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**Racial Revolution: Understanding the Resurgence of Minority**

**Ethnic Identity in Modern China**

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China's ethnic policy is a tool to manage national identity and state governance. From the persecution and assimilationist policies during the Cultural Revolution, to the favorable policies since the 1980s, the percentage of Chinese who identify as an ethnic minority has dramatically changed, reflecting a combination of the minority population's desire to achieve official recognition and the tendency to obtain the benefits attached to minority status. Using census data from 1982 to 2005, we describe patterns of minority identification across time and place and explore the causal determinants of identity change. Preliminary results show that the proportion of the population who identify as ethnic minorities has risen by about 61 percent from the early 1980s to the mid-2000s. There is geographic heterogeneity in change in minority identification. This geographic heterogeneity is further moderated by the rural and urban divide, possibly driven by the differential policy contexts, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and migration patterns across rural and urban areas. Increases in minority identity are especially notable for persons who were young adults during the Cultural Revolution and for persons who were born after 1970. For nearly every birth cohort from 1930 to 2000, minority ethnic identification has risen with every census year.