The Relative Location and Historical Development of Dunhuang in Relation to other Buddhist Cave Temple sites in the Gansu and Amdo Regions

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Starting in the tenth century, western Tibetan kingdoms arose under the control of descendants of Imperial-era Yarlung dynasty rulers.

Map Maker: Karl E. Rysvev
Map 21. Amdo c. 900-1240: The Tsongkha Kingdom, and Religious Sites Founded During the Second Diffusion of Buddhism

Tsongkha and Neighboring

- c. 1070s: Song China began to conquer south-eastern Tsongkha areas under the control of Muzheng and his ally, the tribal leader Gnzhang, while Dongzan in Qingtang maintained friendly relations with the Song and received titles and gifts.
- 1099-1104: Song China conquered Tsongkha after Aligui's death in 1096 and the succession of his politically weak son Xuzheng.
- c. 1120: Jurchen troops of the rising Jin polity fought with the Song.
- c. 1130: After more conflict with the Song, the Jin dynasty incorporated Tsongkha into its empire and ceded parts to Xia.

Sectarian Affiliation of Monasteries/Temples:
- no sectarian affiliation
- Kagyu
- Jonang
- Kadampa
- Nyingma
- Sakya
- cave shrine/cliff with Buddhist murals/carvings (most sites initiated in the 4th to 5th centuries)
- mosque. The only recorded mosque founded in region prior to 1240 was the Watai Dongguan mosque in 750.

Scale: 0 100 km 0 100 miles

note: religious sites south of the present-day Ganzi-Dujiangyan provincial boundary are not included on this map.
Tibet: Growth of Monasteries c. 600 - 1950 (year by year)

Main periods in Tibetan history:
- 4 Tibetan Macroregions based on the core-periphery structures of temple densities.

- Precise historical data not required for regional systems modeling. We don’t need to know the exact levels at any given time. Instead, it’s the relative differences between the Cores and Peripheries that can be mapped over time.
GeoDatabase of 2925 Buddhist and Bon monasteries/Temples compiled from various contemporary Tibetan and/or Chinese text survey volumes, or field research

Legend
- Gonpa only located to 1990 Township seat
- Gonpa located to a unique point, though may be off by several km
Cave Temples in Relation to Nearest Neighbor Sites
Focus on Tsongkha region of Amdo-Gansu (most towns in this region):

7 ‘cities’ in study area c. 1820
5 not nearest to a monastery with fair(s)
2 nearest (about 28%)

70 ‘market towns’
52 not nearest to a monastery with fair(s)
18 nearest (26%)