

中国第一部双语百科全书

用英语说

中国

Talk About
China in English

历史
History

[美] 田华实 李兆平 主编
Robin Harrison 审校





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本书编委会

- 主 编：田华实 李兆平
- 副主编：胡 芳 廖智英
- 编 者：仲 锡 田亚威 田东岳 杨 方
- 总策划：李洪涛
- 总 监：高 玲
- 审 订：Robin Harrison
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前 言



随着我国改革开放的不断向前推进,旅游事业也越来越兴旺发达起来。尤其是近些年来,来自世界各地的客人涌向中国,试图揭开这块辽阔土地的神秘面纱,从而了解中国悠久的历史,以满足其难以诠释的好奇和幻想。

具有悠久而又丰富的历史的中国,一直为自己无数的历史遗迹和文化遗产感到自豪。几乎在中国的每一个地方,人们都能欣赏到神奇的各种景观,以及世代相传的故事和神话。

在中国人民的辛勤努力下,中国在各个方面都发生了翻天覆地的变化。从经济、文化、教育,到生活、娱乐和休闲,人们都在尽情地享受着国泰民安、和谐安睦的生活。国家的建设和发展日新月异,人们的思想、观点、生活方式也有了很大的变化。

在这种形势下,我们觉得有必要给来中国工作和旅游的外国友人——尤其是给那些来参加2008年北京奥运会的各国朋友提供一些帮助,把他们可能感兴趣的事情、人物和地方简单地作一些介绍,让他们对中国有个大致的了解。由此,我们编写了《用英语说中国》这套丛书。丛书共有10部,分别是:

- 1.《用英语说中国——历史》
- 2.《用英语说中国——民俗》
- 3.《用英语说中国——艺术》
- 4.《用英语说中国——文化》
- 5.《用英语说中国——名城》
- 6.《用英语说中国——名人》
- 7.《用英语说中国——旅游》
- 8.《用英语说中国——媒体》
- 9.《用英语说中国——体育》
- 10.《用英语说中国——名校》

《用英语说中国——历史》共计20个章节——史前神话、夏朝、商朝、西周、春秋、战国、秦朝、汉朝、三国、晋朝、南北朝、隋朝、唐朝、五代十国、宋朝、元朝、明朝、

清朝、中华民国和中华人民共和国。本书重点讲述了每一个历史时期的重大政治、经济政策、重大历史事件和主要历史人物及其对中国社会的发展以及全人类的发展所起到的影响和对人类社会的贡献。

参编这套丛书的作者都是来自高等院校的英语教授、副教授和硕士研究生，大家都为能参与此项有意义的工作而感到兴奋和激动，都乐意为宣传中国和振兴中华贡献自己的一份力量。

《用英语说中国》这套丛书从策划到构思，从设计到编写，都是站在较高的角度，本着较新的水准，力求创造性地把中国的上上下下、东西南北、方方面面以简洁流畅的语言加以娓娓叙述。这无疑将给广大读者一种全新的感受。

《用英语说中国》这套丛书对于英语爱好者提高英语水平、激发学习英语兴趣会有所帮助的。丛书信息量庞大，涉及面广泛，古往今来，东南西北，犹如一部关于中国的小百科全书。丛书中的英文叙述和中文译述都严格遵循语言简练、结构明晰、形式活泼的宗旨。我们衷心希望这套丛书能够受到广大读者的喜爱和信赖。把中国介绍给世界，让世界上更多的人了解中国，是每个中国人的愿望。

限于编著者的水平和第一手资料的缺乏，丛书中有些地方的内容和信息可能存在一些出入和欠缺，恳请广大读者予以批评指正。

《用英语说中国》丛书编者

2008年8月



Preface

With the rapid development of China's reform and opening-up, tourism is on the rise, esp. in recent years. More and more people from all over the world come to China, hoping to unveil the mystery of the vast land, to discover the origins of the long history in China and to satisfy their own curiosities and fantasies as well.

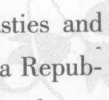
China, with a long and rich history, is always proud of her countless historical sites and cultural relics. Almost everywhere people encounter amazing miracles or natural beauties together with their everlasting legends and myths.

Furthermore, with the strenuous work of the whole nation, China has witnessed fundamental changes in every field. From national economy, culture and education to people's living standard, recreation and entertainments, everywhere and every soul is enjoying a peaceful and comfortable life in a friendly and harmonious atmosphere. The nation's construction and development are changing with each passing day while people's views and points are also keeping pace with the times.

Under such circumstances, we feel obliged to offer some help to those foreign visitors, esp. those who are coming to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, by giving them a brief introduction of the things, the people and the places they might be interested in. The series "*Talk About China in English*", therefore, come into being. The series consist of 10 books in all. They are:

1. **Talk About China in English—History**
2. **Talk About China in English—Folklore**
3. **Talk About China in English—Arts**
4. **Talk About China in English—Culture**
5. **Talk About China in English—Famous Cities**
6. **Talk About China in English—Celebrities**
7. **Talk About China in English—Tourism**
8. **Talk About China in English—Media**
9. **Talk About China in English—Sports**
10. **Talk About China in English—Famous Colleges and Universities**

Talk About China in English—History covers twenty sections—Prehistoric Myths, Xia Dynasty, Shang Dynasty, The Western Zhou Dynasty, The Spring and Autumn Period, The Warring States Period, Qin Dynasty, Han Dynasty, Three Kingdoms,



Jin Dynasty, The Northern and Southern Dynasties, Sui Dynasty, Five Dynasties and Ten States, Song Dynasty, Yuan Dynasty, Ming Dynasty, Qing Dynasty, China Republic and the People's Republic of China. It talks about the important political and economic policies, the important events and persons in each time, and their influences and contribution to the development of human being and the society. The description is clear and simple.

All the writers of the series are professors, associate professors and graduate—students of English from colleges and universities. We all feel happy and proud to have the chance to do our bit for the publicity of our motherland as well as her promotion.

From making plans to hatching plots, from working out schemes to carrying out the writings, the authors have been diligent and conscientious. Through our work, we want to provide readers with a rich and colorful introduction of an encyclopedic manner. The series are new and creative, and sure enough, they will bring fresh feelings and experiences to all readers.

The series are also helpful for all English lovers, including secondary school students and teachers, college students, office clerks and public servants.

Both the English and Chinese versions in the series are written in simple language, clear structure and lively style. We hope they will find popularity upon publication.

We are extremely grateful to the authors and publishers of all the materials we have chosen here in the series. We apologize for the insufficient information in some cases due to lack of resources. We intend to show every respect for intellectual property rights, but we hope our pleading of the permission to use these materials for the purpose of letting more foreign friends know China better will receive kind and generous consideration.

Authors

August 2008





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C 史前神话

Chapter 1 Prehistoric Myths

Chinese civilization is one of the oldest and most splendid cultures in the world, which dates back to thousands of years ago. Similar to many old civilizations, its early culture is integrated with legends and myths. As described in mythology, Chinese civilization begins with Pangu, the creator of the universe, and Nüwa, the creator of mankind.

Pangu: According to legend, in the beginning of the world, the sky and the earth were not separated, and there was only darkness and chaos. Our ancestor Pangu, a giant, had been born and growing up in it for 108 000 years. One day, he suddenly woke up. Opening the eyes, he found that everything was blurred and invisible. Angrily, he grasped an axe and wielded it with an effort. With a bang, the chaos was split all of a sudden. The light and clear air rose up to the sky, and the heavy and turbid to the earth. After it, Pangu propped up the sky with his head and stepped on the ground with his feet, fearing that they might close. The sky increased its height by 1 *zhang* daily, and the earth sank by 1 *zhang*. Pangu

