

This study deals with relations between ethnic issue of China on the one hand and the population (and) national policy on the other. The essential issue is whether the ethnic categories are exactly based on ethnic consciousness or if they are more of a politically modified construct. This study does not aspire to judge whether or not it is such case, but rather to put forward many arguments for and against this statement.

The important thing that must be discussed is terminology concerning the essential concept- minzu. To correlate minzu with any in-Europe- practiced ethnological terminology is disputable, especially because of the diametric distinctions between both regions. Although the temporarily used terminology has its roots in Stalinist conception of “natsion-alnost“, different components must also be pointed out.

The results of the research on Sino-Tibetan borderland and its ethnic minorities are used to support the documentation of the issue as applied on the whole People’s Republic of China (PRC). Nonetheless, this work is out of any micro regional analysis, due to its more theoretical focus.

In accordance with this theme, it was necessary to work in interdisciplinary point of view based mostly (except for ethnology, of course) on geography, demography, sinology and cartography. Due to this holistic approach, it was possible to combine the much fragmented data sources and therefore build up the eventual reality.

The primary goal of this work is to document the progress of the PRC in the case of ethnic minorities since the fifties of the 20th century with regards to the up-to-date data and information. There is no aspiration to show the state of things being, but the progress and trends within this field.