

Sept. 23, 2009

Questions on Gladney 135-176

1. What are the overall lessons of Gladney's book?
2. How was Gladney's research affected by the restrictions the Chinese government placed on him?
3. The Fujianese Hui differ markedly from the Northwest Hui. To what degree do all the people labeled Hui constitute an ethnic group, in your opinion?
4. Because of these differences, the Chinese state didn't recognize these Quanzhou individuals as Hui until 1979. Why did the state finally change its position?
5. George De Vos writes, "Ethnicity in its deepest psychological level is a sense of survival. If one's group survives, one is assured of survival, even if not in a personal sense" (1975). Discuss and provide specific examples if you can.
6. The Fujian Hui during the Ming dynasty were forbidden to speak Arabic or Persian, wear foreign dress, live in completely separate Muslim communities. Our age of multiculturalism disapproves of such state discrimination. Provide 2 examples of such restrictions. Are such measures ever justified?
7. What did you like about Gladney's book? Dislike?
8. What is the most significant thing you learned from Gladney's book?

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