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## The "Historical Recognition Problem" and Hui-Muslim Elites in the Restoration of the Honor of the "Yunnan Muslim Uprising": The "Islamic New Cultural Movement" and the Search for Model Minority Status during the Republican Era

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### Introduction: China's Ethnic Minority Issues in Fragmentation and Continuity —A Case of Islam

In the 160 years of history from the mid-19th century to the present (2021), Islam and China's Muslims—called Hui-Muslims (*Hui*, *Huihui*, *Huimin*, *Huizu*, Sino-Muslims, hereafter Muslims or Hui-Muslims)—have been in a vulnerable position within China due to the minority status of the religion, and group, in the region due to Han prejudice and chauvinism. In the mid-19th century, both the Yunnan Muslim Uprising (1856–1873) and the Northwest Muslim Uprising (1862–1873) led to great turmoil throughout the region. In Yunnan and the Northwest, Hui-Muslims became the "targets of extermination" by the authorities, with the Muslim population subsequently having been greatly reduced, leaving communities on the verge of destruction. In response to these incidents, the Islamic New Cultural Movement emerged across China during the Republican period (1920s–1940s), with a recognition emerging that the destroyers and slaughter-men were the Qing authorities; as such, a consciousness grew that ethnic (racial) extermination—what we now call "genocide"—based on the prejudice against Muslims had taken place. This was the dawn of the Hui-Muslims' political and cultural movement that demanded: the revocation of the stigma of "rebellion", a political reevaluation, and representative seats for the Hui-Muslims in the new nation-state of China.

In this essay, I will look at the reevaluation of the Yunnan Muslim Uprising and the movement for "the restoration of honor" mainly in the Yunnan Muslim magazines of *Qingzhen Yuebao* (hereafter, *Qingzhen Monthly*) (1915), *Yunnan Qingzhen Duobao* (1929–1931), *Duobao* (1932–1934), and *Qingzhen Duobao* (1940–1948). First, I will consider how Hui-Muslim intellectuals in Yunnan in the 1930s and 1940s attempted: to define, retell, and reevaluate the