

# Cultural



Since ancient times China's Sinkiang has had close cultural ties with the heartland. This painted pottery jar, 18.5 cm high, found at a Neolithic site, Taho People's Commune, Barkol County, is akin in form and design to those of the Shaching Culture, Kansu.

**C**HINA is a country with a very large population composed of many nationalities."

Together they have created her history. The Sinkiang region has always been inhabited by various fraternal nationalities and the Han people in compact community.

As early as the 2nd and 1st century B.C. China's Han Dynasty set up administrative organs over the vast areas east and south of Lake

*A great variety of Han and Tang silks are evidence of the "Silk Road".*

Brocade with trees, birds and lambs of the Sui Dynasty from Astana, Turfan County.



Brocade robe, 133 cm in length, from an Eastern Han tomb at the Niya site, Minfeng County.



Silk drawings from a Tang tomb at Astana, Turfan County. ① Portrait of a lady. ② Two children. ③ A lady at a game of *wei chi*.

Tapestry belt of the Tang Dynasty from Astana, Turfan County.



Embroidery with grapes, birds and beasts of the Northern Liang period (A.D. 401-460), from Astana, Turfan County.



Sky-blue fancy gauze with painted gold pattern of the Tang Dynasty from Astana, Turfan County.



# Relics Unearthed in Sinkiang

Balkhash. Local governments were also established by the Uighurs, Tibetans and other fraternal nationalities. In the 8th century A.D., Li Po, the great Tang poet, was born in the town of Sujab by the river of the same name which is now known as the Chu River.

The traffic artery between East and West — the historically famous “Silk Road” — passed through Sinkiang in ancient times.

On China’s northwestern highlands, the region is endowed with favourable natural conditions for preserving cultural relics. Many rare objects have been miraculously kept intact. There are also a number of remains of ancient cities. Strolling in their streets and lanes one can see among other things official and private residences, markets and workshops.

Archaeologists from Sinkiang in cooperation

with workers, peasants and soldiers have opened the doors of many underground museums. They found gorgeous silks and cottons, clearly written official and private documents and paintings and sculptures with vivid motifs. These valuable objects are historical evidence. Here we show a small portion excavated since Liberation.



②

In China cotton was first grown in Sinkiang. This fragment of cotton cloth has patterns dyed with the batik technique. It comes from an Eastern Han tomb at the Niya site, Minfeng County, demonstrating that cotton goods were used here more than 1,700 years ago.



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