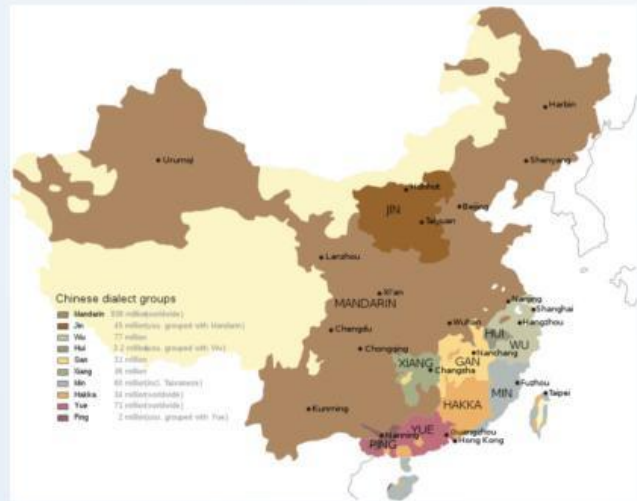


3. One language, many dialects

Although **Mandarin (普通话 - Pǔtōnghuà)** is the official language, China is linguistically very diverse. Numerous dialects exist, meaning that people from different regions can only communicate using Mandarin. Other dialects are incomprehensible unless one has grown up speaking them. The map provides an overview of the different dialect types. As you can see, different regions have distinct dialects. Some of the most well-known dialects include:

- **Cantonese** (spoken in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau)
- **Shanghainese** (from the Shanghai region)
- **Hokkien or Min Nan** (Taiwan and Southeast Asia)
- **Hakka** , among others



To unify the country linguistically, Mandarin is taught in all schools and used in the media, but many people still speak their local dialect at home or in their communities.