

Northwest China 西北地区



MAP 134 Subregional map of Northwest China.

27. Shaanxi 陕西

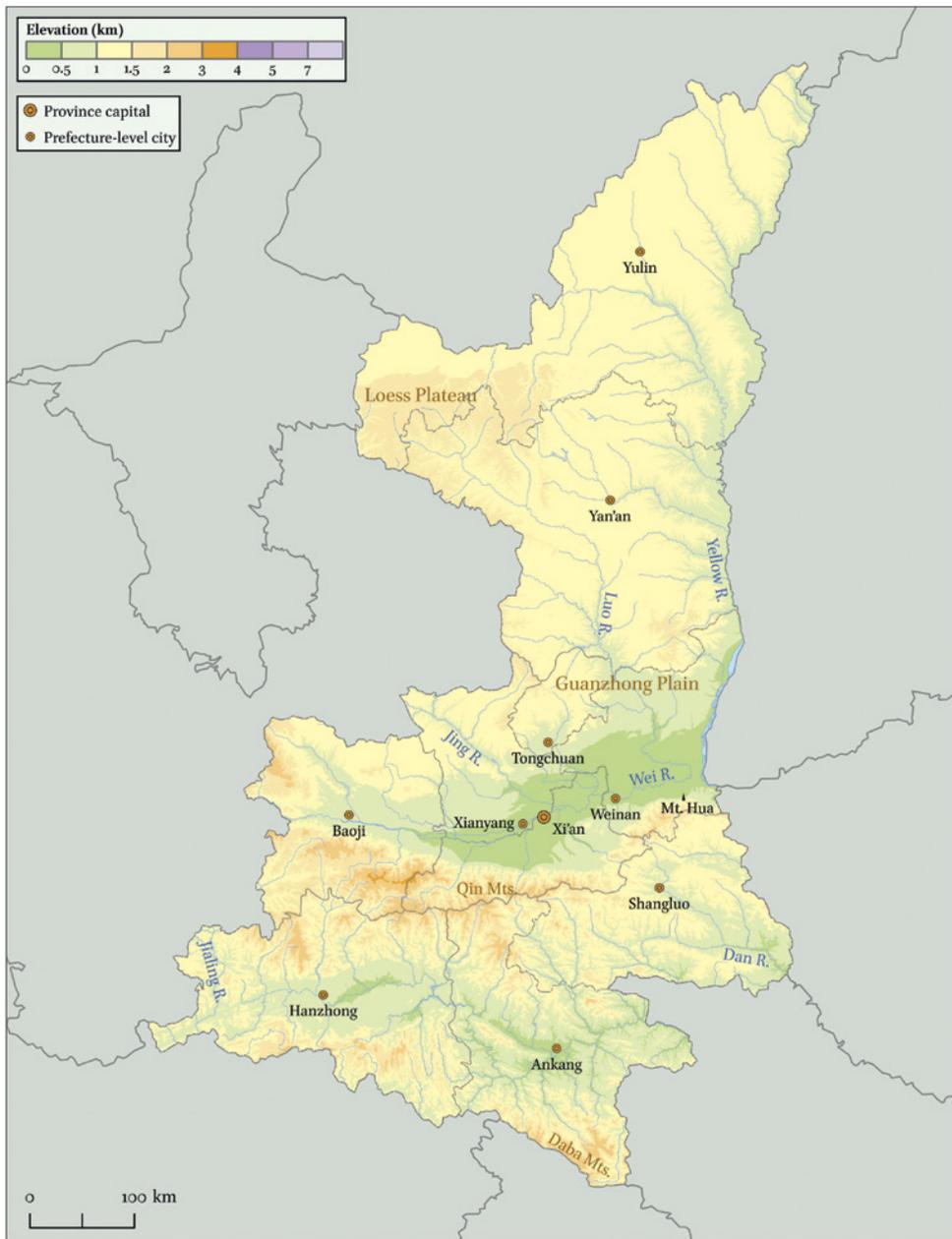
Land area: 205,600 km²

Population: 37,327,379

Capital: Xi'an 西安

Topography

Shaanxi is the gateway into China's northwest and was the political center of China many times throughout history. The province's largest city, Xi'an, was China's capital city for 13 dynasties, over a combined total of more than 1,100 years. Shaanxi has 10 prefectures, including 30 urban districts, 5 county-level cities, and 72 counties. Much



MAP 135 Shaanxi: Topography.

of Shaanxi is covered in highlands and mountains, but there are also significant plains and basins in the valleys along the Yellow River and the Wei River 渭河, which runs through the Guanzhong Plain 关中平原, a large alluvial plain that has been the most fertile and densely populated area in China since ancient times (Map 135). The climate varies greatly. The northern part of Shaanxi has cold and dry winters and very hot summers while the south typically has more rainfall.

Demography

The total population grew from 35,365,072 to 37,327,379 between 2000 and 2010, a slight 6 percent increase. Only 22 percent of the province's residents were registered as

urban residents in 2000; by 2010, the figure had risen to 26 percent, still significantly below the national average. The number of immigrants from other provinces increased substantially over the same period from 614,945 to 974,362, a rise of 58 percent, but immigrants still made up less than 3 percent of the entire population of the province.

During 2000–2010, the average family size shrank, the proportion of elderly people increased, and the imbalance in the sex ratio decreased. The average family size fell from 3.6 persons in 2000 to 3.2 a decade later. The percentage of one-generation households increased in almost all counties, especially those in Yulin 榆林 prefecture (Maps 136–137). People with an age more than 60 years old made