

diverse regions, ethnically speaking, are the southern and southwestern hills and mountains in Guangxi, Guizhou, and Yunnan. Here live large populations of Hmong, known in China as Miao (see page 183), Dong (page 120), Dai (page 237), and Yi and Hani (page 316) peoples, among many others.

During the Long March, when Mao’s forces were fighting for control of China, his army traveled through the steep hills of Guizhou and Guangxi. For many villagers, it was their first contact with Han Chinese people, and it was the beginning of the process of incorporating them into the state of China. To this day, many of the peoples in the southern and southwestern hills remain fairly remote from mainstream Chinese life, cultivating rice and vegetables, corn and millet; using animal or

people power; and still speaking their own languages, though now some of their children go off to the cities of central China for work or higher education.

In the mountains of western and northern Xinjiang live small numbers of mostly seminomadic peoples: Kirghiz (see page 288), Tajiks (page 343), Kazakhs (page 157), Tuvans (page 255), and some Mongols. Some of them have migrated down to cities such as Kashgar and Urumqi, but most still live in small villages in winter and, in summer—when they travel to higher pastures with their herds of goats, camels, yak, and sheep—in yurts. Larger numbers of each population live across the border in neighboring countries (Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Afghanistan).

**LANGUAGE FAMILIES**

