



this center versus periphery issue. Ethnicity rests on denominators such as language and religion. While language is not a likely engine of creating conflicts, it is still a source of identity.

In the context of China, Muslims as a whole are put in the periphery. The Uighur as the largest group is more active and more visible in formulating grievances. A remarkable group are Hui; they are Han Chinese who are Muslims. On the one hand they are in the periphery based on their religion and their geographical location (the East and South coast are the center of China); on the other hand they are Muslims who remain loyal to the Chinese state.

Indeed, I have heard from Uighur nationalists of Pan-Turkic rather than Islamic-centered orientation, that the Hui comply with China and oppose the Uighur independence movement. It may be so, but I still wonder the credibility of such claims. The Hui may not be attracted by the Uighur Pan-Turkic movements but still be aware and aggrieved by their peripheral position in China.

Another issue is the perception of discrimination versus the real policy of discrimination. The Chinese policy on the regional languages and religions is self-reportedly very liberal. However, it is regulated and this makes it politicized.

In cases the state does not intervene at all, a more relaxed situation may be created. In this case, the facts are that Western China is less economically developed and is less invested by the Chinese state to develop it. On the other hand, and this is one of the main strengths of our new 'multidisciplinary discipline' of ethnogeopolitics, geographic facts are compelling.

In this regard demography in and of its own already has a heavy influence on the perception of discrimination among the Uighurs and other Muslims, by the dominant Han non-Muslim population. Hence the latter's influence on the politics and economy of China, is a multiple of times larger than that of any other groups, with or without any intended discriminatory policy targeting these minorities. I hope these editorial comments can be of use to the author's present and future endeavors as a scholar.

- Babak Rezvani, Editor-in-Chief

Author's Response

I would like to emphasize and state here that the reviewer's and editor-in-chief's published comments concern my original(ly submitted) paper of November 25, 2017. The version that is published here concerns a revised one that I resubmitted on May 8, 2018. The revisions mainly are in response to the reviewer's and editor-in-chief's comments, and hopefully assuage at least some of their concerns.

- Jennifer Loy

NB: do you have any comments on Jennifer Loy's article and/or the Critical Response, the Editorial Note and the Author's Response to these? The other peer-reviews remain anonymous and unpublished. Your comments may be published as follow-up Critical Responses in one of the next issues if you wish so, under your name or anonymously. Please send these to info@ethnogeopolitics.org, or through the contact form at www.ethnogeopolitics.org.