

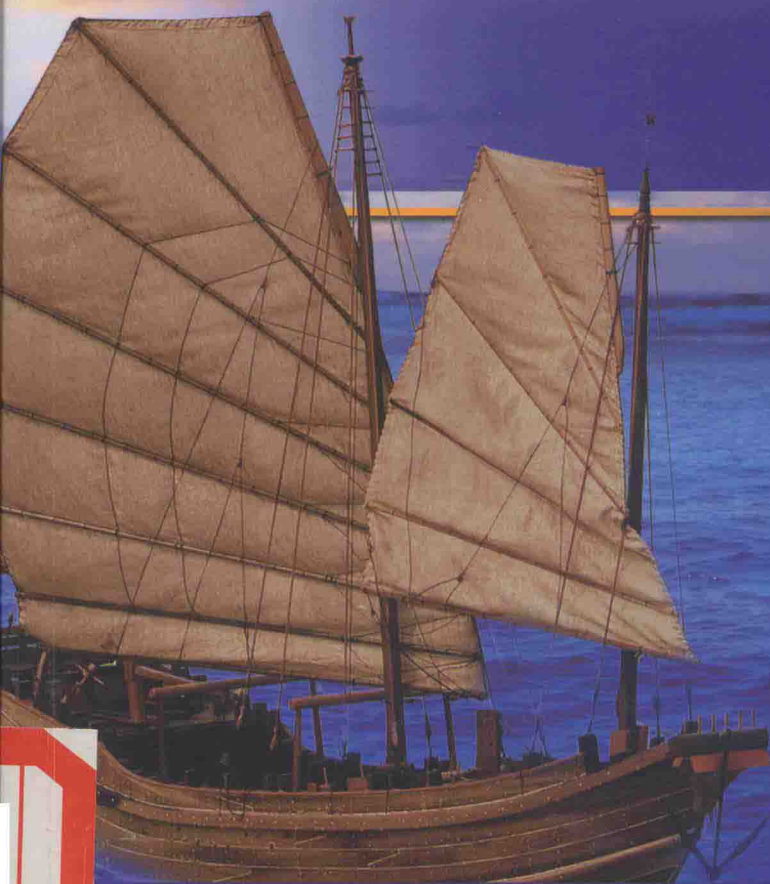


THE SERIES OF "CHINA'S MARITIME DEVELOPMENT"

# THE PAST AND PRESENT OF CHINA'S SEAS



Authors: Li Mingjie, Shen Wenzhou, Xu Sen'an, Cao Pifu



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# Preface

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A one-Yuan coin was lying peacefully on the white sand beach in southernmost China. With the reputation of “Oriental Hawaii”, this place is called Yalong Bay, which is located 30 km to the east of Sanya, Hainan Province of China.

The seawater rushed to the edge of the coin, covered part of it, and then receded.

A well-proportioned and robust young man who looked under 20 years old, picked up the coin, stared at it for a long time, put it into the pocket of his swim trunks, turned back and jumped into the blue sea.

This scene in the fourteenth year of the 21<sup>st</sup> century may shows implied meanings for China.

As one of countries with the longest coastlines, China has a coastline half the length of the Equator, and if we count its islands' coastlines, it is more than 32,000 km. China has over 6,500 offshore islands, with more than 400 million Chinese people living in coastal regions. According to the “United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”, over 3 million km<sup>2</sup> of water is under the jurisdiction of China. Therefore, China is an inland country, and a major maritime country at the same time.

In a sense, China is a huge golden coin surrounded by ocean; known as the oriental giant, China is now waking up from a deep sleep, straightening his vigorous body, jumping into the vast open ocean, swinging his arms, kicking his legs and having a good swim.

“The Past and Present of China's Seas” is one of a series of books

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This book was written by Xu Sen'an and Shen Wenzhou, Cao Pifu and Li Mingjie from the Institute for Marine Affairs of the State Oceanic Administration, and was edited by Li Mingjie, Cao Pifu and Shen Wenzhou. Our gratitude also goes to editor He Beijian for his compilation and revision of this book.

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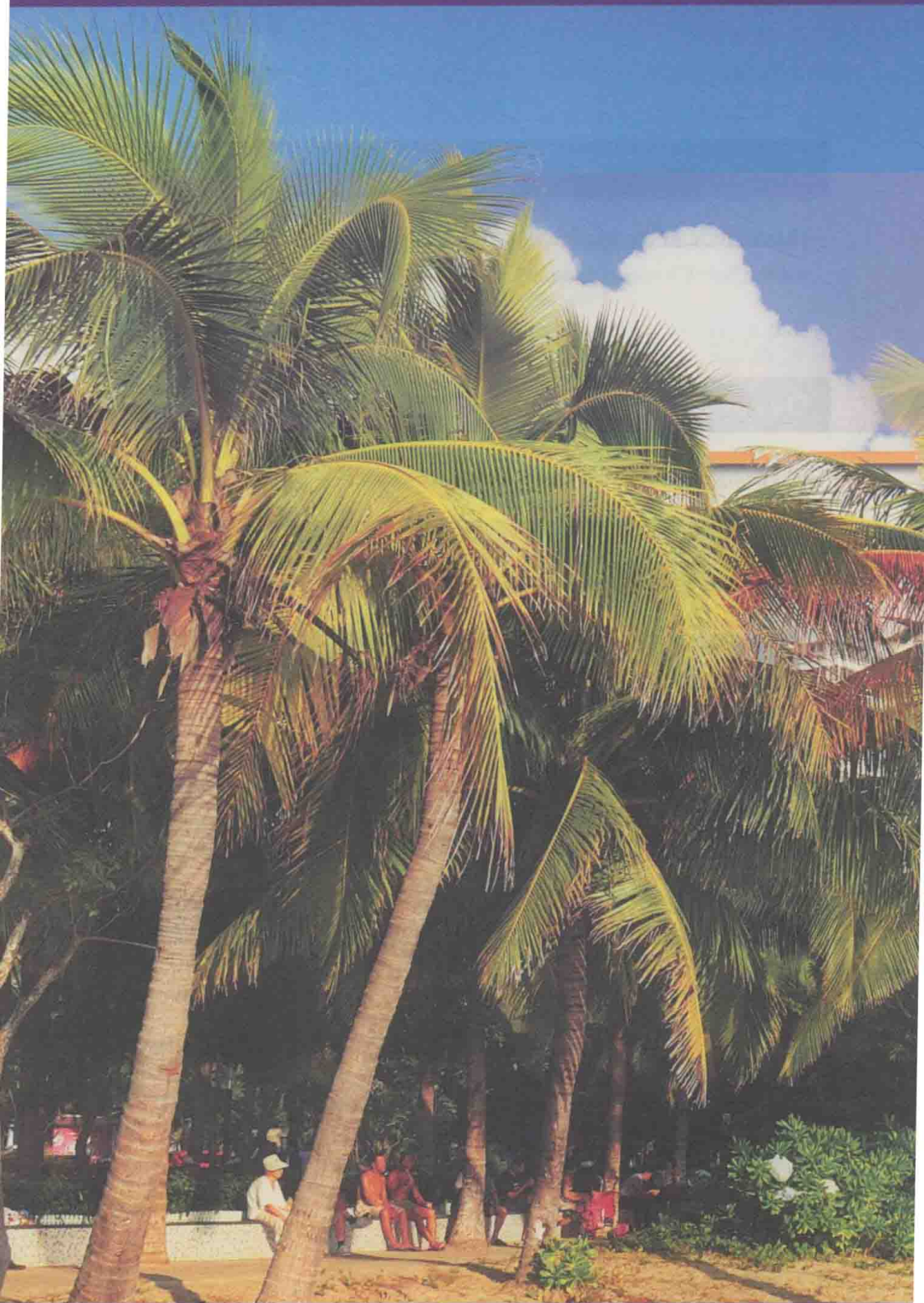
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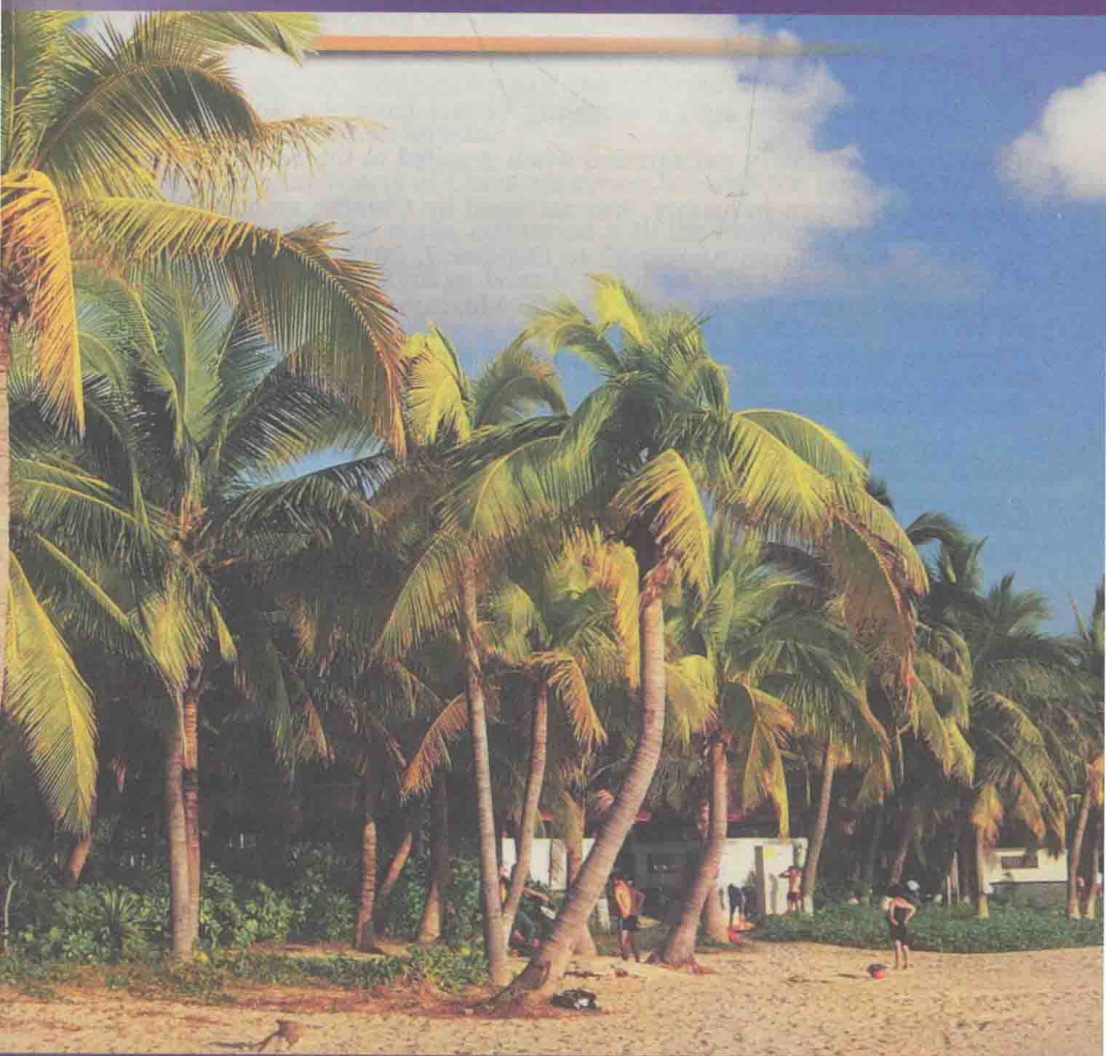






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# OCEAN'S EMBRACE



## Eternally Moist – Broad China Sea

Oceans cover 71% of the Earth's surface, and give China over 18,000 km of coastline.

Over 800 years ago, a seagoing vessel from the Southern Song Dynasty unfortunately ran aground when it sailed to the South China Sea. This wreck, frozen in history, was salvaged by Chinese archaeologists in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. From August 22 to October 7, 2013, it met the Chinese and foreign history lovers in the Capital Museum in China, in the form of "Treasure of the South Sea – Sunken Treasure Exhibition from Huaguang Reef of Xisha Islands".

280 sets of exquisite cultural relics, such as porcelain, bronze wares, coins, and stoneware, etc. revealed the politics, economy, culture, art and maritime industry of a Dynasty in China. However, did it also reveal a little secret about the origin between China and oceans?

China is located in the southeastern part of the Eurasian Continent, with vast territory, including both land and sea. The eastern and southern part of China faces to the sea, and the Bohai Sea, the Yellow Sea, the East China Sea and the South China Sea surrounds the continental margin from the north to the south to connect China with the Pacific Ocean. The Bohai Sea, the Yellow Sea, the East China Sea and the South China Sea are marginal seas on the western edge of the Pacific Ocean. They are