

Instructions on the Issue of Regional Autonomy

(September 16, 1950)

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The issue of regional autonomy is extensive and involves regions such as Tibet, Qinghai, Ningxia, Xinjiang, Gansu, Xikang, Yunnan, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, and Western Hunan. Some areas require the establishment of large regional governments like Inner Mongolia, while others may need smaller regional governments covering several counties, or even governments at the county or district level. Matters such as territorial divisions, personnel arrangements, and policy guidance involve numerous complexities and require coordinated planning.

Regarding the so-called Eastern Tibetan Autonomous Region mentioned in this telegram:

- Is it intended to exist parallel to the Xikang Provincial Government, or as a part of Xikang?
- What are its territorial boundaries?
- Was Central Government approval obtained in advance?

Please investigate and report, or send a telegram to inquire.

Mao Zedong

September 16