Limits on Freedom

Read how state policies affect different communities in China.

TOT.C.10.2.D "continuing internal repression (e.g., Christians, Falun Gong, Hong Kong, Tibet, Xinjiang),"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one state action in each paragraph, circle the group or place it affects, and number the actions 1 to 3. Use your marks to compare how repression takes different forms.

Different Forms of Repression

1 In the People's Republic of China, the Communist Party claims authority over political life and places limits on public opposition. Internal repression means using laws, police, surveillance, or other state powers to restrict people in areas the government controls. These limits have continued into the 2020s, though they take different forms in different places. In Hong Kong, which has its own legal system, authorities have used a national security law imposed in 2020 to arrest pro-democracy activists and close some independent news outlets. The government says the law protects stability; critics say it has narrowed space for protest and free speech.

2 Religious communities also face state pressure, but their experiences are not identical. China permits officially registered Christian churches, yet officials have raided some unregistered congregations, detained pastors, and removed crosses from some church buildings. Members of Falun Gong, a spiritual movement banned by the government in 1999, have faced arrests and imprisonment for practicing or distributing information about their beliefs. The government describes its campaign against Falun Gong as necessary for public order. Human rights groups report abuses against practitioners. These cases show that repression can target religious gatherings and personal beliefs, even when the government gives different reasons for its actions.

3 In Tibet, authorities have restricted some Tibetan-language education and tightly supervised monasteries. Critics argue that these policies weaken Tibetan cultural and religious life. In Xinjiang, officials have used extensive surveillance and detained large numbers of Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim minorities in facilities the government has called vocational training centers. Former detainees and human rights investigators have reported coercion and restrictions on religious practice. Chinese officials defend their policies as efforts to fight extremism and build stability. Across these regions, controls reach beyond public protest into language, worship, and daily life. The specific methods vary, but the continuing pattern is state power limiting freedoms.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the government and its critics describe the effects of Hong Kong's national security law differently?

2. How does the pressure described on some Christian congregations differ from the pressure described on Falun Gong practitioners?

3. How do the policies described in Tibet and Xinjiang restrict different parts of life?

4. What reason do Chinese officials give for their policies in Xinjiang, and what reports in the passage challenge the idea that the facilities only provide training?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence briefing for a student who thinks repression only stops protests. Choose one example from paragraph 2 and one from paragraph 3, explain how each can change daily life, and finish with one question a reporter should investigate about one of the cases.

ANSWER KEY

Limits on Freedom

HIGH SCHOOL · TOT.C.10.2.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one state action in each paragraph, circle the group or place it affects, and number the actions 1 to 3. Use your marks to compare how repression takes different forms. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the government and its critics describe the effects of Hong Kong's national security law differently?	**The government says it protects stability. Critics say it has narrowed space for protest and free speech.**
2	How does the pressure described on some Christian congregations differ from the pressure described on Falun Gong practitioners?	**China permits registered churches but has raided some unregistered congregations and detained pastors. Falun Gong is banned, and practitioners have faced arrests and imprisonment.**
3	How do the policies described in Tibet and Xinjiang restrict different parts of life?	**In Tibet, restrictions on some Tibetan-language education and supervision of monasteries affect language and religion. In Xinjiang, surveillance and detention affect movement and daily life, while reported restrictions affect religious practice.**
4	What reason do Chinese officials give for their policies in Xinjiang, and what reports in the passage challenge the idea that the facilities only provide training?	**Officials say the policies fight extremism and build stability. Former detainees and human rights investigators have reported coercion and restrictions on religious practice.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Officials have raided some unregistered Christian congregations, so worshippers may worry that a service will be interrupted. In Tibet, limits on some Tibetan-language education may reduce chances to learn in that language. Both policies reach into ordinary routines, but one affects a place of worship while the other affects schooling. A reporter should ask Tibetan families how language policies have changed their children's classes.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons that distinguish the groups, places, or methods involved. In Part 3, daily-life effects should be reasonable inferences rather than claims that the passage proves they happened to every person.