Heilongjiang Information

Overview

Heilongjiang province is situated in the northern part of what is traditionally referred to as Manchuria. Much of the region’s history is linked to the indigenous Mohe, who are considered the ancestors of Manchu. Heilongjiang’s political boundaries and autonomy wavered throughout the centuries as they fought primarily Korean, and also central Chinese, incursions. The Sui Dynasty (581 AD – 618 AD) conquered part of Sumo Mohe, one of the most powerful Mohe tribes. The Jurchen Jin Dynasty (1115 AD – 1234 AD), not to be confused with the earlier east and west Jin Dynasties or the later Jin Dynasty of the Five Dynasties Ten Kingdoms period, was based in northern Manchuria. The Manchu Qing Dynasty (1644 AD – 1912 AD), the last dynasty of China and once called the later Jin Dynasty, was founded by the ancestors of this region. Around 1860, the Qing government allowed Han migration to begin. Within fifty years Han had become the major ethnic group of the region. Leading up to World War II the Japanese puppet state Manchukuo was established in modern-day Heilongjiang. After the war, the former provinces Hinggan and Nenjing were added to the province in 1950. Songjiang was incorporated into the region in 1954. A portion of the northwest was given to Inner Mongolia in 1949 but was returned to Heilongjiang in 1969 only to be redrawn within the bounds of Inner Mongolia yet again in 1979.

A large Russian influence can still be seen in much of the culture and especially the architecture of the region due to a significant migration after the communists took hold of Russia. However, most of the immigrants returned to Russia after the Chinese communists took power. The architecture and climate make Heilongjiang
Province a popular tourist destination with the annual festival in Harbin of ice sculptures and light shows attracting visitors from all over the world.

**Heilongjiang Industry**

Heilongjiang’s economic capability is tethered to its climate. It is a significant source of China’s pine and larch. Its agriculture includes such crops as soybeans, maize, and wheat. Perhaps most important to the province’s economy is the petroleum of the Daqing oilfields. Heilongjiang produces almost half of China’s oil. Coal and graphite also play an important role in the region’s economy. A major part of Heilongjiang’s economy has become the generation of hydraulic power. The high-powered sub-arctic winds provide it with ample ability to efficiently harness wind-derived energy. It is also an important trading point between China and Russia.