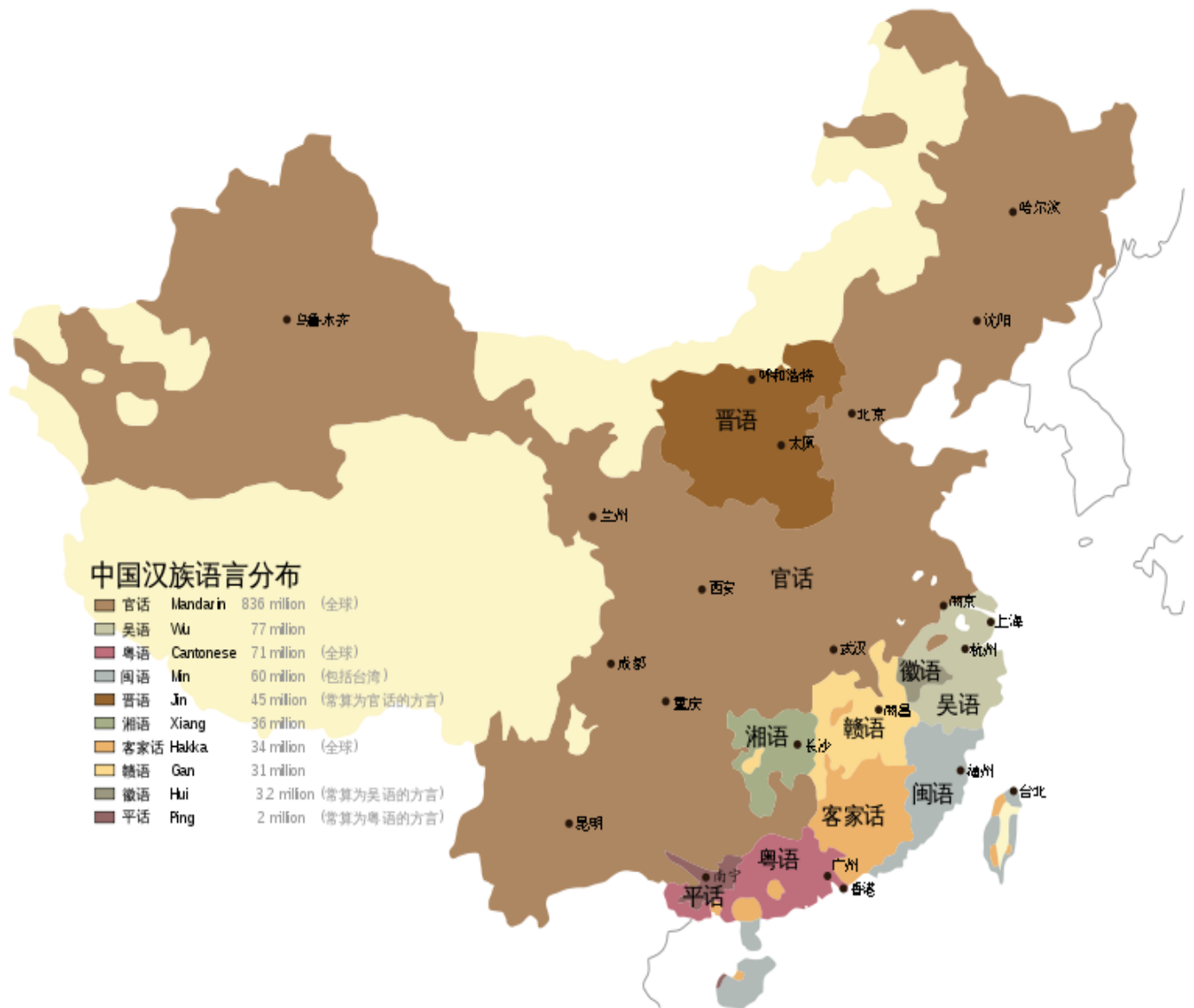
The “Tibetic” languages belong to the Sino-Tibetan macrofamily. They correspond to a well-defined family of languages derived from Old Tibetan, although in some rare cases such as Baima or Khalong, a Qiangic substratum is a very probable hypothesis. The language called Old Tibetan was spoken at the time of the Tibetan Empire (seventh to ninth centuries). Old Tibetan is very similar to the classical literary language, which has preserved a very archaic orthography. And indeed, all the modern languages not only have regular reflexes of Classical Literary Tibetan but also share a core vocabulary and grammar.

Languages of China and around it



CHINESE DIALECTS

(TIBETAN LANGUAGES, OF COURSE, ARE NOT INCLUDED):



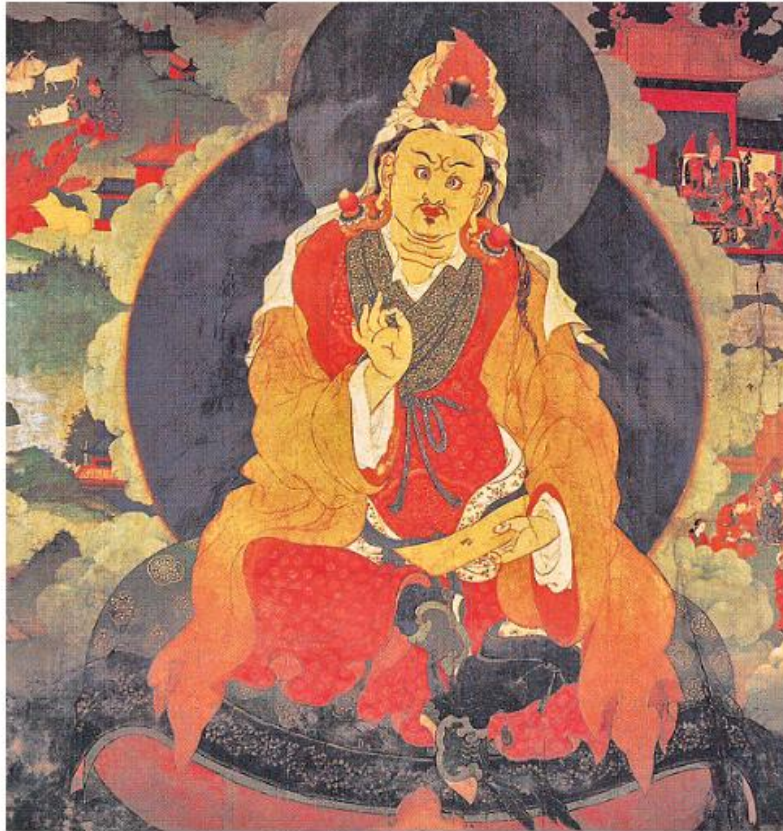
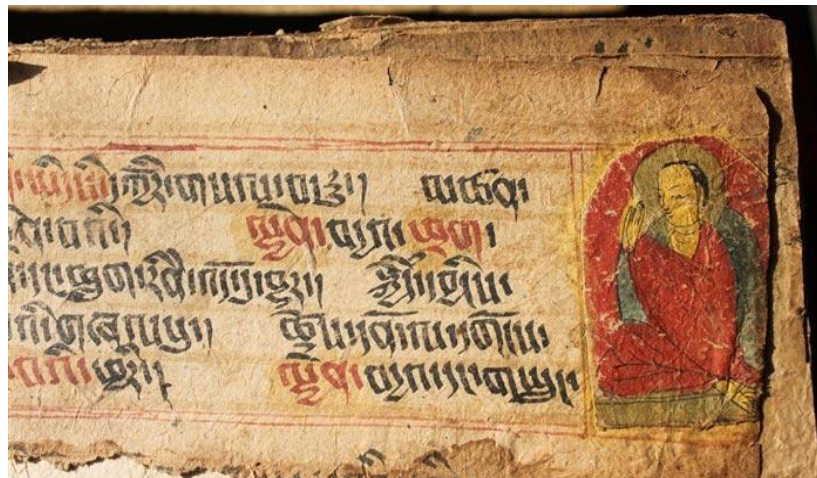


Figure 7.1 The Tibetan minister Thonmi Sambhota (Thon mi sam b+ho ta), credited by tradition with inventing the Tibetan alphabet in the seventh century. Circa seventeenth-century mural in the Potala Palace in Lhasa.

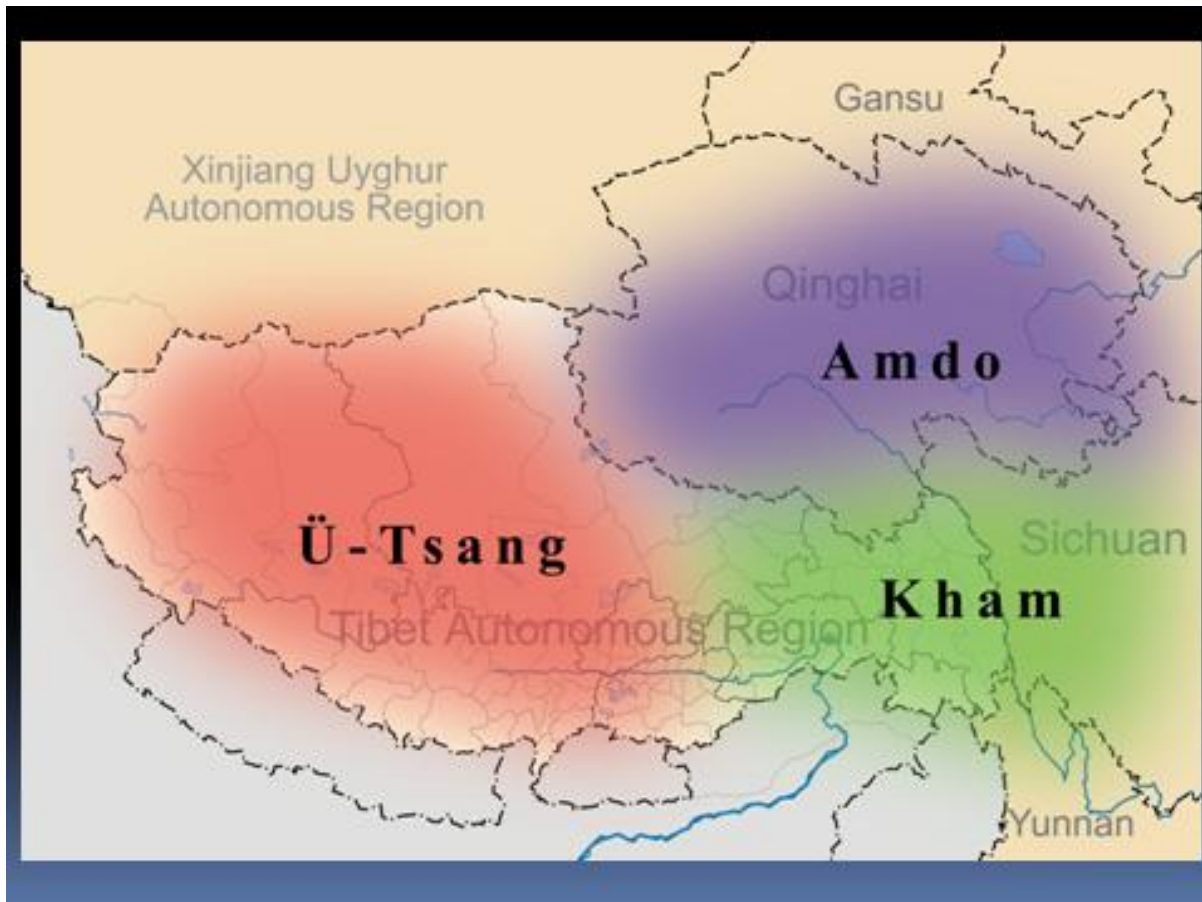


	UNASPIRATED - HIGH	ASPIRATED - MID	VOICED - LOW	NASALS - LOW
	I	II	III	IV
① GUTTURAL	ཀ ka	ཁ kha	ག ga	ང nga
② PALATAL	ཅ ca	ཆ cha	ཇ ja	ཉ nya
③ DENTAL	ཏ ta	ཐ tha	ད da	ན na
④ LABIAL	པ pa	ཕ pha	བ ba	མ ma
⑤ DENTAL	ཅ ts	ཆ tsh	ཇ dz	ཉ w
⑥ LOW	ཞ zha	ཟ za	འ a	ཡ ya
⑦ MID	ར ra	ལ la	ཤ sha	ས sa
⑧ HIGH	ཏ ha	ཨ a		

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MAJOR HISTORICAL REGIONS OF TIBET:



TIBETAN NATIONAL FLAG:



Name Snow lion flag

Use Civil and state flag, national ensign

Adopted 1916

Tibetan army flag (1912-1951):



TIBETAN NATIONAL FLAG:



Name Snow lion flag

Use Civil and state flag, national ensign

Adopted 1916



Tibetan army flag (1912 - 1951)

SYMBOLISM OF TIBETAN FLAG:



In the centre stands a magnificent snow-clad mountain, which represents the great nation of Tibet, widely known as the Land Surrounded by Snow Mountains.

The Six red bands spread across the dark blue sky represent the original ancestors of the Tibetan people: the six tribes called Se, Mu, Dong, Tong, Dru, and Ra which in turn gave rise to the (twelve) descendants. The combination of six red bands (for the tribes) and six dark blue bands (for the sky) represents the unceasing enactment of the virtuous deeds of protection of the spiritual teachings and secular life by the black and red guardian protector deities with which Tibet has been connected since times immemorial.

At the top of the snowy mountain, the sun with its rays shining brilliantly in all directions represents the equal enjoyment of freedom, spiritual and material happiness and prosperity by all beings in the land of Tibet.



On the slopes of the mountain a pair of snow lions stand proudly, blazing with the manes of fearlessness, which represent the country's victorious accomplishment of a unified spiritual and secular life.



The beautiful and radiant three-colored jewel held aloft represents the ever-present reverence respectfully held by the Tibetan people towards the three supreme gems, the objects of refuge: Buddha, Dharma and Sangha.



The two colored swirling jewel held between the two lions represents the people's guarding and cherishing of the self discipline of correct ethical behavior, principally represented by the practices of the ten exalted virtues and the 16 humane modes of conduct.



Lastly, the adornment with a yellow border symbolizes that the teachings of the Buddha, which are like pure, refined gold and unbounded in space and time, are flourishing and spreading.



A Brief History of TIBET

Part 1: Prehistoric and Ancient Tibet (? – 620 AD)

? - c. 500 BC (Neolithic Tibet)

Early Tibetan tribes (Ch'iang/Poeba) migrated from the Koko-Nor region to Tibetan Plateau, and merged with the native inhabitants.



c. 500 BC–625 AD

Zhangzhung or Shangshung culture and kingdoms in western and northwestern Tibet.

Prehistoric Bön religion

Part 2: Imperial Tibet (ca 620 - 900 AD)

Sontsen Gambo and Tibetan empire

Buddhism and its expansion into Tibet and around it

Expansion of Christianity (Nestorianism) into Tibet and around it

Meanwhile in China



1. Early history

ca 2100 BC – 264 AD

Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties and expansion of Han people (c. 2100 – 256 BC)

Confucius and Confucianism

Spring and Autumn period (722–476 BC)

Warring States period (476–221 BC)

Seven Military Classics

Han dynasty (202 BC–AD 220)

Taoism and Laozi

Buddhism and its expansion into China and around it



2. From Three Kingdoms to Jin Dynasty

ca 265 – 1209

Three Kingdoms and Western Jin (AD 265–316)

Sixteen Kingdoms and Eastern Jin (AD 304–439)

Southern and Northern Dynasties (AD 420–589)

Sui dynasty (AD 589–618)

Expansion of Christianity (Nestorianism)

Tang dynasty (618–907), expansion of Islam and the Battle of Talas

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

