

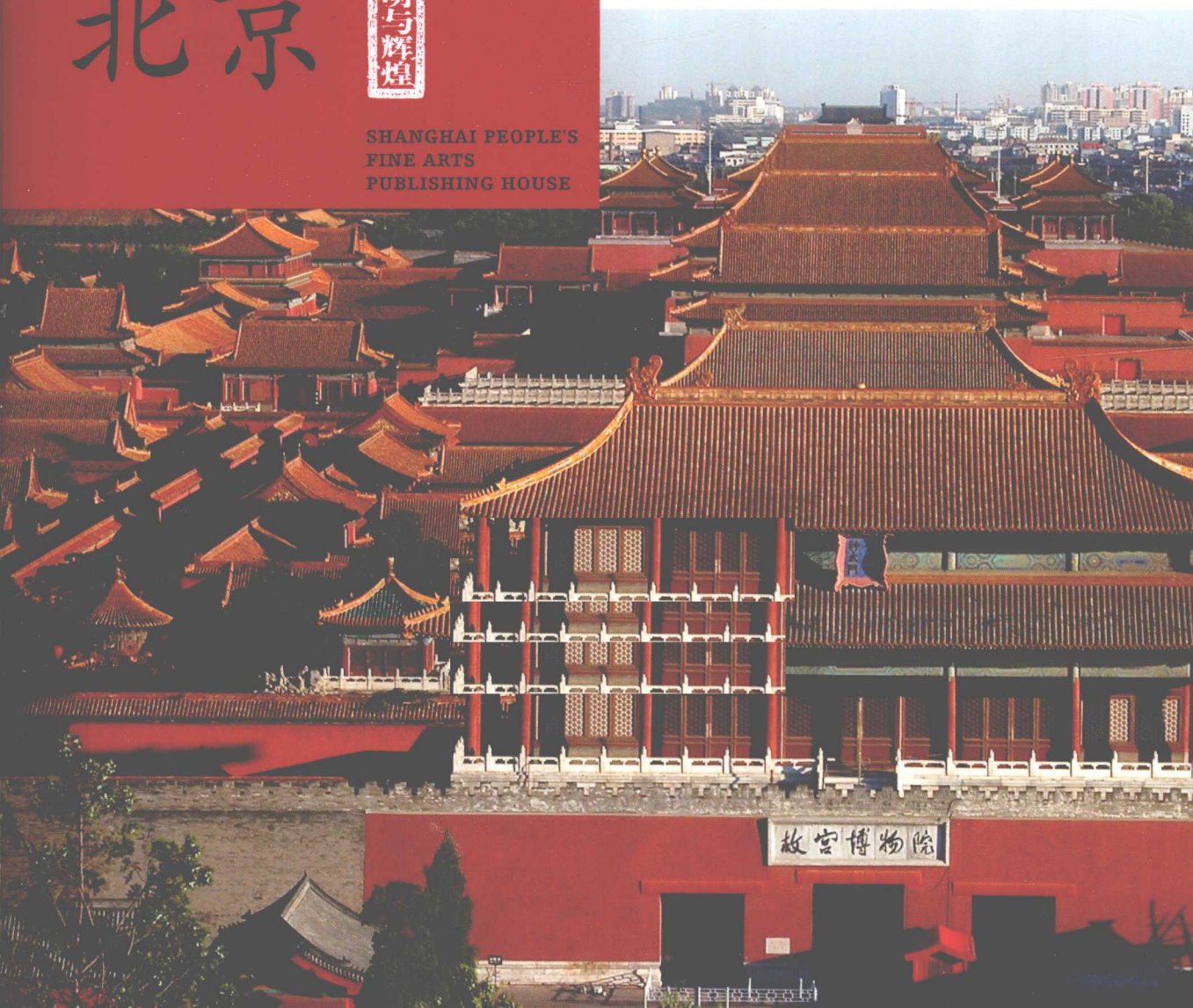
Beijing:

Civilization and Prosperity

北京

文明与辉煌

SHANGHAI PEOPLE'S
FINE ARTS
PUBLISHING HOUSE



图书在版编目 (C I P) 数据

文明与辉煌——北京：英文 / 上海人民美术出版社
编. - 上海：上海人民美术出版社，2010.5
ISBN 978-7-5322-6777-4

I. ①文... II. ①上... III. ①北京市-概况-英文
IV. ①K921

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2010) 第064084号

Beijing: Civilization and Prosperity (English Version)

Complied by Shanghai People's Fine Arts Publishing House

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Published and Distributed by Shanghai People's Fine Arts Publishing House

(Address: 672/33 Changle Road, Shanghai 200040)

Post Code: 200040 Telephone: 021-54044520

Website: www.shrmms.com

Printed in China by Jielong Color Printing Company

Page Size: 787×1020 1/16 11.5

Edition Number: First Print, May 2010

Print Number: First Print, May 2010

Copies Printed: 0001-1500

ISBN 978-7-5322-6777-4

Price: 98.00 yuan

文明与辉煌——北京 (英文版)

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责任编辑: 雨 鹰

技术编辑: 陆尧春

出版发行: 上海人民美术出版社

上海长乐路672弄33号

邮编: 200040 电话: 021-54044520

网 址: www.shrmms.com

印 刷: 上海界龙艺术印刷有限公司

开 本: 787×1020 1/16 11.5印张

版 次: 2010年5月第1版

印 次: 2010年5月第1次

印 数: 0001-1500

书 号: ISBN 978-7-5322-6777-4

定 价: 98.00元

Beijing:

北京

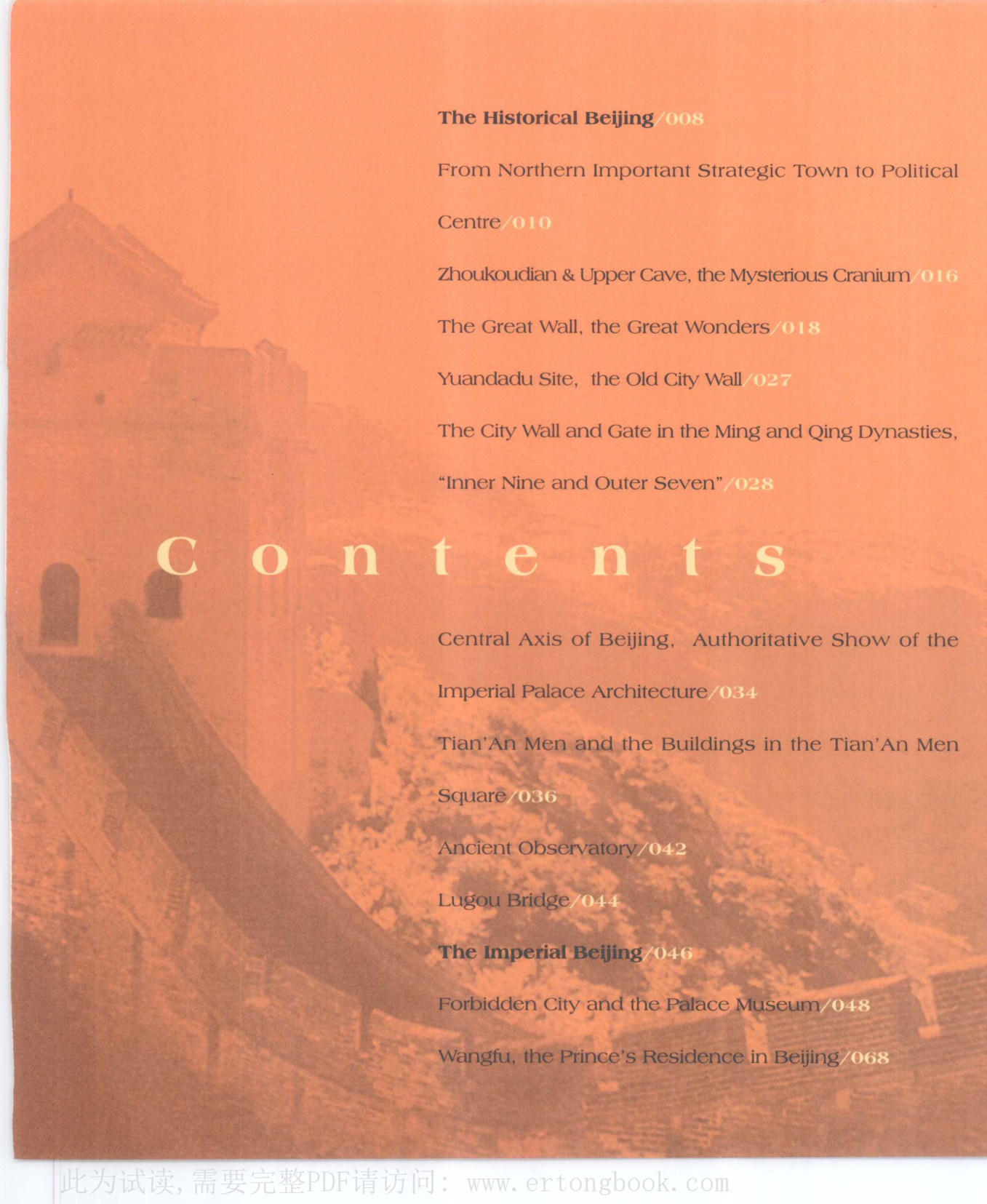


Civilization and Prosperity

Written by Wang Yuelong

SHANGHAI PEOPLE'S
FINE ARTS PUBLISHING HOUSE





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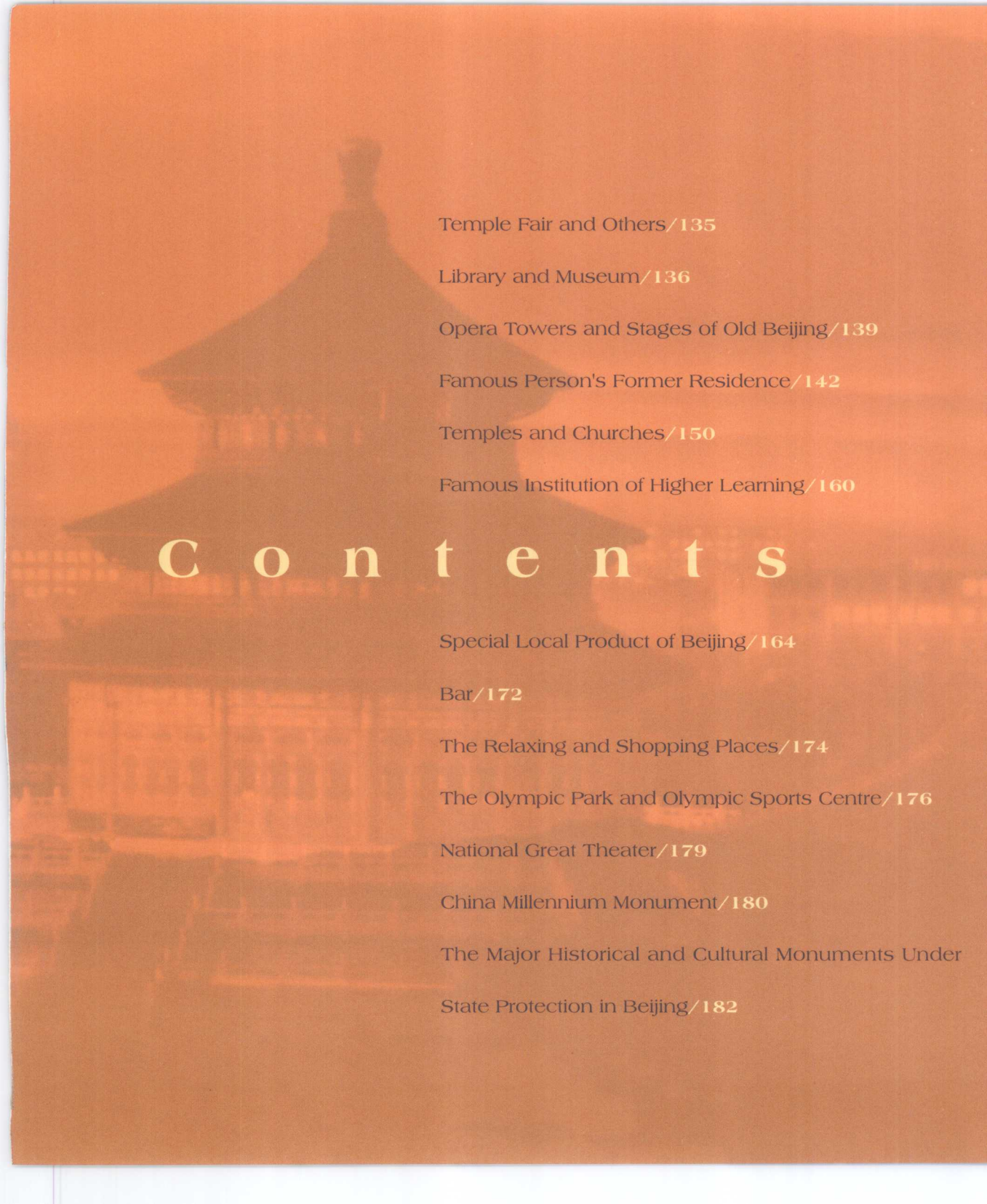
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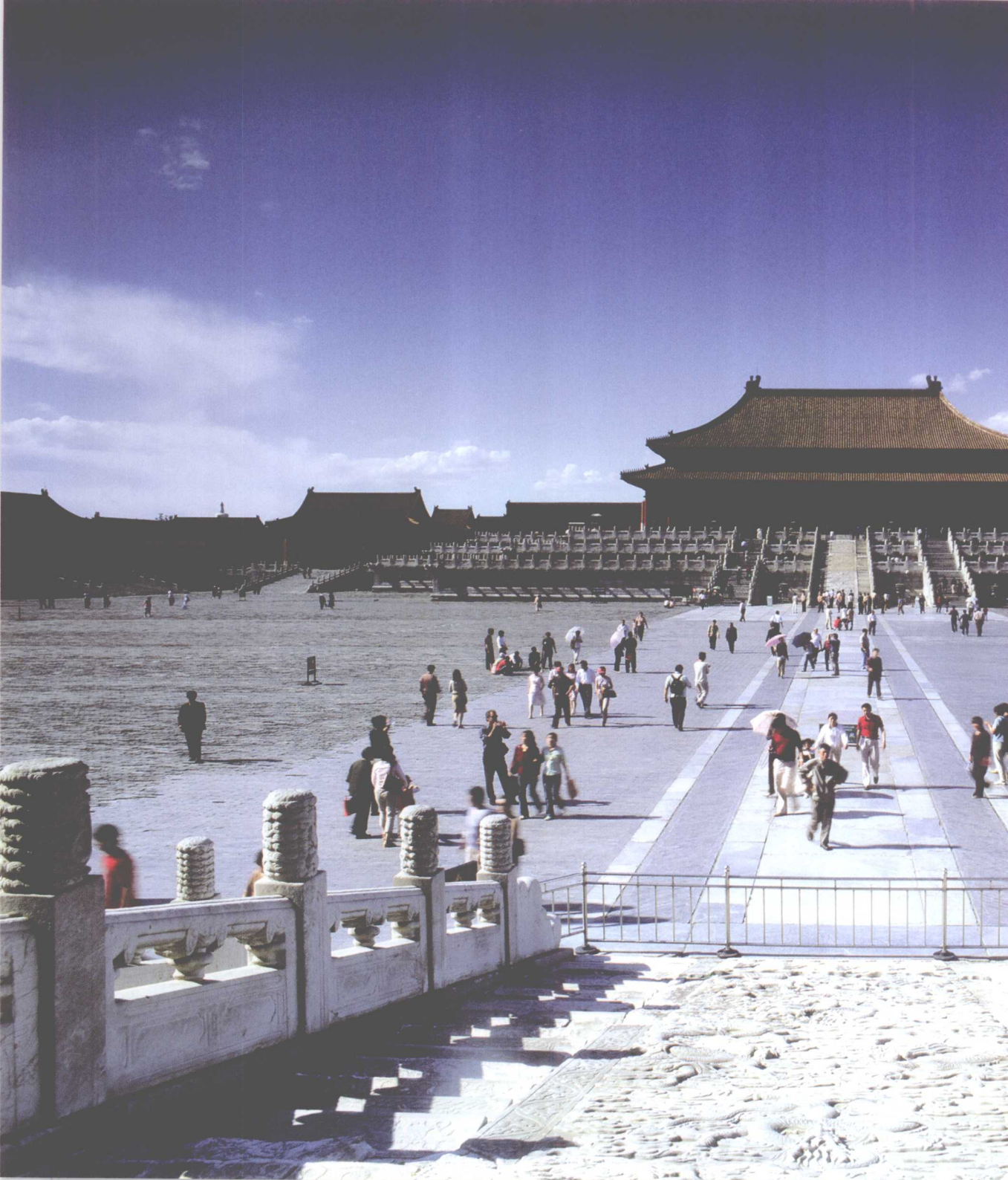
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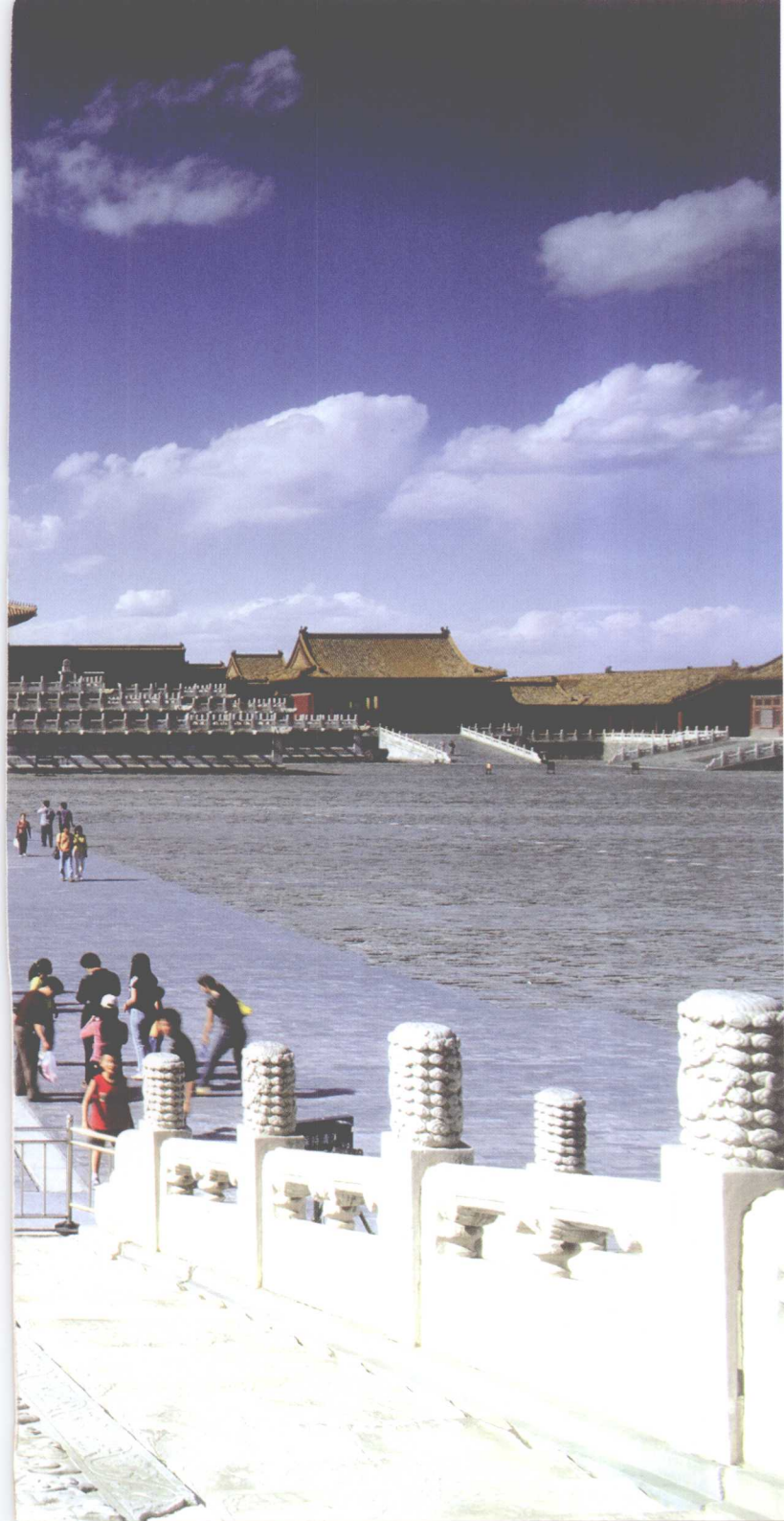
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Beijing is a young city too. Today's Beijing, is developing with rapid speed that ranks among the international metropolises.

Beijing is located in the northernmost part of the North China Plain in the North of China. The climate of Beijing makes a clear distinction between the four seasons. If you want to take a trip to Beijing, had better choose the April and May, commutative period between spring and summer or the September and October in autumn. At those times, it is warm in the air and the flowers in blossom or sky in autumn is high and atmosphere pleasant, the highest temperature generally from 20 to 15 °C in the daytime, that is very suitable for tourists.

This is an old and beautiful national capital, a young and charming city, she warmly stretch out both arms, welcome you approaching this place and come into Beijing.

Chapter

L

The Historical Beijing

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Nearly 600,000 to 700,000 hundred years ago, Yongding River which flowed through the southwest of Beijing was still a wide great river with abundant water, gathering brooks, flourish forest on both banks, haunted wild animal. On a hill in river valley of Yongding, there were gregarious ape-mans lived in the caves. They made a living by enclosing and catching preys and fishing. They were the Peking Man. In the 1920s or 1930s, some tooth fossils of Peking Man and several intact cranium fossils were found by the archaeologists. In the same place, some ancient zoolites and used fire marks were found also.

About 5,000 or 6,000 years ago, Chinese ancestors who were generally acknowledged, the two heads of the northern clans, emperors of Huangdi and of Yandi formed an alliance, they defeated other clans at that time. Later the Yandi were defeated by the younger Huangdi who became the new leader and established the capital in the area near Beijing. This was the earliest legend that Beijing area as the capital. Beijing area was called Youzhou at that time, so the Youzhou was the earliest name of Beijing area.



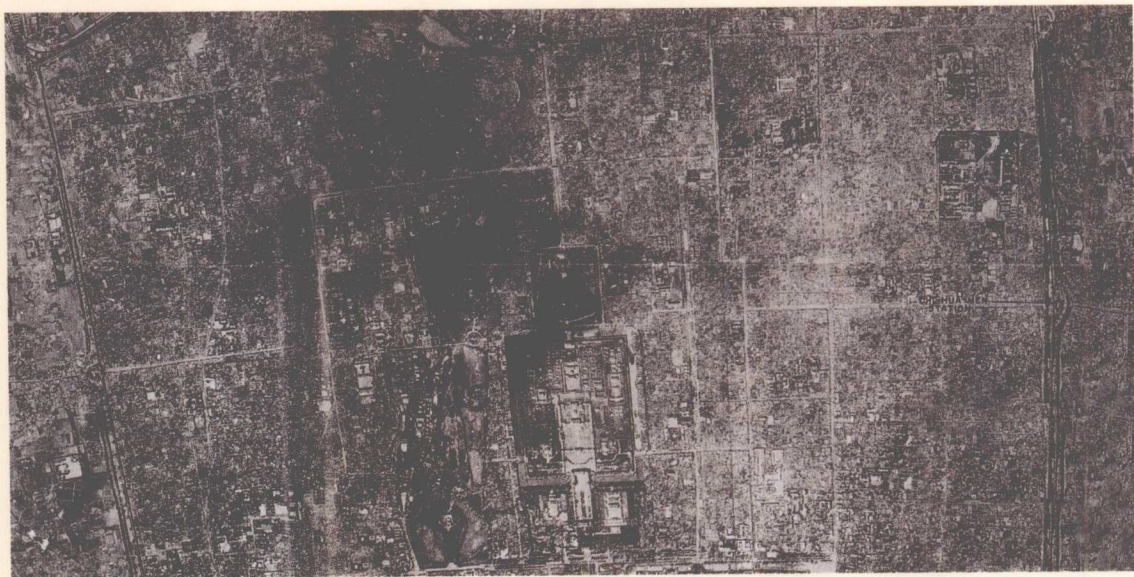
From Northern Important Strategic Town to Political Centre

In the 11th century B.C., the clan of "Zhou" was powerful in the North of China. In 1045 B.C., the first monarch of the Zhou Dynasty, the king of Zhouwu conferred "North Yan" area on the "Zhaogong", it is today's Beijing and surrounding area. The offspring of "Zhaogong" were all called the Yanhou. In the site of ancient city where the capital of Yan of Western Zhou was found in the Dongjialin village of Liulihe in Fangshan district of Beijing, there is history of more than 3,000 years nowadays.



Six-corner Pavilion of Yuanmingyuan

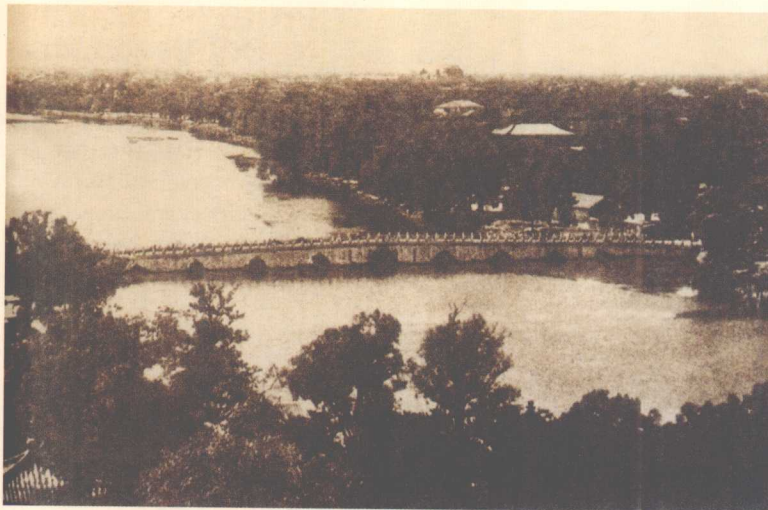
In the Spring and Autumn period after Zhou Dynasty, through the constant civil war, amalgamated from dozens of small countries conferred by king of Zhou into seven big countries progressively, these were "Seven Powerful States of the Warring States Period" in China's history. State of Yan was one of "Seven Powerful States", regarded Ji as the capital. According to the archaeological discovery, the expert infers Ji city should be the area from Xuanwu Men to Heping Men in the southwest of Beijing today.



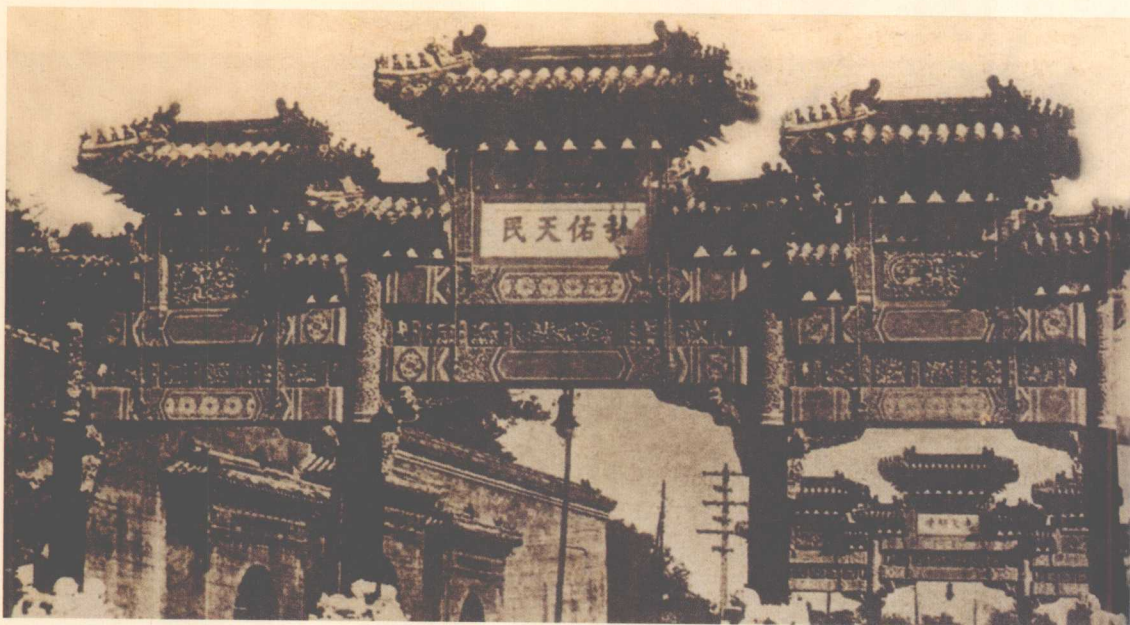
The Air Map of the Old Beijing

In 221 B.C., Qin Shihuang, the first emperor of Qin had unified China. After that, in the Chinese history nearly one thousand years, Ji was the important city in the North all the time.

After the downfall of the strong Tang Dynasty, the North of China had entered the period of chaos caused by war. In 936, one military officer called Shi Jingtang led his army betrayed Tang for the independence, and in 938, had ceded 16 states of Yanyun to the Liao country set up by Qidan clan in the North of China. The Yanyun 16 states are today's Beijing and the surrounding area. Youzhou was called "Nanjing" (also named Yanjing) by Liao Kingdom. In 1153, Kin Kingdom set up by the northern Nvzhen moved the capital to Yanjing, and was named "Zhongdu", this was the beginning of Beijing as the capital in the history.



Beihai's Yudong Bridge of the Old Beijing



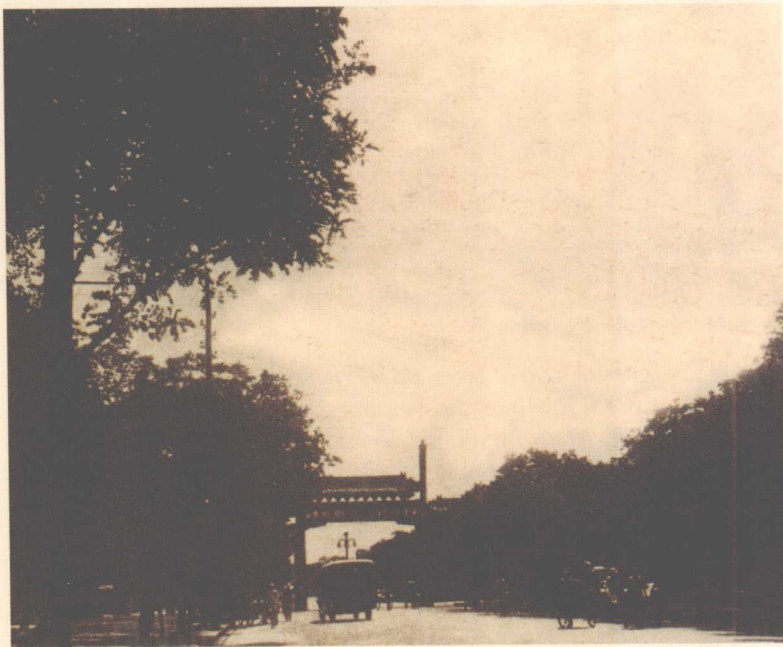
Decorated Archway of the Old Beijing

In 1206, the Tiemuzhen established the Great Mongolia Kingdom and was elected as Genghis Khan. Genghis Khan led his Mongolian army marched into Central Plains, and had occupied the area of Yanjing. In 1272, Yuan Shizu, the founder of Yuan Dynasty Qubilai built the new governance centre here named Dadu, called Yanjing too. From then on, Beijing became the political centre of a unified multi-nationality country from a important borderland strategic town in the North of China. In the 13th century, Marco Polo, a Italian tourist came to China from the remote place, he had exactly seen the prosperous scenes of Yuan Dadu at that time, and propogated the economy and culture here to the western countries by his travels.

In 1368, Zhu Yuanzhang set up Ming Dynasty and establish the capital in Yingtianfu (today's Nanjing of Jiangsu Province). In the same year, he eliminated the army of Yuan Dynasty, captured Dadu mostly, rename as the Beipingfu. In 1403 the Ming Chengzu, emperor Zhu Di renamed the Beipingfu as Shuntianfu, called Beijing also. This was the earliest origin name of "Beijing". In the 19th year of Yongle (1421), Ming Dynasty moved the capital to Beijing formally, and Nanjing lowered as a second capital named Peidu.

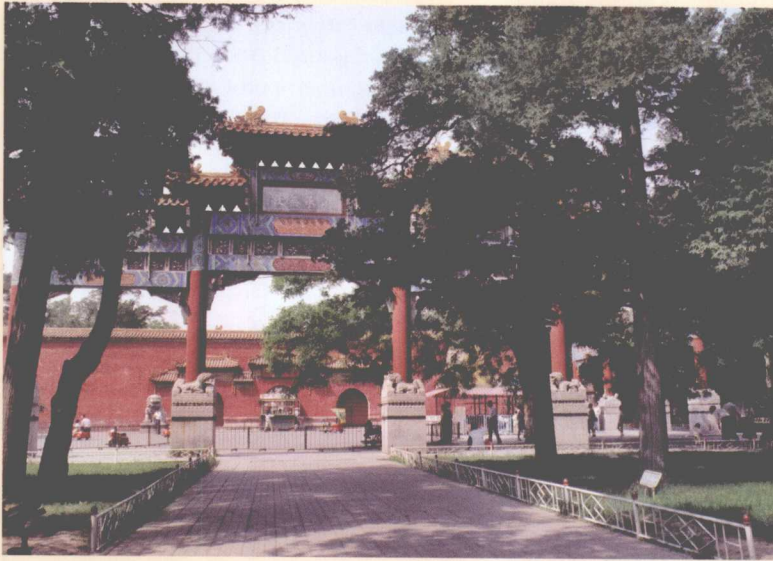


Qinghuayuan of the Old Beijing



The East Chang'an Street of the Old Beijing

In March of the 17th year of the last emperor Chongzhen on the throne of Ming Dynasty (1644), a peasant uprising leader, the pathbreaker named Chuangwang Li Zicheng led his army to capture Beijing and set up the regime of Dashun. The general of Ming Dynasty Wu Sangui who was garrisoned the Shanhai Pass, asked for the Great Qing country that established by northern Manchu to dispatch troops and suppress the Dashun together. Taking this opportunity, Great Qing country had captured Beijing rapidly. In September of the same year, Emperor Shuizhi moved the capital to Beijing from Shengjing (today's Shenyang of Liaoning Province), had begun the more than 200 years-long governance regarded Beijing as capital of Qing Dynasty.



Decorated Archway of Jingshan Park

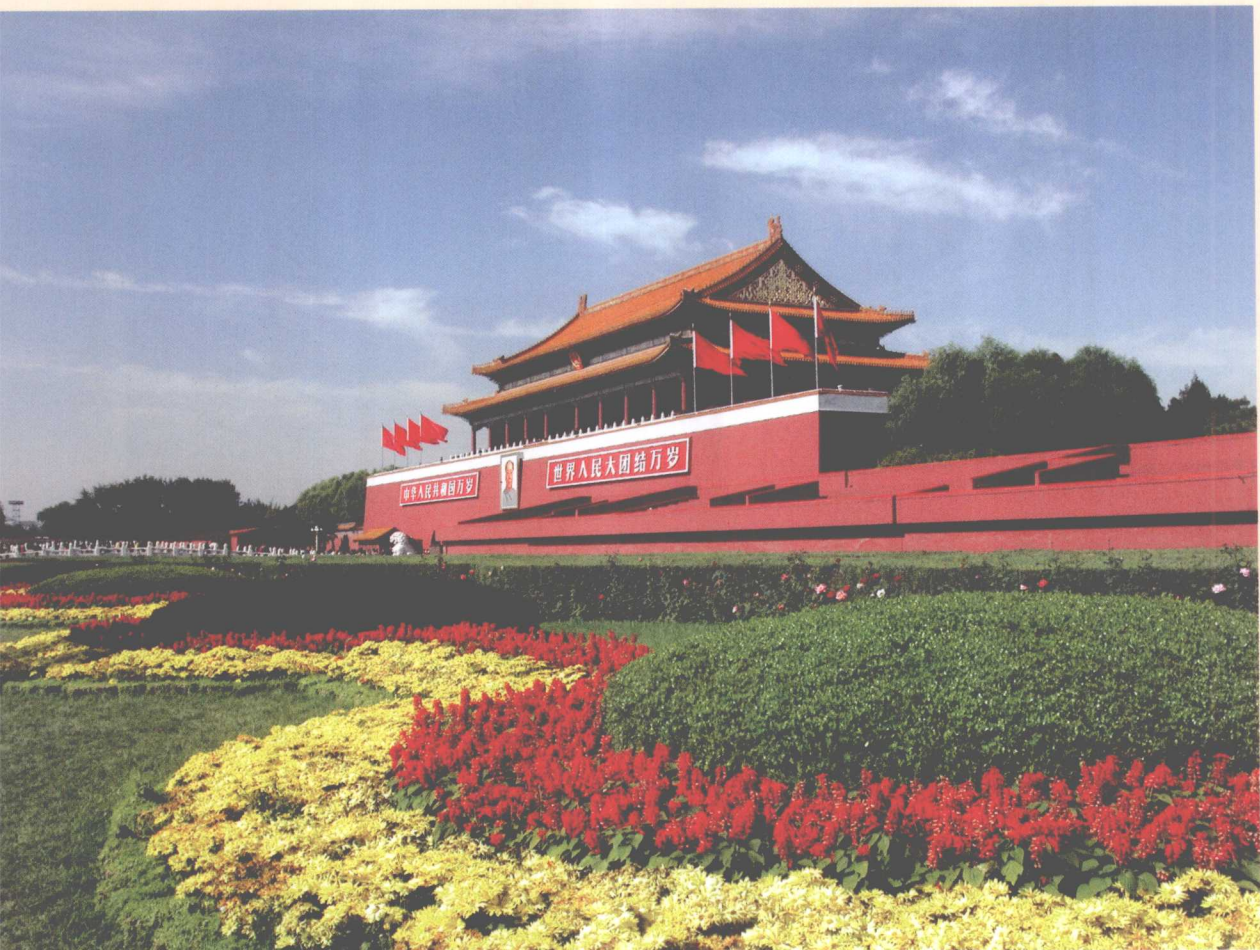
In 1911, the Revolution of 1911 led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, overthrew Qing Dynasty, and established the Republic of China and finished the feudalistic rule of China for more than 2000 years. In the early years of the Republic of China, Beijing was still the capital and renamed as Beiping After 1928.

The Spot Hanged Emperor Chongzhen by
Himself in the Jingshan Park

The names of Beijing in the
Different Period

- 6000 B.C. You
- 1045 B.C. Yan
- 475 B.C. Ji
- A.D. 938 Nanjing / Yanjing
- A.D. 1153 Zhongdu
- A.D. 1272 Dadu
- A.D. 1368 Beipingfu
- A.D. 1403 Shuntianfu / Beijing
- A.D. 1928 Beiping
- A.D. 1949 Beijing





Tian'an Men in Festival

On October 1, 1949, the People's Republic of China was declared its establishment here, Beijing has become the capital of the People's Republic of China, the old Beijing take on an entirely new looks. About the history of Beijing, there are relevant exhibitions in the newly-built the Capital Museum located in West Chang'an Street of Beijing.