

## Introduction to Chinese Culture

## China and its Minorities: a Historical Perspective

Trying to stretch the short, tight skin of the nation to cover the body of an old empire (to borrow Benedict Anderson's famous phrase) is of course not a problem unique to the People's Republic. But as China seeks to position itself as a reasonable power on the world stage, it must recognize the needs and aspirations of the multitude of "minority nationalities" within its territories, and it must take seriously the history of the formation and transformation of such *shao shu min zu*. In this talk, Leo Shin will examine some of the "minority problems" China is encountering and situate them within a broader historical context.

Community Place • Brighouse (Main) Branch, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond

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