

reside within the borders of the People's Republic of China, they live throughout the iraly diverse population—or, rather, multiple diverse populations. Though they all the struggle against radical Islam. Nevertheless, the Muslims of China are an incred-
portn Muslims in side stories to the ongoing epic of the “global war on terror,” and
wider world, who are only now receiving bits of information about some Chinese-
that they exist. Yet even this exceeds the knowledge of the majority of people in the
coreligionists in the central Islamic world know little about them beyond the fact
majority Han Chinese population that surrounds them. Moreover, most of their

The Muslims of China are often maligned or misunderstood by the enormous
surveys of the world's most populous country.

more correctly a number of diverse minority communities, easily overlooked in
resulted in a Muslim population of considerable size living in China—a minority, or
one nearly as old as Islam itself. Historical contacts between Islam and China have
of power. In fact, relations between China and the Muslim world have a long history,
the former for oil from the latter, to be a significant force in a shifting global balance
China and Muslim countries, particularly the exchange of military technology from