



## Chinese Nuclear Tests

Disasters Caused by Nuclear Explosions on the Silk Road

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## Damage beyond the reach of imagination

China implemented 46 nuclear tests from 1964 to 1996 in the test site constructed in Lop Nur, Uyghur District. Total yield amounted to about 20 megatons. The surface bursts may have caused tremendous damage because fission products mixed with surface materials took the form of large amounts of dust, and then descended on the surrounding and downwind areas.

Based on the estimated average population density 6.6 - 8.3 persons/km<sup>2</sup> in Uyghur District at the time, the study estimated that about 190,000 people would die in zone A. Moreover, the populations in zones B or C, where the risk of leukemia and other cancers or the hazard to fetuses may be enhanced significantly, has been estimated to be 1,290,000.

While the nuclear tests at the Lop Nur site were implemented until 1996, it may be believed that the health effects on people and nuclear hazards in Uyghur have continued into the 21st century.

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