

1.4 Million Spindles Added in One Year

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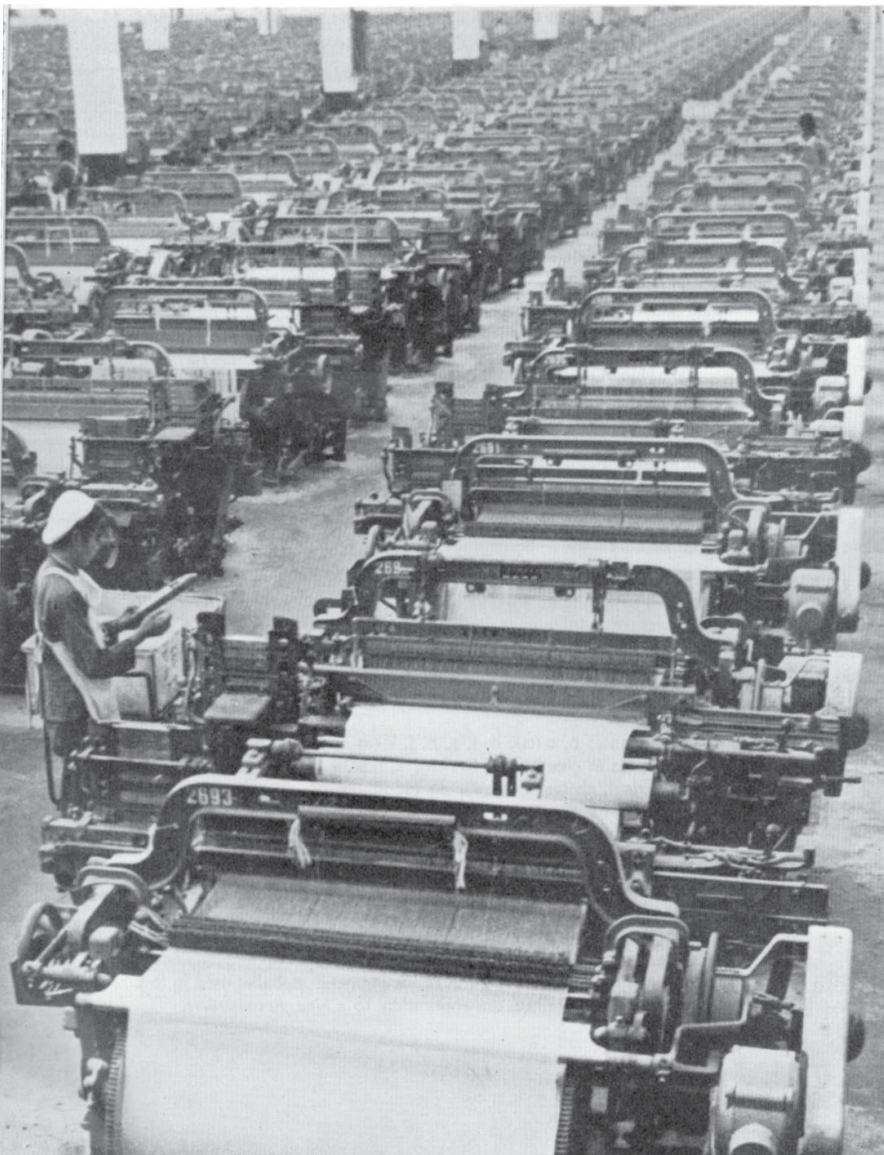


Uighur textile workers at the first cotton mill in Sinkiang's Kashgar.

Hsin Chiang

The weaving department of a new cotton mill in Chengtu, Szechuan province.

Chin Hsu-chi



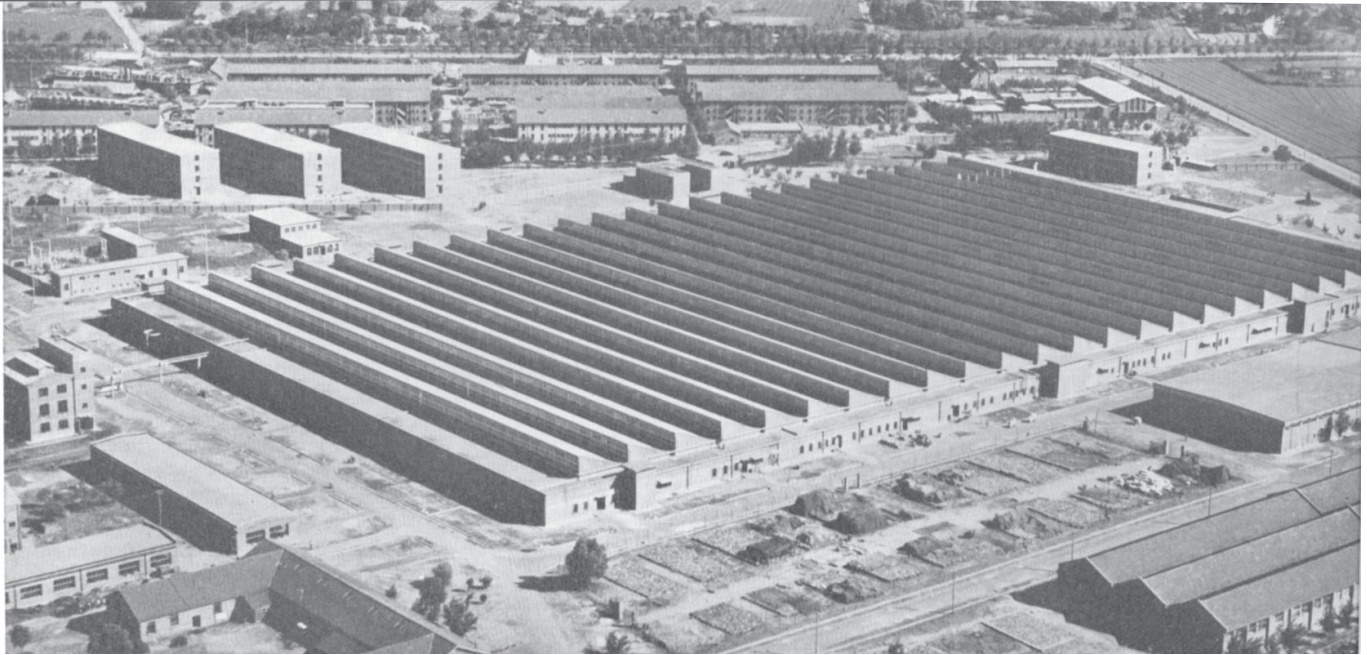
MORE than thirty new textile mills with a total of 1.4 million spindles went into operation in 1965. They can produce yarn for 1,000 million metres of cloth, or enough to make 250 million garments. Such expansion is unprecedented in the history of China's textile industry. The complete sets of textile machinery to serve this number of spindles were all made in China.

Many measures have been taken by the People's Government to increase production of raw cotton. One of these is an annual nationwide conference bringing together leading cotton growers, agricultural scientists and the heads of cotton-producing counties. At these meetings advanced information on cotton growing and on methods which have been found successful are passed on.

Chemical fertilizer plants opened in recent years and the great number of water conservation works built by the peasants have also given an impetus to the growing of cotton. Thus, four years after the years of natural calamities (1959-1961), cotton growing not only recovered from their effects but reached a new peak in output, surpassing the pre-1959 high. In 1965 both the total pro-

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CHINA RECONSTRUCTS



The 110,000-spindle Wuhan No. 2 Cotton Mill, which started production in 1965.

Yu Cheng-chien

duction and the yield per unit of area were the highest ever.

The new mills to handle this rapid increase in raw material are located in twenty provinces and autonomous regions. Many places which had no such factories in the past, such as the areas where the minority nationalities live, now have them. Among the new mills are a second one in Urumchi and one in Kashgar, both in the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region; one in Paotow in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region; and one

in Kweilin in the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region. The cities of Kweiyang in Kweichow province and Lanchow in Kansu province are two of the places that now have their first mills. The people of these areas can now buy locally-produced cloth made to suit their particular needs.

In the past dozen years China has established an independent textile machinery industry through her own efforts. This solid material and technical base made it possible to put the 1.4 million spindles into

operation in a single year. Boilers and electrical and auxiliary equipment for the new mills were made by both big and small machine plants in various parts of the country.

More than 100,000 people participated directly in the construction and preparations for production. The enthusiasm they displayed in this "campaign", the largest ever undertaken by the industry, resulted in the entire plan for the new mills being completed twenty days ahead of schedule.