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TITLE: Neo-Liberalism in Xinjiang: A cause for Han and Uyghur Prosperity or Discontent?

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The 'China Dream' is the latest stage in the conceptual evolution of policies concerning the rise of the People's Republic of China. It is the fulfilment of the long-held desire to increase the economic and political might of China, ensuring China reaches great power status. In May 2010, the Chinese government afforded Kashgar the status of a special economic zone. Beijing hoped to increase the economic prosperity of the city, and the wider region, making Kashgar an important investment hub for both Chinese and international investors. Most recently, Beijing announced its 'One Belt, One Road' (OBOR) initiative, which seeks to provide greater connectivity and cooperation between the countries comprising Eurasia. However, alongside these developments there has been an increase in regional unrest among the Uyghurs in Xinjiang. This paper highlights the rise of these outbreaks of unrest and the rise of terrorist incidents in the region, and locates them within the uneven economic development that has accompanied China's economic and political policies across Xinjiang. It cautions the increase of this regional unrest poses serious challenges to the PRC's OBOR initiative, and raises the question of where do the Uyghurs 'fit' within the 'China Dream'?