

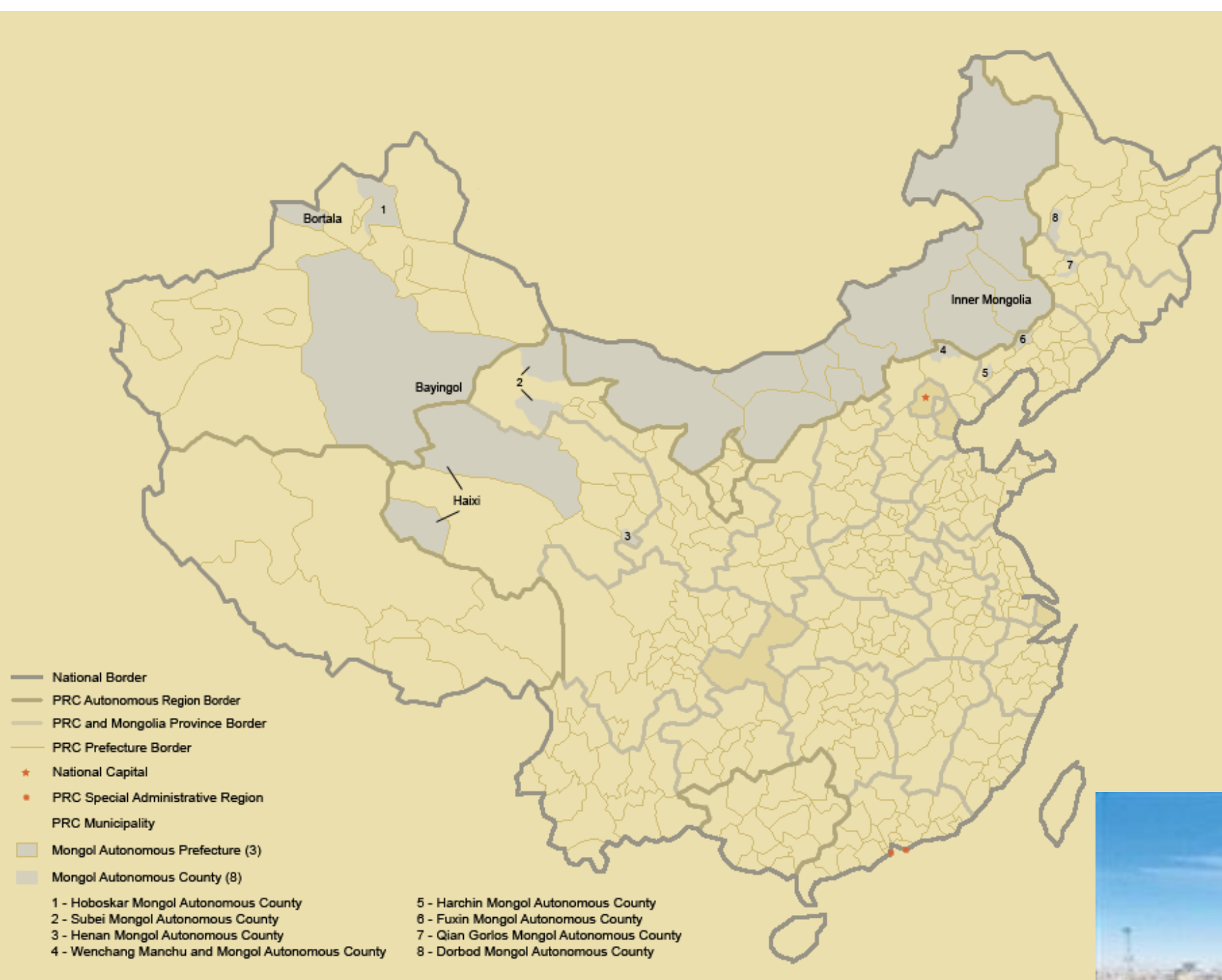


# How well does the Chinese government maintain the relationship between them and the ethnic Mongolians?

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## 1) What is the history and basis of establishment of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region?

- Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region** - one of the 5 autonomous regions of the People's Republic of China, and it is also one of the biggest of the ARs in China. The AR forms the entire border with Mongolia, and also parts of Russia.
  - It is the first AR founded by the Communist Party of China (China Facts & Figures, 2007)
- Founded in 1947 by the Communist Party of China, 2 years before the founding of the PRC
  - Consisted of the former Charhar and Suiyuan provinces, and parts of the Heilongjiang and northern Liaoning provinces, which was the administrative divisions of the region before the PRC. (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2013)
- In the formation of the Qing Dynasty, the Mongols were effectively conquered by the Manchus, and were reorganised from their tribes to 'banners' (Atwood, 2004).
  - 'Banners' were an administrative division of the territory to organise the previous nomadic tribes, which frequently crossed borders, changed territory and moved across the steppes, into distinct locations where they are no longer allowed to trespass other banner borders (Bulag, 2012).
  - Previous local lords assumed the leadership of these 'banners'. These 'banners' formed parts of the larger 'league', which forms an equivalent administrative layer as 'prefecture'.
  - The AR is still administered this way, although with alterations, such as when the banner becomes urbanised. Some leagues are also dissolved to be administered as prefecture-level cities, same as non-AR China.
- Division of the modern Outer and Inner Mongolias
  - Outer Mongolia had an revolution in 1911 (Onon & Pritchatt, 1989) and gained independence thereafter
  - Inner Mongolia remained in Chinese control due to lack of continued occupation by Outer Mongolia since 1915 due to a joint treaty between China, Russia and Mongolia forcing Mongolia to recognise Chinese suzerainty, albeit functionally independent. (Ewing, 1980).
  - The region composing of the modern Inner Mongolia AR saw itself conquered by Japan during WWII. Since Mongolia was under significant influence by the Soviets, the region's communist resistance groups were supported.
- Role of Ulanhu
  - Prominent Mongolian Communist backed by the Soviets to join Inner Mongolia with the PRC. (Bulag, 1998) He became a core party member of the Communist Party, while being promoted quickly in it. He was purged in 1967 in the Cultural Revolution, but came back later to become the vice-president of China and vice-chairman of the Congress
  - It can be said that his work in the party helped to cement much of the policies regarding national regional autonomy and brought it into the constitution. This allows minorities to be represented in the PRC without being overwhelmed by the increasing sentiment to assimilate the ethnic groups.
  - He is seen both protectionist of the Mongol ethnicity and also a traitor, as he was the one instrumental to bring it to China, not Mongolia.
- Formation of Autonomous Regions –
  - Fundamental to Marxist-Leninist theory, prominent in Mao-led China, in solving China's nation question (Li, 1982), where regional autonomy can be achieved with ultimate central oversight.
  - Granting autonomy can ensure that there is friendly cooperation (primarily at the beginning) and eventually national equality between nationalities, inoculating a sense of patriotism in the Zhongguo Minzhu, and a sense of internationalism above the nationality divide.
  - This argument is in line with the administrative differences between nationalities in China, albeit united with 'a common struggle'. (Ulanhu, 1981)



## 2) What Are The Similarities And Differences Between The Republic Of Mongolia And Inner Mongolia In Terms Of Their Provision Of Economic Opportunities?

Aspect 1: Mode of development		
	Republic of Mongolia	Inner Mongolia
Differences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Secondary industries: dairy industries, banking, real estate (Batte, 2015)</li><li>Lack of development in infrastructure: has only 1,500 km of surfaced roads, 12 highway ports (Renaissance Capital, 2009)</li><li>Production of coal, gold and copper (Renaissance Capital, 2009)</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>From secondary to tertiary industries: dairy industry, the processing industry of organic products and the cloud computing industry (China Daily, 2016)</li><li>2874 km of highways, number of land route ports is 18 which can transit over 9 million tons goods per year (HKTDC, 2010)</li><li>Fall in the production of coal, using more clean energy (China Daily, 2016)</li></ol>

Aspect 2: Capital and resources		
	Republic of Mongolia	Inner Mongolia
Similarities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Investment inflow by China, Russia, USA and e.t.c. → invite foreign investors to develop mining assets (Renaissance Capital, 2009)</li><li>Abundant with natural resources: water, mineral (Renaissance Capital, 2009)</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Favourable policies: supported by China as an autonomous region, economic cooperation with Hong Kong (The Law Society of Hong Kong, 2011)</li><li>Abundant with natural resources: forest, iron, grain, animal, mineral (The Law Society of Hong Kong, 2011)</li></ol>

Aspect 3: Ease of doing business, starting business and employing workers		
	Republic of Mongolia	Inner Mongolia
Differences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ranking: 60, 78, 44 (World Bank Group, 2017)</li><li>Signed Oyu Tolgoi copper mine project to create around 80,000 new jobs across the country (Renaissance Capital, 2009)</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ranking: 89, 151, 140 (China), Inner Mongolia ranked 11 in China overall (Rongxing, 2013)</li><li>The Victory Group in Inner Mongolia cooperated with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council had a workforce of more than 20,000 employees (The Law Society of Hong Kong, 2011)</li></ol>

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## 3) To What Extent Does The Chinese Government Assimilate And Integrate Mongolian Culture And Language In China?

- Teaching Mandarin in Inner Mongolia as a predominant language (although Mongolian language education among primary and secondary students has also respectively increased for 10% and 13%, whereby they are heritage learners);
- Development of Mongolia - for extracting minerals & construction of infrastructure (where Inner Mongolians experience higher GDP than Outer Mongolians);
- Use of Subsidies for managing disputes (but most exist in name, since desertification is getting more and more severe since there is rapid mineral extraction and timber removal, leading to immense difficulty in herding);
- Interracial Marriages (where Mongolians marry with Han and this accelerates racial assimilation);
- Government-sponsored Festivities (traditional sport and music, where Mongolian rites are celebrated by regions of interest in China, leading to gradual assimilation of Mongols into China, so that such festivities are defined as Chinese rites as well);
- Forceful Migration of Herders to Cities - since their traditional practice of herding is forced to be discontinued owing to destruction of farmland → this diminishes the Mongolian identity, accelerating their integration into China.



## 4) Are There Any Special Treatment/Positions The Mongols Have Over Other Ethnic Minority Groups?

- Full equality among ethnic groups is a constitutional principle of China. The Constitution of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the "Constitution") stipulates: "All ethnic groups in the People's Republic of China are equal." (PRC State Council White Paper, 2009)
- Including three aspects:
  - 1)equal political status
  - 2)economic, cultural and social equality
  - 3)same rights and duties under law
- However, to a certain extent, Mongols have special advantageous over other ethnic minorities group:
- 1) Cultural Heritage Preservation
  - The Chinese government has set up special institutions for carrying out the collection, editing, translation, and research of the major epics of the following three ethnic minorities: Gesars of the Tibetan, Jianggar of the Mongolians, and Manas of the Kirgiz. (Li, Lu, Yumiya & Liu, 2012)
  - >have been published in the ethnic minority languages, as well as in Chinese and foreign languages
- 2) National College Entrance Examination( Gaokao)
  - There are more than 50 ethnic minorities living in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region (Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Bureau of Statistics, 2015)
  - China will eliminate five preferential items from its education policy that adds bonus points to a student's national college entrance exam, or gaokao, but only Mongols, Daur, Oroqen, Evenks and Ethnic Russians can add 10 bonus marks to the total scores of Gaokao (China Daily, 2018)