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China's Olympic Report Card on Tibet: Assessment of Beijing's Key Olympics Commitments, March 2007

	PRC Commitment	Implementation Concerns: China	Implementation Concerns: Tibet
Governance	<p>Improvement of the government's understanding and administration of law, including raising the quality of law enforcement [1]</p> <p>Preparation and running of the Games will be open, fair, efficient and honest, with all information made public and all finances supervised</p>	<p>China has been pressured to publicly address human rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announced experimental reforms Announced elimination of certain aspects of administrative detention, including custody and repatriation. Inclusion of human rights provisions in Constitution. <p>Limited implementation of human rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bank's Governance Matters III index puts China in the 51.1 percentile for Rule of Law. Abuse in detention centers and prisons routinely documented. [2] <p>Lack transparency & accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No disclosure of the Beijing City Contract with the International Olympic Committee. Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index ranks China as 71st out of 146 countries in 2004. World Bank's Governance Matters III index ranks China in the 42.3 percentile for control of corruption. Athens Games were projected at \$8 billion, and \$10 billion was spent; [3] \$37 billion projected for Beijing, and thus far no complete public accounting of Olympic expenses. Reported widespread embezzlement in Olympic spending, with \$170 million reported missing. 	<p>Failure to enforce autonomy laws, as provided in the Chinese Constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) and Tibetan areas in Sichuan, Gansu, Yunnan and Qinghai are designated as autonomous in name only. In reality, autonomous rights are eroding in Tibetan areas, overridden by interests of the Chinese state. Tibetans do not have the rights to freely determine or control their political, social, economic, education or religious systems. After five rounds of dialogue between the Dalai Lama's envoys and Chinese officials, begun in September 2002, China has signaled no movement towards accepting the Dalai Lama's position of seeking the implementation of autonomy for Tibetans within China's constitutional framework. The most senior governance position in the TAR, Communist Party Secretary is Zhang Qingli. He has been responsible for a resurgence of hard-line policies aimed at Tibetan cultural and religious traditions and negative rhetoric aimed against the Dalai Lama. <p>Lack of rule of law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China has failed to adhere to the rule of law in cases of Tibetan political prisoners, inc. Lobsang Dhondup who was executed after an unfair trial in Jan 2003. [44]

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Religious Freedom & Social Development	<p>A "People's Olympics," promoting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese culture and heritage • Citizens' awareness of national solidarity • Protection of minority nationalities' rights 	<p>Nationwide solidarity concentrates on urban and Han culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tibetan curriculum lacks integration of Tibetan language and culture. [4] • 1.8 million migrant children not receiving education. <p>Ongoing crackdown on religious practitioners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 500 Falun Gong followers sentenced to up to 18 years in prison, and more than 100,000 followers sentenced to Reformed Through Labor. [5] 	<p>Nationwide solidarity concentrates on urban and Han culture</p> <p><i>Misrepresentation of historical, cultural, and political relationship between China and Tibet</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China is using the Olympics to misrepresent the unique Tibetan culture as Chinese. It has chosen an endangered Tibetan animal as one of its Olympic mascots, and plans to hold the Olympic torch ceremony on the top of Tibet's sacred Mt Everest (Tib: Chomolungma) on the Tibet-Nepal border. • Chinese language in the education system creates an implicit discrimination against Tibetans within the larger society; upward mobility depends on their fluency in Chinese.[45] • Chinese language replacing Tibetan language in public spaces such as on advertisement via billboards and signs. <p>Ongoing crackdown on religious practitioners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patriotic education campaign executed in monasteries and nunneries; ban on entering religious institutions and other restrictions.[46] • Crackdown on Tibetan religious leaders; government interference in the identification of reincarnate lamas; increased anti-Dalai Lama rhetoric. [47]

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	PRC Commitment	Implementation Concerns: China	Implementation Concerns: Tibet
<p>Religious Freedom & Social Development (continued)</p>	<p>Construction of the venues and facilities will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe • In compliance with international standards <p>Compensation for those displaced from their homes [9]</p>	<p>Venue construction underway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the end of 2004, a total of 7 state-of-the-art venues had begun construction for completion by the end of 2007.[6] <p>Labor practices generally fall beneath domestic and international standards, raising concerns that the huge scope of Olympic venues construction will exacerbate these problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 174,065 workplace and traffic accidents occurred in the first 2 months of 2003, killing more than 21,000 workers.[7] • Increasing worker protests for lack of compensation and poor working conditions.[8] <p>Increase in forced evictions in preparation for 2008 Olympics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing demolitions for clearance of venue sites in Beijing has led to numerous forced evictions without compensation. • 300,000 evictions for Olympics construction.[10] • Activists and lawyers representing the evicted have been silenced and detained. 	<p>Nomad resettlement scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beijing's policy of forcing Tibetan nomads to relocate to rural townships, purportedly to demonstrate its commitment to economic development of ethnic minorities, is failing to accommodate their livelihoods. • Affected villagers —who must jointly finance the new housing —are not able to contest the decision or refuse to participate, even if complying causes them great economic hardship. [48]

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<p>Freedom of Expression & Information Society</p>	<p>A "High Tech Olympics," bringing the advancements to the nation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a telecommunications infrastructure in Beijing, including digital network, distant audio-digital transmission and video technologies. • Providing cheap information services that are rich in content. • Available to all. <p>Tight, but friendly and peaceful, security measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cracking down on various crimes and illegal activities • Enhanced anti-terrorism capacity 	<p>Digital divide between urban and rural populations continues to expand; Access to critical information restricted</p> <p><i>Unequal access to information communication technology</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 36% of rural people have fixed phone lines, and dozens of inland provinces have no phone access.[11] • 1,800 Cyber Cafes shut down in 2004, with a disproportionate impact on rural region.[12] <p><i>Surveillance, Censorship and Control of information [13]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISP filtration software, e-mail filtration and Web surveillance. • 30,000+ state security employees conducting surveillance of Web sites. • 60+ laws governing Internet activities, including self-censorship. <p>Ongoing crackdown on journalists and lawyers [14]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42–48 imprisoned journalists.[15] • 100 lawyers arrested as of 2003. [16] 	<p>Digital divide between urban and rural populations continues to expand; Access to critical information restricted</p> <p><i>Unequal access to information communication technology</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China jams broadcasts, such as Radio Free Asia & Voice of America, into Tibet by transmitting noise or another program over the same frequency as the broadcasters. [49] • The production of original Tibetan language programs is virtually nonexistent. Between 80—90 % of the programs broadcast in Tibetan on Quinhai TV are dubbed versions Chinese language programs. [50] • All programs are government sponsored. <p><i>Surveillance, Censorship and Control of information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China places restrictions on items that they believe show support for Tibetan nationality, inc. photos of the Dalai Lama. • Key words and content are banned from internet search engines in China and Tibet, including items such as, "free Tibet," "Dalai Lama," "democracy," and "china torture." [51] • Tibetan essays and poetry taken off approved web site due to Chinese government regulations and censorship. [52] <p>Ongoing crackdown on journalists and lawyers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 100 Tibetan political prisoners; the average sentence is approx. 10 years and 11 months. [53]

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<p>Freedom of Expression & Information Society (continued)</p>	<p>Peaceful demonstration permitted [17]</p>	<p>Invoking security to restrict and control information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information secrets on the basis of consequences, and can be classified retroactively is classified as state. Over-broad interpretation of state secrets system applied to labor issues, land use, environment, family planning and health. <p>Prohibited protests related to 2008 Olympics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activists arrested for applying to stage a 10,000 person protest against housing demolished for the Olympics.[18] <p>Growing social unrest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3 million protesters in 2003.[19] 36,000 petitioners detained in Beijing in September 2004.[20] Tens of thousands of farmers in Sichuan Province protesting relocation terms in November 2004. 	<p>Invoking security to restrict and control information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invoking "splittism" - a catch-all phrase for anyone supporting independence or genuine autonomy for Tibet, Xinjiang, or Taiwan. 400,000 estimated number of troops in Tibet; China has announced plans to raise defense spending by 17.8 per cent in 2007. [54] <p>Prohibited protests related to 2008 Olympics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese & Tibetan journalists prohibited from reporting about demonstrations against the government in Tibet and the activities of international organization. [55] Tibetans, and their German supporters, were forbidden to display Tibetan flags during the football match between Germany and China in Hamburg, October 2005, due to Chinese government pressure. [56] <p>Growing social unrest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crackdown on Tibetans who took part in a long-life prayer ceremony for the Dalai Lama in the town and surrounding villages of Kardze, Sichuan, in 2002 and 2003. [57] April 2007: reports that Chinese police detained at least one person when several hundred Tibetans in Lhasa took part in an outlawed incense-burning there in a rare open display of opposition to Chinese rule. [58]

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<p>Freedom of Expression & Information Society (continued)</p>	<p>Complete freedom of the press [21]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3,000 petitioners protesting official corruption at CCTV's Beijing offices; more than 1,000 petitioners arrested. <p>Ongoing crackdown on freedom of the press (various figures)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42 imprisoned journalists.[22] 25 imprisoned journalists and 62 cyber dissidents.[23] 48 journalists and cyber dissidents imprisoned.[24] Ranked 162nd out of 167 countries on RSF 2004 Worldwide Press Index . <p>Integrating poverty alleviation in Olympics development</p>	<p>Ongoing crackdown on freedom of the press</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign journalists wishing to travel to Tibet and Xinjiang have to obtain a special permit, despite an earlier commitment by Olympics Press Chief, Sun Weija, in September 2006 that foreign journalists "can travel anywhere in China. There will be no restrictions." [59] Freedom House rated Tibet "worst" in terms of political rights and civil liberties in its survey for 2006. [60] <p>Tibet lags behind China's economic and social conditions</p>
<p>Economic Development</p>	<p>Using the Games to promote national economic development and increase peoples' standards of living in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beijing Throughout China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP Human Development Index ranks China as 94th out of 177 countries.[25] In 2004 China admitted its first rise in poverty since 1978; despite a 9% economic growth rate in 2003, the number of farmers living in poverty surged by 800,000.[26] State leaders asked organizers to cut costs and combine Olympic preparation work with urban development.[27] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China's education policy in Tibet is in violation of the principles of equity and nondiscrimination. [61] The rate of illiteracy or semi-literacy for Tibetans ages 6 and up is an estimated 49.1 percent, compared with 13.7 percent nationwide. [62] Tibetan children face formal and informal barriers to education, including fewer schools per capita in Tibet than elsewhere in China and the often prohibitive costs of attending school where one exists. [63] Primary school enrollment lowest in China at less than 80%, which half of those enroll in secondary school, only 13% of Tibetans attended junior high, and less than 2% had a junior college education. There is a 24% drop-out rate among fifth grade students. [64] An est. 3000 Tibetan refugees flee to India each year; those ages 6 to 30 cite the lack of Tibetan-language educational facilities and opportunities for religious education as the main reasons they left. [65]

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	PRC Commitment	Implementation Concerns: China	Implementation Concerns: Tibet
Economic Development (continued)	<p>Strong infrastructure for Beijing, including sound social order and improving medical facilities</p> <p>Improvement of medical facilities and nationwide health</p>	<p>Construction of East-West Pipeline complete [28]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transports natural gas from Xinjiang to Shanghai and other Yangtze River Delta regions. • Project intended to transport 12 billion cubic meters of gas per year • Fiber-optic cables installed with pipeline.[29] <p>Increasing gap between urban and rural regions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% of China's population in rural areas.[30] • 100% of villages in eastern provinces have electricity, compared with 88.9% in western provinces. [31] • 76% in the east and 19.2% in the west have phones.[32] • 33.8% in the east and 9.1% in the west have running water.[33] <p>Healthcare Spending</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.4% of GDP spent on healthcare, which would equal \$72 per person if distributed equally among 1.3 billion people. • 20% of public spending goes to rural residents[34] on health. • 700 million rural inhabitants pay out-of-pocket for virtually all health services.[35] 	<p>China's Western Development Plan fails to address the local needs of Tibetans <i>Technocratic projects exacerbate problems of population transfer, increasing poverty, rural-urban inequality, poor education, & inadequate healthcare</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of the \$4.2 billion Gormo-Lhasa Railway has been reported by Chinese officials as a strategic political decision. [66] • Railway will exploit Tibet's natural resources for consumption and profit in China. China claimed the railway would bring prosperity to Tibet, but recently revealed a secret 7-year survey project that preceded its construction uncovering minerals worth est. \$128b. [67] • Nearly 2.5 million tourists visited Tibet in 2006, up 40% from 2005. Some observers predict tourist visits to reach 10 million by 2020 (Tibet's population is 2.7 million). [68] • Construction plans underway to build Potala Palace replica to off-set erosion amid tourist boom. [69] <p>Increasing gap between urban and rural regions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tibet has one of the highest urban-rural inequalities in China; combined rural and urban GDP per capita in 2003 Tibet: 6,871; Beijing: 32,061 (yuan). [70] <p>Healthcare Spending</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GDP value of the healthcare sector in Tibetan Autonomous Region decreased between 2001 and 2003 from 6.8 to 4.5% despite frequent government proclamations that it had been pouring money into healthcare. [71] • Unreasonable allocation of medical resources (23.5%) and financial difficulty (66.6%) cited as main factors for Tibetans who need medical treatment but do not get care. [72]

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Economic Development (continued)	<p>Increased commitment to market economy</p> <p>Improving management of the floating population in Beijing, including provision of services</p>	<p>Areas beyond Beijing, particularly rural regions, continue to lack healthcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% of all HIV/AIDS cases are rural inhabitants, and 36% are ethnic minorities.[36] <p>Trade Developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2001 WTO Accession. Increased trade ties between China and numerous countries including the U.S., EU countries and others. Decentralization and increased privatization of services, including health.[37] <p>Limited access for poor and rural inhabitants to privatized services and better healthcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Price of medicine increased tenfold from 1993 to 2003.[38] <p>Announced experimental reforms related to the <i>hukou</i> system create an opportunity to improve protection of migrants' rights, but must be monitored for abuses and problems</p> <p>Continued systematic discrimination against migrants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimated 100–150 million migrants nationwide.[39] 	<p>Tibetan areas, particularly rural regions, continue to lack healthcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitals and health care centers are located in urban areas, while 40 percent of the Tibetan population is nomadic or semi-nomadic. [73] Growing threat of an HIV/AIDS epidemic to Tibetans both inside and outside the TAR due to increased number of migrant workers and the increase of prostitution in Tibetan cities. Yunnan has largest reported AIDS rate in China, Sichuan also has significant HIV-positive populations; both have large Tibetan populations. [74] Tibetan children suffer stunting due to malnutrition and morbidity is high. [75] <p>Trade Developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tibetans receive little or no benefits from the Beijing's Western Development Scheme nor do they have input in the planning or execution of these projects. [76] <p>Population transfer to Tibet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tibetans are becoming a minority in their own land. Increased numbers of Chinese commercial migrants into Tibet, discrimination, and lack of education for Tibetans has reduced their ability to access urban and skilled employment opportunities. [77]

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Economic Development (continued)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou have migrant populations estimated at over 3 million each, while Shenzhen's migrant population could be as high as 6 million.[40] <i>Hukou system</i> continues to discriminate against migrants for basic services including housing, education and healthcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Tibetans cannot access adequate education to compete effectively in new market economy: 17.3% of children (aged 7-15) completed primary school; 7.1% of those go beyond primary school. [78]
Environmental Protection	<p>A "Green Olympics," giving top priority to environmental protection, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventing air pollution Protecting drinking water sources 	<p>Resources directed towards environmental protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$7 billion spent on environmental clean-up for Olympics Official commitment to replace coal with clean energies.[41] <p>In light of the already serious environmental degradation, challenges remain to ensure a "Green Olympics"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China is the world's second biggest generator of carbon dioxide emissions.[42] Over half of the population faces serious problems of water shortages.[43] 	<p>Resources directed towards environmental protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of population in Tibet exposed to unsafe drinking water.[79] People in Tibet suffer from higher amounts of in-door pollution due to high coal consumption per household.[80] <p>In light of the already serious environmental degradation, challenges remain to ensure a "Green Olympics"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UN warned that Tibet's glaciers could disappear within 100 years. Global warming is speeding up the shrinkage of more than 80% of the 46, 377 glaciers on the lofty plateau and the rate of melting, estimated at some 7% a year. [81] Receding glaciers translate into water shortages in China and huge swathes of South Asia, ultimately triggering more droughts, increase sand storms, and expand desertification/ increase soil erosion and allowing the desert to spread. [82] Tibet is the watershed area for ten of the world's great rivers; China's hydro-electric dams in Tibet have ramifications for half the world's population downstream. [83]

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ENDNOTES —Referenced by Human Rights in China

- [1] Unless otherwise noted, all references to China's commitments are taken from the March 2002 Beijing *Olympic Action Plan*.
- [2] Human Rights in China (<http://www.hrichina.org>).
- [3] *China Business Weekly*, November 4, 2004, at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/chinagate/doc/2004-11/04/content_388589.htm.
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- [5] Falun Gong
- [6] Chinese Olympic Committee, *Review of Major News about Preparation for Beijing Olympics*, Jan. 9, 2005, at <http://en.olympic.cn/08beijing/bocog/2005-01-10/453866.html>
- [7] State Administration of Work Safety, *China Daily News*, April 8, 2003.
- [8] Human Rights in China (<http://www.hrichina.org>), and China Labour Bulletin (<http://www.clb.org.hk>).
- [9] Chinese Government, report on CTV Television, Inc. Canada AM.
- [10] Reuters; Feb. 18, 2005.
- [11] Asian Development Bank, 2002.
- [12] Reporters Without Borders.
- [13] "The Rise of the Internet and Advancing Human Rights." *China Rights Forum* 2004, No. 3, Sharon Hom, Amy Tai and Gabriel Nichols.
- [14] Numbers of journalists and others detained are various estimates only, because China considers those figures to be State Secrets.
- [15] Committee to Protect Journalists and International Chinese PEN Center, 2004.
- [16] All China Lawyers Association, 2003.
- [17] Wang Wei, Secretary-General of Beijing 2008, *Toronto Sun*, July 13, 2001, "Rule of Law Respected: Beijing Bid Defends Chinese Policies, Promises Freedom of Press."
- [18] "China jails Beijing protest organizer for four years," BBC, Dec. 18, 2004.

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- [20] Human Rights in China, Sept. 8, 2004.
- [21] See Chinese Olympic Committee, *Asian Economic News*, July 23, 2001.
- [22] Committee to Protect Journalists, December 2004.
- [23] Reporters Without Borders, 2004.
- [24] International Chinese PEN Center, 2004.
- [25] Human Development Index 2003, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- [26] "China admits first rise in poverty since 1978." *The Guardian*, Jonathan Watts, July 20, 2004.
- [27] Chinese Olympic Committee, *Review of Major News about Preparation for Beijing Olympics*, Jan. 9, 2005, at <http://en.olympic.cn/08beijing/bocog/2005-01-10/453866.html>
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- [29] Alberta Society of Engineering Technologists, <http://www.aset.ab.ca/pdf/files/article4-china.pdf>.
- [30] Asia Development Bank, 2002.
- [31] Asia Development Bank, 2002.
- [32] Asia Development Bank, 2002.
- [33] Asia Development Bank, 2002.
- [34] *Asia Times*, April 19, 2003.

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[36] China AIDS Survey, 2003.

[37] See Song Binwen, Xiong Yuhong, Zhang Qiang, "Analysis of Current Medical Protection for Peasants," *Dangdai Zhongguo Yanjiu*, Winter 2003; Liu, Yuanli, & Hsiao, William C., "China's poor and poor policies: the case of rural health insurance," presented at the Conference on Financial Sector Reform in China, September 11–13, 2001; Asian Development Bank, *People's Republic of China: Towards Establishing a Rural Health Protection System*, Sept. 2002.

[38] Mingpao, Jan. 29, 2004.

[39] Human Rights in China, *Shutting Out the Poorest*, May 2002.

[40] Human Rights in China, *Institutionalized Exclusion*, Nov. 2002.

[41] Senior officials from Shanghai state natural gas will replace coal in Shanghai by 2010, Official Statement, at <http://www.chinawest.gov.cn/english/asp/showinfo.asp?name=200408050002>

[42] BBC, Oct. 14, 2004.

[43] BBC, Oct. 14, 2004.



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[45] Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy (2000) "Enforcing Loyalty," Annual Report, Chapter 4: Rights of Women and Children

[46] International Campaign for Tibet (2004) "When the Sky Fell to Earth: The New Crackdown on Buddhism in Tibet"

[47] Ibid.

[48] Human Rights Watch, "Tibet: China Must End Rural Reconstruction Campaign," December 2006.

[49] Reporters Without Borders, "Dalai Lama's 70th birthday-Passing years to bring no let-up in harsh curbs on press freedom," July 5th, 2005.

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