

Mongghul Ha Clan Oral History Documentation

Mongghul

- A group of Monguor or Tu, one of China's 56 officially recognized nationalities
- Live in Qinghai and Gansu provinces
- Speak a Mongolic language retaining certain archaic features of Middle Mongolian
- Monguor dialects, depending on location, with influence from Chinese and Tibetan
- The dialects are undergoing fast transformation



Mongghul History

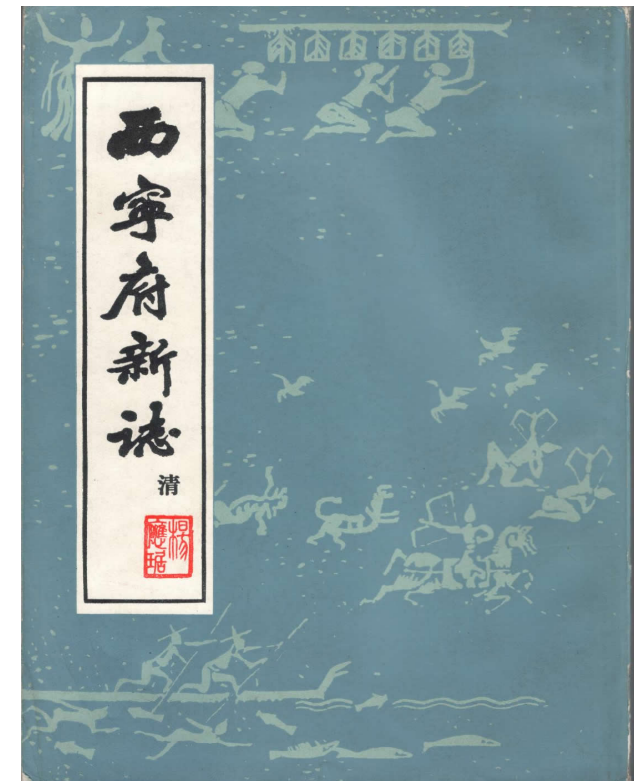
Contested academic theories about the origin

1. Descendants of the Tuyuhun branch of the old Xianbei people from Manchuria, 4th – 7th cent.
2. Descendants of 13th and 14th century Mongol soldiers sent to defend the border regions of the Mongol empire

Possible Clan Ethno-genesis

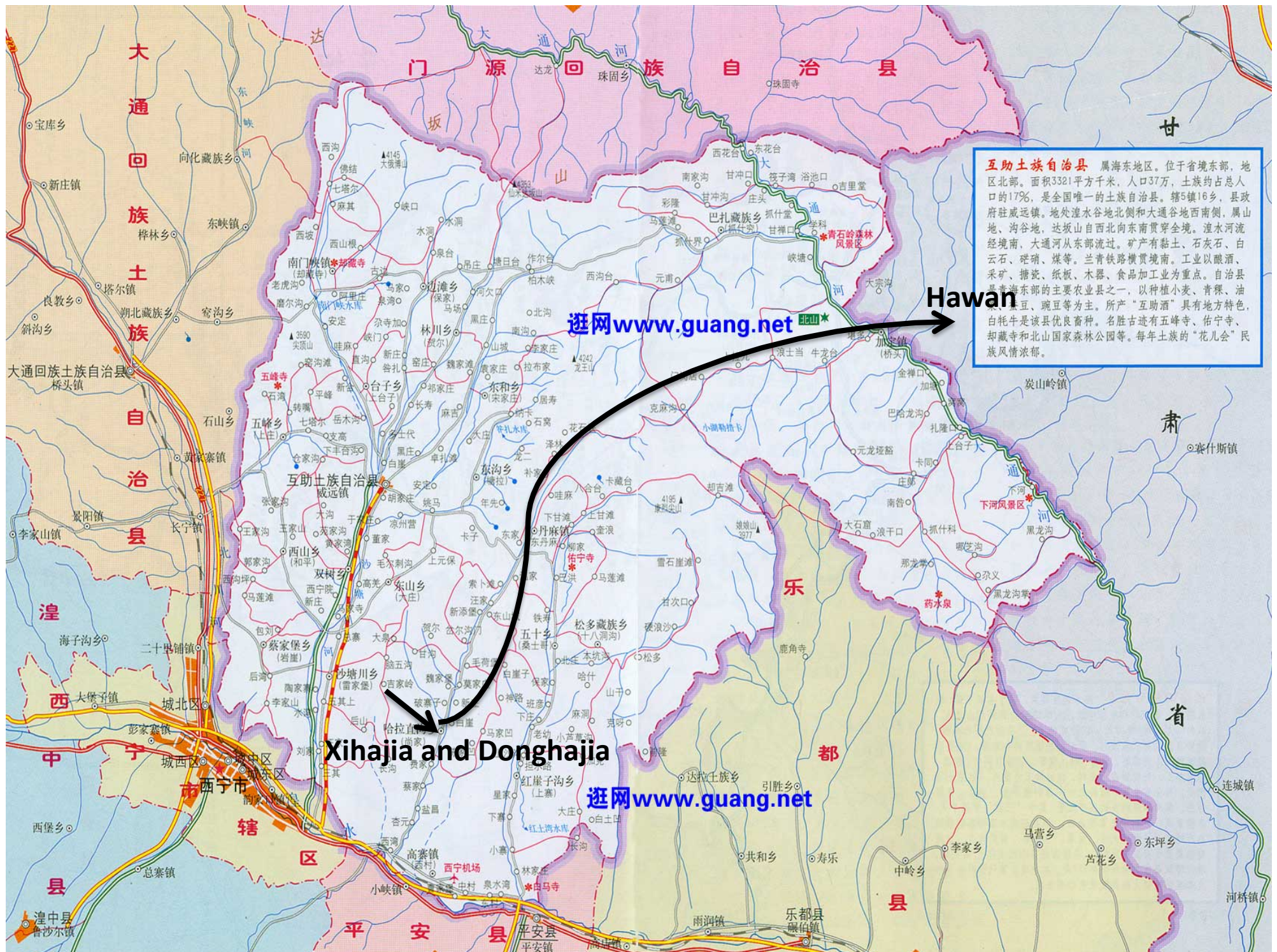
Complicated internal clan origin traditions

- Some clan chronicles suggest a Shatuo (Turkish) origin, e.g., Li, Na, and Ji clans
- Chinese, e.g. Chen clan
- No mention of the **Ha Clan** in official historical records



Ha Clan

- **Xihajia** (78 out of 81 households), in Huzhu Mongghul Autonomous County, Qinghai
- **Donghajia** (40/43 h.) in Huzhu, Qinghai
- **Hawan** (20/25 h.), Tianzhu Tibetan Autonomous County, Gansu
- Tianzhu County town - **Huazangsi** (>15 h.), Gansu
- **Dakeshidan** (8/>100 h.), Tianzhu, Gansu



互助土族自治县 属海东地区。位于省境东部，地区北部。面积3321平方千米，人口37万，土族约占总人口的17%，是全国唯一的土族自治县。辖5镇16乡，县政府驻威远镇。地处湟水谷地北侧和大通谷地西南侧，属山地、沟谷地，达坂山自西北向东南贯穿全境。湟水河流经境南，大通河从东部流过。矿产有黏土、石灰石、白云石、砷硝、煤等。兰青铁路横贯境南。工业以酿酒、采矿、搪瓷、纸板、木器、食品加工业为重点。自治县是青海东部的主要农业县之一，以种植小麦、青稞、油菜、豌豆、豌豆等为主。所产“互助酒”具有地方特色，白牦牛是该县优良畜种。名胜古迹有五峰寺、佑宁寺、却藏寺和北山国家森林公园等。每年土族的“花儿会”民族风情浓郁。

Hawan

Xihajia and Donghajia

逛网www.guang.net

逛网www.guang.net

Xihajia



Hawan





Methods/Approaches

- Local community members do the project
- Digital audio-visual documentation
- Invited clan elders from different Ha Clan villages to meet and talk about their past. They had common topics since they shared similar life experiences.











Local Reaction

- Welcomed our arrival at the clan's home-village
- Compliments and encouragement from elders
- Elders' interests in future work
- Indifference of the young generations towards cultural documentation, great interest in the equipment
- Doubt in project importance and practicality



Preservation

Transcription, translation and glossing (gram. analysis)

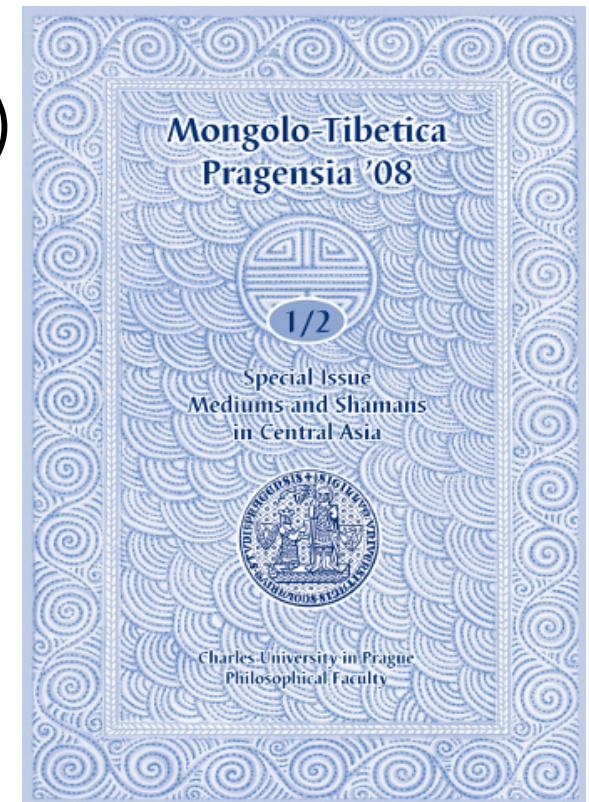
- Appendix 1 – Interview
- Appendix 2 -- Transcriber files

Research papers

- *Mongghul Ha Clan Oral History* (BA thesis)
- Continuation -- MA thesis

DVDs and VCDs

Online database



Redistribution

What?

- DVDs and VCDs made from the interviews
- Online digital documents

Whom?

- Interviewees, their relatives and neighbors, their interviews, and interviews from other Ha clan villages

Redistribution Significance

- Supplementary material to family chronicles
- Continues family chronicle tradition
- Strengthens clan unity
- Preserves memories of family members and relatives
- Unabridged materials preserve authenticity for future use



Project Impacts

- Cambridge University funded
- Project involvement by two community members studying abroad reminds young people of the importance of knowing their own culture, and suggests their culture has value
- Encourages youth to speak their own language
- Inspires culturally sensitive villagers
- Helps people realize the value of oral transmission
- Emphasizes the value of education

Thanks for your attention!



以父母之心为心,

天下无不友之兄弟;

以祖宗之心为心,

天下无不睦之族人.

**If you take the wishes of your parents as your own,
there won't be any unfriendly brothers;**

**If you take the wishes of your ancestors as your own,
there won't be any inharmonious clansmen**