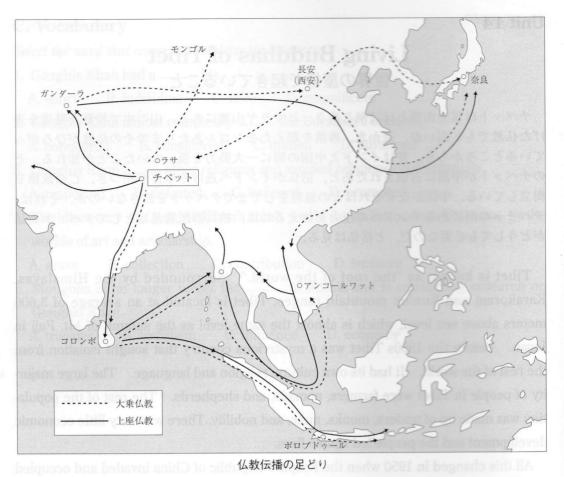
Asia and Africa



started a heated battle with the then Republic of China, which claimed dominion over the area. In 1949, the People's Republic of China (the current Beijing government) was formed, and invaded Tibet with armed forces the following year. The Tibetans fought valiantly with their own armed forces, but finally lost to the overwhelming mili-

⁵ tary power of the People's Liberation Army. For Tibet, this was the first time under the rule of China. But Tibetan revolt occurred everywhere. In 1959, a local revolt spread to the central city Lhasa. The pillar of their religious belief, the Dalai Lama, crossed many mountains to seek asylum in India and established a government in exile in Dharamsala.

¹⁰ The Dalai Lama spread a non-violent resistance movement throughout the world and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989. The Dalai Lama's activities were similar to Gandhi's peaceful movement, which helped bring about the independence of India. In February of 2000, the Chinese government was shocked by the flight of the