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<th>POSTER TITLE</th>
<th>Human Rights Conditions in Xiujiang, China</th>
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**ABSTRACT INTRODUCTION**

In 1949, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) took control of Xinjiang from the Koumintang (KMT) and declared that Xinjiang was to be an autonomous region in 1955. However, major decisions were still made by the CCP led by the Han Chinese and not the Uyghurs from Xinjiang. The CCP implemented aggressive assimilation policies in the 1960s especially during the Cultural Revolution during which the Uyghurs were subjected to serious abuses. In 1978, Deng Xiaoping took over the leadership of China after the demise of Mao Zedong. It brought about dramatic changes in the human rights situation in China. These included freedom for the Uyghurs to practice their religion, culture and language. Hence, there was an improvement in human rights in Xinjiang. However, in the late 1990s the CCP reverted to harsh policies once again.

**OBJECTIVES**

This study examines the factors that have influenced China’s policies on the human rights condition in Xinjiang. The objective of this study is to analyse several pertinent issues regarding human rights in Xinjiang, particularly the role of internal and external factors. In addition it also analyses the role of the international Uyghur community in their struggle to internationalise their plight and also the reaction by the Chinese governments towards the pressure from the international community.

**METHODOLOGY**

This study uses primary and secondary sources such as reports, statistics, commentaries and analytical papers of government policy, statements by government representatives and academic writings on human rights conditions and trans-national advocacy in Xinjiang. In addition, information is also sought through books, academic journals, previous dissertations, internet sources, university research facilities, government texts and official records. The researcher also conducted field research in Xinjiang for two weeks from 13 July till 27 July 2011. The aims of the field research were to conduct interviews and personally observe the conditions in Xinjiang. In addition to the field research in Xinjiang, the researcher had the opportunity to conduct research in Republic of China (ROC) or Taiwan for a period of approximately seven months, between February and September 2012. That opportunity was used to gather primary and secondary data that were not available in Malaysia. The researcher was attached with the Institute of International Relations (IIR), National Chengchi University (NCCU), and Taipei, Taiwan as a Visiting Research Fellow.

**RESULTS**

1) The CCP's idea regarding human rights is crucial in determining the human rights conditions in Xinjiang. This is because the CCP is the only political party in China. Therefore, it is important to note that the CCP believes that the economic development of the state should be given top priority at the expense of human rights.
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