



EAST TURKISTAN LOBBY DAY

September 2024 | Washington, DC

East Turkistan Resolution (Draft)

To express the sense of the Congress that East Turkistan, including those areas incorporated into the Chinese provinces of Gansu and Qinghai that have historically been part of East Turkistan, is an occupied country under established principles of international law, whose true representatives are the East Turkistan Government in Exile, as recognized by the East Turkistani people (Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, Tatars and others).

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas East Turkistan has maintained throughout its history a distinctive national, cultural, and religious identity separate from that of China;

Whereas Chinese archival documents and traditional dynastic histories, including those pertaining to periods of Manchu and Mongol rule, never refer to East Turkistan being made “an integral part” of China;

Whereas several countries, including British India, the British Empire, the Ottoman Empire, Kingdom of Afghanistan, Czarist Russia either recognized East Turkistan as an independent nation or dealt with East Turkistan independently of any Chinese Government;

Whereas in August 1876, the Manchu Qing Empire invaded East Turkistan and occupied it on December 12, 1877;

Whereas on November 18, 1884, East Turkistan was illegally annexed into the Manchu Qing Empire as “Xinjiang,” meaning the “Colony” or “New Territory,” in the Chinese Mandarin language;

Whereas the native Turkic people of East Turkistan actively resisted Manchu Qing and subsequent Chinese efforts to subjugate East Turkistan;

Whereas on November 12, 1933, Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz and other Turkic peoples declared their independence as the East Turkistan Republic;

Whereas on November 12, 1944, Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, Tatars, and Mongols re-declared their independence once more as the East Turkistan Republic;

Whereas on August 27, 1949, the top leaders of the independent East Turkistan Republic, who were prepared to negotiate with the Soviet Union and the Chinese Communist Party regarding the future of East Turkistan, were assassinated in what was declared by the Soviets as a “plane crash”;

Whereas according to CIA reports declassified in 2014, in September 1949, some 30 senior political and military leaders of the East Turkistan Republic were assassinated by the Soviet Union to prevent an effective resistance against the planned Chinese communist invasion of East Turkistan;

Whereas on October 12, 1949, the People’s Republic of China launched an armed invasion of East Turkistan with over 90,000 men in contravention of international law;

Whereas the Soviet Union provided 40 transport planes to ship a part of the PLA’s invasion force into East Turkistan;

Whereas at the time of Chinese occupation, East Turkistan possessed all the attributes of statehood under international law including a defined territory and population, an independent government, and the ability to conduct domestic affairs and independent international relations;

Whereas prior to 1949, majority of maps, including maps produced by the U.S. Government, officially designated the Uyghur – Turkic homeland as ‘East Turkistan’ or ‘Eastern Turkestan;’

Whereas the East Turkistan National Army was incorporated into the People’s Liberation Army’s 5th Army Corps on December 22, 1949, and the East Turkistan was illegally annexed into the People’s Republic of China thus officially ending the statehood of the East Turkistan Republic;

Whereas at the time of Chinese occupation, over 90% of the population of East Turkistan were ethnically Turkic peoples whom the Uyghurs made up the majority and the Chinese constituted less than 4% of the total population of East Turkistan;

Whereas from the start of the Chinese communist invasion in late 1949 to 1954, over 150,000 Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples who resisted the Chinese Communist invasion were killed; Whereas in 1954 Chinese Communist authorities under Mao Zedong established the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corp (XPCC) paramilitary force to colonize East Turkistan;

Whereas in 1955, the People’s Republic of China officially designated the majority of East Turkistan as the “Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region;”

Whereas it is the policy of the United States to oppose aggression and other illegal uses of force by one country against the sovereignty of another as a manner of acquiring territory, and to condemn violation of international law, including the illegal occupation of one country by another;

Whereas in 1959, a Joint Resolution (Public Law 86-90) included Turkistan (which would include East Turkistan), Tibet, and mainland China in the list of Captive Nations which had lost its national independence due to Communist Russia’s imperialistic policies;

Whereas the Captive Nations Law (Public Law 86-90) states that it is vital to the national security of the United States that the desire for liberty and independence on the part of the peoples of these conquered nations should be steadfastly kept alive;

Whereas in March 1996, the Chinese Communist Party’s Politburo declared that East Turkistani nationalism was the biggest threat to its rule in East Turkistan and issued a top secret directive (Document No. 7 (1996)) with a 10-point policy to suppress East Turkistani independence and prevent the East Turkistan problem from becoming internationalized;

Whereas the “Xinjiang Police Files,” revealed that the basis for China’s mass internment of millions of Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan was to suppress “pro-independence” thinking;

Whereas in October 2018 over 109,000 members of the global East Turkistani community and its supporters sent a petition to the White House and expressed their desire for liberty and independence by calling on the United States Government to recognize East Turkistan as an occupied state;

Whereas in May 2019, the U.S. Department of Defense acknowledged China is engaging in crimes against humanity in East Turkistan and detaining some 3 million Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in concentration camps;

Whereas on January 19, 2021, the U.S. Department of State officially designated China’s atrocities against Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan as genocide and crimes against humanity;

Whereas China’s campaign of colonization, genocide, and occupation in East Turkistan continues to this day;

Whereas the people of East Turkistan continue to yearn for the restoration of their freedom and independence from Chinese rule;

and Whereas the United States should not condone aggression by accepting China’s claim to sovereignty over East Turkistan:

Now, therefore, be it *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That It is the sense of the Congress that East Turkistan, including those areas incorporated into the Chinese provinces of Gansu and Qinghai, is an occupied country under the established principles of international law and its true representatives are the East Turkistan Government in Exile as recognized by the East Turkistani people.