

Appendix A: Glossary

Chinese pinyin	Chinese characters	English definition
bu wanquan tongji	不完全统计	Incomplete statistics, commonly used in official reports to suggest the statistics have serious limitations.
caishen	财神	The god of wealth, who can bless people with luck and prosperity. One popular caishen is Guan Gong .
Cangu Nainai	蚕姑奶奶	Silkworm Mother, a folk deity popular in Hebei province.
citang/zongci	祠堂/宗祠	An ancestral temple or hall.
cunweihui	村委会	Villagers' committee, the smallest administrative unit in rural areas. (Also refer to juweihui)
Daodejing	道德经	"The Book of the Way and the Virtue," a foundational text of Taoism, written by Chinese philosopher Laozi.
dao guan	道观	A Taoist temple with resident Taoist monks or nuns.
Daojiao	道教	Religious Taoism.
dengji/zhuce	登记/注册	To register or put on record.
dixia jiaohui	地下教会	"Underground church" that is Catholic (i.e., a Catholic church not affiliated with the state-controlled Catholic association). (Also refer to jiating jiaohui)
Falun Gong	法轮功	Literally "law wheel practice," a spiritual movement with Qigong elements and Buddhist and Taoist concepts. It was founded in 1992 and banned in China in 1999. (Also refer to Qigong)
fengshui	风水	Literally "wind-water," the practice of arranging objects and physical space to achieve balance and harmony to ensure good luck.
fo	佛	Buddha.
Fojiao	佛教	Buddhism.
fomen dizi	佛门弟子	A disciple of Buddha.
gong/guan	宫/观	A Taoist temple with a monastery in the context of this report. (Also refer to si/siyuan)
Guan Gong	关公	Lord Guan, the deified figure of military general Guan Yu. Historically worshipped as the god of wealth and war. (Also refer to caishen)
Guanyin	观音	The goddess of mercy, a popular folk deity rooted in the Buddhist bodhisattva Avalokiteśvara, who is often depicted as genderless or male.
Gui	鬼	In the context of this report, ghost or the spirit of a dead person.
Gui Jie	鬼节	(Hungry) Ghost Festival, which falls on the 15th day of the seventh lunar month. (Also refer to Zhongyuan Jie and Yulanpen Jie)
guiyi	皈依	"Taking refuge," a formal ritual of converting to Buddhism.

hukou	户口	Household registration, which the Chinese government uses to classify citizens into urban and rural residence categories.
huoju daoshi	火居道士	A Taoist priest who lives at home (as opposed to a monastery).
jiaotang	教堂	A church building.
jiating jiaohui	家庭教会	“House church,” typically refers to an unregistered Protestant church or a Protestant church whose leader refuses to affiliate with the state-run Christian agency. (Also refer to lianghui and dixia jiaohui)
Jidujiao	基督教	Christianity, but is often used to refer to Protestantism specifically. (Also refer to Jidu xinjiao)
Jidu xinjiao	基督新教	Protestantism.
jili	祭礼	In this report, refers to ancestral rites or the ceremony or ritual of venerating ancestors. (Also refer to jisi zuxian/jizu)
jisi zuxian/jizu	祭祀祖先/祭祖	Ancestor veneration, a traditional Chinese custom that often involves burning “spirit money” and making food or drink offerings to deceased family members.
juhuidian	聚会点	Meeting point, a Protestant religious venue that functions like a church but is typically smaller and not housed in a church building.
juweihui	居委会	Residents’ committee, the smallest administrative unit in cities. (Also refer to cunweihui)
kongmiao/wenmiao	孔庙/文庙	Confucian temple, traditionally a ceremonial site for the worship of Confucius.
lianghui	两会	Literally “Two Committees.” Refers to, in the context of this report, the China Christian Council (CCC) and the Protestant Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) Committee, the two agencies responsible for supervising Protestant Christianity in China.
ling/lingyan	灵/灵验	Efficacy or efficacious, used in this context to refer to prayers to gods or deities being answered.
longwang	龙王	Dragon king, a category of folk deities believed to control wind and rain.
Lunyu	论语	“The Analects,” a collection of Confucius’ aphorisms compiled by his disciples.
Mazu	妈祖	Goddess of the sea, the deified figure of Li Mo, a woman shaman who lived in coastal Fujian and has evolved into a popular Buddhist and Taoist figure.
miao	庙	Traditional religious temples that typically do not have a monastery for monks or nuns.
ming	命	Fate or destiny.
minjian xinyang	民间信仰	Folk religion(s).
mixin	迷信	Superstition.
neidan	内丹	Internal alchemy, the Taoist practice of maneuvering the energy of the body to achieve immortality.
pusa	菩萨	Bodhisattva, in Buddhism a person who is on the path to achieve enlightenment.

Qigong	气功	A form of body-mind practice to cultivate and harness Qi, the energy or the life force that empowers all living creatures in Chinese religious tradition.
qiancheng de	虔诚的	Devout or deep, as in religious commitment.
Qingming Jie	清明节	Tomb Sweeping Day, which usually falls on April 4 or 5, when Chinese people traditionally tidy the gravesite(s) of deceased family members and perform ancestor rituals.
Quanzhen	全真	Pure Perfection, a Taoist sect.
ren	仁	Benevolence or “loving others,” one of Confucianism’s central teachings.
Rujiao/Rujia sixiang	儒教/儒家思想	Confucianism.
shaoxiangbaifo	烧香拜佛	Literally “burn incense to worship Buddha,” typically refers to worshipping various deities of traditional Chinese religions.
shenkan	神龛	Shrine or altar dedicated to local deities and, in some cases, also ancestors.
shenxian	神仙	“Immortal,” a colloquial term for Taoist deity.
shuyu	属于	Belong to, e.g., an organized religion or political organization.
si/siyuan	寺/寺院	Buddhist temple with a monastery. (Also refer to gong/guan)
simiao	寺庙	Places of worship with some Buddhist connection, either having a Buddhist monastery or housing Buddhist deities.
Sishuwujing	四书五经	Four Books and Five Classics, a collection of foundational Confucian texts.
teyi gongneng	特异功能	Spiritual or supernatural power.
tian	天	Heaven, an important concept in Confucianism that typically refers to a pervasive, invisible entity with divine powers and authority.
Tianzhu	天主	Word used by Chinese Catholics for God.
Tianzhujiao	天主教	Catholicism.
tudi ci	土地祠	A place of worship dedicated to an earth god. (Also refer to tudigong)
tudigong	土地公	Earth god or earth lord, a patron deity who typically oversees affairs in a small jurisdiction, such as a village or forest.
wan	万	10,000.
wu/wushu	巫/巫术	Shaman/shamanism.
wuchang	五常	The five constant virtues of Confucianism (i.e., benevolence, righteousness, propriety, wisdom and trustworthiness).
wu shen lun zhe	无神论者	Atheist.
xiangxin	相信	Believe in, trust or have confidence in. When used in a religious context, it commonly does not imply formal commitment. (Also refer to xin and xinyang)
xiao	孝	Filial piety, a key concept in Confucianism that emphasizes respect for parents and elders.
Xiaojing	孝经	“The Classic of Filial Piety,” one of Confucianism’s foundational books. (Also refer to Sishuwujing)

xie	邪	Evil or unorthodox.
xiejiao	邪教	Evil cult or heterodox teaching, refers to religious groups whose teachings the Chinese government deems harmful or disruptive.
xin	信	Believe in, trust or have no doubts in. This a verb implies a stronger commitment than xiangxin as it connotes worship or veneration. (Also refer to xiangxin and xinyang)
Xinjing	心经	“Heart Sutra,” a popular Buddhist scripture.
Xinde She	信德社	Faith Press, a Catholic-run news agency.
xinyang	信仰	Firm belief in or commitment to a theory, thought or philosophy. Commonly implies a formal commitment to or serious conviction in a value system. (Also refer to xin and xiangxin)
xisu	习俗	Traditional custom. Some customs, such as the (Hungry) Ghost Festival, are steeped in folk religion.
xuefo	学佛	To study Buddha.
xuyuan	许愿	To make a wish.
yitangdaidian	以堂带点	A program the “Two Committees” launched to “connect unauthorized meeting points with an official [nearby, registered] church.” (Also refer to lianghui)
Yulanpen Jie	盂兰盆节	The Buddhist version of the (Hungry) Ghost Festival, also known as Ullambana festival.
yun	运	Fortune or luck. In Chinese religious tradition, humans can bring about good fortune or keep misfortune at bay by praying to deities or engaging in practices such as fengshui .
Zhengyi	正一	Orthodox Unity, a Taoist sect. (Also refer to Quanzhen)
zhong	忠	Loyalty (to the king), one of Confucianism’s central teachings.
Zhongyuan Jie	中元节	The Taoist version of the (Hungry) Ghost festival, also known as the Zhongyuan festival.
zixuanzisheng	自选自圣	“Self-election and self-ordination,” a government-sanctioned policy of appointing Catholic bishops without input from the Vatican.
ziyou	自由	Freedom.
zongjiao	宗教	Religion. Typically refers to organized religions with professional clergy and institutional or governmental oversight.
zongjiao xinyang	宗教信仰	Religious belief. Typically refers to a formal commitment to a value system. (Also refer to zongjiao and xinyang)
zuo libai	做礼拜	Worship attendance (for Christians) or prayer (for Muslims). This term does not apply to the types of worship common among Buddhists, Taoists or other traditional Chinese religious groups.