

# **China's Occupation of Tibet Refutes its Claim to "Peaceful Rise"**

*"China has, through force, won [Tibetans'] reluctant submission. Acceptance, however, cannot be bought."*

- The Economist, *Still Tibetan After all These Years*, Feb. 3, 2007

In speaking on "China's Peaceful Development Strategy," Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong wants you to believe that China will be a responsible and peaceful world leader. Tibetans living under Chinese occupation know a very different China. **Since invading Tibet in 1950, China:**

- Has **illegally occupied** Tibet, a sovereign state;
- Has committed **genocide, crimes against humanity, torture and religious repression** against the Tibetan people;
- **Kidnapped** the Panchen Lama (2<sup>nd</sup> highest after the Dalai Lama) as a **6 year-old boy**;
- Is flooding Tibet with **Chinese colonists** via a new **railway**;
- Used Tibet to launch a **military attack** on India in 1962 (independent Tibet had an open and peaceful border with India, and served as a Sino-Indian buffer);
- **Violates** Tibetans' right to **self-determination** (expressed in U.N. General Assembly Resolution 1723 (XVI)).

**What do China's egregious crimes in Tibet  
say about its ability to be  
responsible, respectable and peaceful?**

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**Please ask Ambassador Zhou one of these questions:**

- "Please discuss how China's 'peaceful rise' reconciles with the 9/30/06 video footage of Chinese troops shooting a group of Tibetans peacefully attempting to escape into Nepal, killing two including a 17 year-old nun? The troops were filmed systematically firing at refugees running for their lives, with no warning shots. They also captured and tortured some. Your government claims your troops shot in 'self-defense' and that only one Tibetan died of 'altitude sickness' – is this response consistent with China's 'peaceful' aspirations?"
- "As you know, the Dalai Lama has offered to give up Tibet's claim to independence for genuine autonomy, despite most Tibetans wanting independence. Yet your government calls the Dalai Lama a 'separatist' and bans his photograph for worshippers in Tibet. Please explain if vilifying the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize is consistent with China's 'peaceful rise'? In irresponsibly rejecting his conciliatory overtures, is your government not essentially saying that it considers non-violence and compromise useless when it holds the guns?"