

Geographical position.—As above defined Káshghar is comprised between 36° and 43° north latitude, and between 73° and 92° east longitude. Between these parallels its limits may be thus described. The north boundary runs obliquely between 39° and 43° north latitude from the Tirik Dawán in 73° east longitude to Pichán in 92° east longitude, and is formed by the southern watershed of the Celestial or God Mountains, called Alátágh (Allah-tagh?), Tangrí Úla, and Tianshán in Turki, Moghol, and Chinese respectively.

The south boundary runs obliquely between 38° and 36° north latitude from Sárígh Kul or Sirikol in 74° east longitude to Cháchan of the Sárígh Uighúr in 83° east longitude, and is formed by the northern slopes of the great Tibet range of mountains which is known in different parts of its extent by the names of Kuenlún or "Blue Mountains," Súnglún or "Onion Mountains," Karákoram or "Black Shale," and the Múztágh or "Ice Mountains" of Bolor.

The east boundary cuts the parallels of 92° and 85° of east longitude from Pichán on the north to Cháchan on the south between the parallels of 43° and 36° north latitude, and presents an undefined border formed by the shifting sands of the Gobi Desert.

The west boundary cuts the parallels of 73° and 74° east longitude from Tirik Dawán on the north to Sárígh Kúl on the south between 40° and 37° north latitude, and is formed by the eastern slopes of the Aláy and Pamír plateaux and the eastern watershed of the Bolor mountains or Bolortágh.

These are the natural geographical boundaries of Káshghar, or the valley of the Tárím River, and they closely correspond with the present political limits of the country.

Superficial extent.—As above limited, the greatest length of Káshghar, from Tirik Dawán to Pichán along its northern frontier, is about a thousand miles. Its least length, from Sárígh Kúl to Cháchan along the southern border, is about five hundred miles.

Its greatest breadth, from Turfán to Cháchan on the eastern frontier, is about five hundred miles. And its least breadth, from Tirik Dawán to Táshkorghán in Sárígh Kúl on the western boundary, is about a hundred and fifty miles.

Area in square miles.—If we multiply the means of the above assumed measurements of length and breadth, we shall get 243,750 square miles as an approximate representation of the area of Káshghar. But it must be borne in mind that by very much the greatest part of it is an uninhabited waste, as is to be described presently.

Comparative topography.—Káshghar is separated from the neighbouring regions on the north, the west, and the south by the lofty highland ranges of the great mountain system of the Asiatic continent, and on the east is divided off from China by the desert of Gobi.

In the time of the Chinese rule it formed the southern division of the Ila province which included the great basins on the north and south of the Tiánshán range, and was limited on the east and west by the vast deserts of Gobi and Kapchák respectively.

The division to the north of the separating range is called by the Chinese *Tianshan Peh Lu*, or "the way north of the Celestial Mountains," and by the Moghol natives Zúngghár—the Songária of European writers. Similarly the division to the south of the range is called *Tianshan Nan Lu*, or "the way south of the Celestial Mountains," and Káshghar by the Chinese and Moghol respectively. The former division lies between the Altaí—the great mountain range of Mongolia—and the Tiánshán, and drains westward to the desert of Kapchák. Whilst the latter, with which only we are here concerned, lies between the Tiánshán and the Kuenlún—the great mountain range of Tibet—and drains eastward to the desert of Gobi.

On its north are the Russian possessions of Turkistán, and the Túrgút country of the Yuldúz and Orúmchí Kalmák—the Zúngghár above referred to. On its west are the Khanate of Khokand, and the independent petty chiefships of Karátakin, Shighnán, and Roshán, and the Afghan held province of Badakhshán, with the elevated plateaux of Pámír, Kizil Art, and Aláy intervening. On its south are the Kashmir provinces of Ladákh and Báltistán, or Bolor, on the one hand, and Great Tibet or Hlassa or Úcháng on the other. And on its east, beyond Gobi, is the Chinese province of Kánsuh.