

Shubin, *Ma Hongkui zhuàn* ("The biography of Ma Hongkui"), 2 vols., Yinchuan 2003.

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Ma Hualong

Ma Hualong (馬化龍, Muslim name Alim Allah, Ar. name Muḥammad Īmān, Ṣūfī title Tabirat Allah, Chinese courtesy name Chaoqing; 1810–71) was a powerful Muslim leader in northwestern China and the fifth generation *shaykh* of the Jahriyya *menhuan* (Ṣūfī order). The Jahriyya is an offshoot of the Central Asian Naqshbandiyya tradition, with some Shādhiliyya influences, and was established in the 1170s/1760s by Ma Mingxin (d. 1195/1781). Ma Hualong led the Muslim resistance in Ningxia to the Qing dynasty's pacification campaign during the Great Muslim Rebellion of 1862–74 and was executed by the imperial forces after surrendering to general Zuo Zongtang (d. 1885) on the thirteenth day of the first lunar month of the tenth year of the Tongzhi reign (1871), along with more than a thousand followers. For the date of his execution, Ma Hualong is referred to as Shisan Taiye (Master of the Thirteenth).

Ma's family had resided in the Lingzhou region (modern Lingwu) of Ningxia for generations. His grandfather Ma Datian (d. 1817) was the third Jahriyya *shaykh* and the first member of the Lingzhou Ma lineage to lead the Jahriyya. Ma Hualong studied Jahriyya practice under his father, the fourth generation *shaykh* Ma Yide, on whose death, in 1849, he assumed the leadership of the order. From its headquarters in the town of Jinjipu in Lingzhou, Ma Hualong controlled a network of followers that stretched from Xinjiang to Heilongjiang and Yunnan and managed

business interests of his order, including trading stations in eastern China, Inner Mongolia, and Beijing. He was instrumental in maintaining order and the local economy in Lingzhou and making repairs to the irrigation channels along the Yellow River. The irrigated fields tilled by Jahriyya members supported the order's economic power, and Ma Hualong was recognised as a crucial figure by the Qing state. Ma exercised combined religious, landholding, mercantile, and administrative authority.

After the eruption of the Muslim rebellion in Shaanxi province in 1862, violence spread to Ningxia, and Shaanxi Muslim refugees and military units arrived in Ma Hualong's sphere of influence. Ma called his followers hesitantly to arms and allied himself with other anti-Qing Muslim forces against the violent pacification campaign of the Qing state. Once successful in battle and seeing no possibility for final victory against the Qing, he pleaded for peace with the Manchu commander Mutushan, who agreed to accept Ma's surrender in 1864, granted him an official title and the name Chaoqing (One Who Attends upon the Qing), and recognised Ma's administrative authority over local Muslims in northern Ningxia. With a new wave of violence and the arrival of Zuo Zongtang's pacification forces in 1869, however, Ma Hualong's power was eventually eroded, and, despite some victories in battle against Zuo, Ma was forced to surrender his base in Jinjipu and was, on Zuo's orders, executed by dismemberment. Ma's combined authority made Zuo determined to eliminate him and his order as a threat to Qing control of the Muslim borderlands, but he failed to destroy the Jahriyya completely, and the order continues to revere Ma Hualong as its martyr.