

北京攬勝

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Beijing: Slimpses of History

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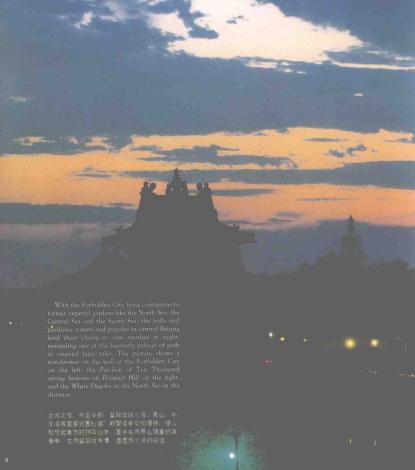
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A History of 3,000 Years —In lieu of Introduction

by Zhao Luo*

The earliest record of Beijing identifies the city as "ji", which means "thistle", a weedy plant with prickly leaves and purplish flowers. In the 11th century B.C. Ji was a vassal state of the Western Zhou Dynasty (C. 11th century-771 B.C.). In the ensuing period known as Spring and Autumn (770–476 B.C.), Ji was annexed by its formidable neighbour, Yan, another vassal state of Western Zhou located to the southwest of Ji. The city of Ji served as the capital for the state of Yan until 226 B.C., when Yan was conquered by the powerful state of Qin which unified the whole of China five years later. Archaeologists point out that the site of the ancient city of Ji lies most probably in the southwest suburbs of present-day Beijing.

The city acquired ever greater importance as one dynasty replaced another. Starting as the capital of an ancient vasal state, it eventually became the national capital of a great empire. This evolution can be explained by many factors, and one of them is geographical

Located in the northwest corner of the North China Plain, Beijing is protected by mountains on the north, the east and the west. To the south lies the extensive North China Plain. Goegraphers liken the big plain to

*The author of this article is Senior Editor and Editor-in-Chief of the Beijing Publishing House for Ancient Classices.—Ed. a sea and the small plain around Beijing to a gulf. The mountains on three sides of Beijing separate it from the Mongolia Plateau and the Northeast China Plain. In the old times these mountains served as natural barriers for the dynastic rulers of the Han Chinese to resist invasion by nomadic peoples from the north. However, the high and precipitous mountains have never been closed barriers. You can travel through them if you know how to use the zigzag and intertwined trails. An important mountain pass to the northeast of Beijing, known as Gubeikou, leads to the Northeast China Plain. Another one, lying to the northwest of the city and called Guangou, connects with the Mongolia Plateau. In peacetime the mountain passes and trails are used by merchants travelling between north and south. In wartime they acquire a strategic significance and become vital to the contestants.

For over 1,000 years, therefore, the city of Ji remained an important military stronghold and trade centre in North China in spite of more than a dozen dynastic changes. This was the situation from 221 B.C., the year of the founding of Qin, the first feudal empire with centralized power in China's history, to the 10th century. During this period, the city was

known as Zhuojun or Youzhou at different times, depending on the name of the region for which it served as the capital city.

In 938 the city of Ji was made the secondary capital of the Liao Dynasty founded by the Khitan people, an ethnic minority which had built up its power in Northeast China. It was also called the Southern Capital because of its location in the southern part of Liao territory. Under the Liao, the city acquired for the first time the name of Yanjing, which is still being used in the names of many commercial and other establishments in Beiling today.

More than a century later, the Jurchens, another ethnic minority in China, founded the Jin Dynasty, vanquished Liao, moved their capital to Yanjing in 1153, and renamed it Middle Capital. In 1214, under the attacks of the powerful Mongol army, the rulers of Jin moved their capital to Bianjing, i.e., Kaifeng in present-day Henan. The next year the Middle Capital of the Jin Dynasty fell under the iron hoofs of the Mongol cavalry.

In 1267 the Mongol ruler, Kublai Khan, gave orders for the construction of a new city to the northeast of the Middle Capital of the Jin Dynasty. Four years later,

he ascended the throne and founded the Yuan Dynasty (1271–1368) in the new capital which was still under construction. The project was completed in 1285. Given the name of Dadu (Great Capital), the city was described as "matchless in the world" by Marco Polo in his Travels. By then Beijing had replaced the other historical capital cities, including Chang'an, Luoyang and Bianliang, as China's political centre, a position it retained through two more dynasties, the Ming (1368–1644) and the Qing (1644–1911).

A republican revolution broke out on October 10, 1911, forcing the Qing emperor to abdicate in February the next year. This marked the collapse of the last feudal dynasty in China and also the end of Beijing's history as the imperial capital. The next thirty years and more witnessed the city's ordeal—harassment in the incessant wars among warlords, eight years of Japanese occupation from 1937 to 1945, and a return to Kuomintang rule in 1945.

On January 31, 1949, the peaceful liberation of the city was achieved by the People's Liberation Army through negotiations with the Kuomintang garrison authorities. On October 1 the same year, the founding of the People's Republic of China was announced from

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the gatetower of Tiananmen (the Gate of Heavenly Peace), and Beijing became its capital.

Today's Beijing has taken on many modern features. Increasing contact with the outside world and rapid commercialization of the economy in the past decade have resulted in the appearance of blocks of high rises, overpasses and ring roads, the last being the prototype of freeways. Some of the historical relics have disappeared in the process, such as most of the old city walls and the gorgeous archways at the intersections of business districts. Foreign visitors, particularly architects, complain against the demolition of these centuries-old structures. Shrugging their shoulders, city planners say that it couldn't be helped because of the need to cope with a growing volume of motor traffic.

In spite of the modern changes, the basic characteristics of the ancient capital are kept intact. Beijing used to be a set of four square cities with one placed inside another: the Outer City, the Inner City, the Imperial City and, finally, the Forbidden City. While the delineation of the first three is hardly visible, the Forbidden City remains what it has always been. From one of the towers in the Forbidden City you can still see the neat layout of old Beijing, with the Ancestral

Temple of the royal family placed to the left of the palace complex and the Altar of Land and Grain to its right," and with the Temple of Heaven in the south of the city, the Temple of Earth in the north, the Altar of the Sun in the east, and the Altar of the Moon in the west. If you take a stroll from your hotel, you may arrive in one of the street alleys lined by old-fashioned square courtyards, the homes of many local citizens. The former imperial gardens both inside and outside the city, the Great Wall snaking along the mountains in the north, the Thirteen Tombs of the Ming Dynasty in the northwest suburbs and the great number of temples and pagodas combine to make Beijing a big museum of history.

In the precent album, we will take you to the best-known historical sites in and around Beijing.

^{*}The Ancestral Temple of the royal family has become the Working People's Palace of Culture, and the Altar of Land and Grain, the Sun Yat-sen Park.—£d.

序篇

趙洛

在歐亞大陸的東部,有一座四四方方的域。域的四周 原來闡以高大堅固的轉物域變。四面對稱地開著十六個拱 形門訓,門洞之上是飛橋凌空的城樓。立於其上,可以遠 賊數十里之外。在城的中央至今仍兀立著一座、城中之城。 一一紫茅城。紫禁城的周圍是整齊如畦、經緯分明的街 巷。兩旁排列着商舖。民居。嘴曲的河流、美麗的圍苑。 莊殿神幻的古代祭瓊和寺廟。蜡落其間。使方宜中融入了 聚融州。賴整對稱中顯示出變化。這座城便是北京。 須、 添、幽州。南京、燕京、中都、大都、北平、則是它在各 個歷史時期的名稱。濃郁的東方色彩。恢宏的氣勢。悠遠 的歷史。使遠座城具有一種神奇的魅力。一位外國城市規 劃事家曾遠樣評價過它:"地球表面上人類最偉大的作品可 能是北京。

這"人類最偉大的作品"凝集着中華民族文化的精華、 是歷代匠師總延不斷地締造經營而成的。 爲這座城市奠定 第一塊基石的年代、可追溯到三千多年以前。

北京最早見於文獻的名稱叫做蓟。公元前十一世紀 時,薊國是統治中國北方的西周王朝的一個分封國。春秋 (公元前七七〇年——前四七六年)中期,位於薊國西南 面的另一個封圖燕,吞供了蓟,並遷都於薊城,從這時 起,直到公元前二二六年燕國被擬大的秦國所滅、薊城一 直是燕的鄰城。據考古學家考證,當年的薊城就在現北京

城區的西南部.

從虧城誕生到今日的北京,其間儘管朝代屢屢更迭, 城名也幾次變換,但是,這座城市却不斷發展,擴大,由 偏滔一個的封國都城,羅居爲中國幾代的赫赫帝都,其 或不奪的重要條件之一就是它所處的係屬的地類位置。

业立位於蕪北大平原的西北角, 這平原一角的西, 北 和東北三面, 叢山環抱; 南面與之相連的華北平原廣袤平 相, 微加稳油草面的海洋, 因此, 地理學家形象地將北京 所在的小平原稱爲"北京灣"。拱衛在"北京灣"三面的莽莽 袁山、 屬綠春崎、 高峻倫栗、 是權百在蒙古高原、東北平 原與北京之間的屏障。幾千年以前, 這道屏障曾是佔據中 原的漢族王朝防衛、抵禦北方游牧民族南下的天然防線。 然而语道防缐又前非全然封閉, 在那崇山峻嶺之中, 還有 一條條曲曲折折深邃的山谷。 其中最重要的兩條是關滯和 古北口, 它俩分别位於北京小平原的西北和東北, 經由這 兩條峽谷可抵達蒙古高原和東北平原, 山間的條條幽谷, 平時是南來北往的商旅必經的通道, 戰時是敵對雙方攻守 的要隘。而北京小平原上的薊城扼南北通道的咽喉, 形勢 十分險要。因此, 自公元前二二一年秦建立中國歷史上第 一個中央集權封建王國之後, 直至公元十世紀, 一千多年 間, 朝代更易十餘次, 但蓟城却始终是北方的軍事重鎮和 貿易中心。這其間又因它曾先後是涿郡和幽州的治所,所 以、涿郡和幽州也一度成爲它的名稱。

公元九三八年,薊城成馬遼的陪都。遼是繼起於中國東北方的少數民族契丹人建立的。因馬薊位於它所轄的疆域的南部,所以改稱南京、又叫燕京。一個多世紀以後、另一個少數民族女真人建立的金朝將遼域亡,並於一一五三年遷都燕京。改名中都。一二一四年、金朝因受到新第的蒙古族軍隊的進攻。被迫遷都汴京(今河南開封),第二年蒙古蘇麟 人佔中都。一二六七年,蒙古族首領忽必烈下令在中都城的東北郊築建新城。四年後這位首領即在興建中的都城內登上皇帝的寶座,建立了中國歷史上的元東等。就歷在遊記中稱之馬。進便是意大利旅行家馬识、近歷在遊記中稱之馬。世界莫能與比。的元大都。從此、北京取代了長安、洛陽、汴梁等古都的地位、成馬中國的政治中心、並至繼到明。清兩代。

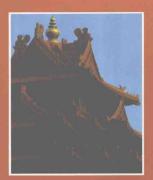
一九一一年十月十日,中國爆發了資產階級民主主義 革命,第二年二月清帝被迫宣告退位。至此,中國最後一 個封建王朝演亡,北京作馬帝郡的歷史到此結束。在此後 的三十多年里,北京歷經苦難:先是連年不斷的軍限戰 事,使當年的帝郡變得衰微破敗;一九三七年日本侵略軍 侵人,古城在血與火中苦煞了八年;抗日戰爭勝利後,國 民奮政府後管了這座城市。

苦難、屈辱、血淚,終於使人民起而抗爭。一九四九 年十月一日、中華人民共和國成立,北京成爲新生的共和 國的首都, 古城的歷史揭開了新的一頁。

歲月流逝,如今要重賭北京舊時的風貌和曾在這里出現過的那些歷史場景已不可能。但是,當人們置身於它的城區或四野,面對那些輔目皆是的歷史印痕,却感到也遠的過去並非無法追尋。一座默默樂立的古塔,往往延聚者一代藝術的精華;一塊苔峰斑数的塊石,或許記載看一件蠢動一時的壯舉;面對被焚毀的宮苑廢墟,猶如讀一部屆驛史;登上長城透過它的雖樂望蓋茫羣山,可以想見當年那"烽火運天遠,歲騎鏖戰急"的景象……北京城像一座宏大的歷史博物館,祇須在這裏作一次巡視。便能直接感輔到這座古城的歷史

今天的北京是歷史上北京的廷續和發展。它的空間佈 局依然保留着歷史的印跡。但是,在那雕樑畫樓的古建築 羣之間,無數的現代化樓蓴拔地而起;古意擋存的街巷與 環繞城內外的坦平大道相接,傳統的四合院與新型的住宅 區並存·····在這裏,過去與現在,歷史與現實,古老的傳 統與時代精神交融,凝凍在一起,使這座充滿濃重歷史文 化氣團的古城透出勃勃生機。

一座城市的歷史就是一個國家的歷史。作爲幾代帝都 和今日中國首都的北京是中國歷史和現狀的缩影。因此。 作一次"北京遊"不僅可以觀賞到一座保留較爲完整的古代 京城。而且可以觀察、瞭解中國。



The Palace Complex

宫闕

The palace complex known as the forbidden City stands in the centre of Beljing. It is protected by high walls and a moat on all four sides and consists of dozens of halls and courtyards. The emperors of two dynasties, the Ming and the Qing, lived here with their tramlies and hundreds of ourt ladies and palace eunuchs. From their throne in the Forbidden City they governed the country by holding court sessions with their ministers, issuing imperfal edicts and initiating military expeditions. Sometimes they gave oral tests to candidates for the highest academic degrees by asking them questions on the meaning of Confucian classics and soliciting their views on state policies.

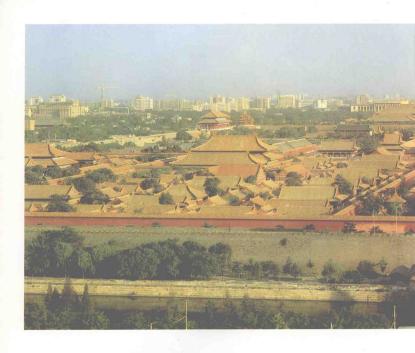
In Chinese the palace complex is called Purple Forbidden City. "Purple" doesn't refer to the colour of the buildings or walls, but has a mythodigical origin, it is said that the Emperor of Heaven has his palaces in the region of the North Star, of which purple is the symbolic colour. The abode of the temporal emperor, therefore, is supposed to have the same colour. The Purple Forbidden City was inaccessible to the common people. Even the highest civil and military officers could not enter it without pood reason.

The Forbidden City was completed in 1420 during the Ming Dynasty. It was the home of 24 emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties. Naturally it was the scene of many important events affecting the course of Chinese history including political struggles and palace coups, some of them extremely tragic. After the republican revolution of 1911, the last emperor of the Qing Oynasty, then still a child, abdicated the next year. But he and his family and their entire entourage were allowed to stay in the palaces and continued to lead an extravegant life on a huge allowance from the republican government. They were finally expelled by republican troops in 1924. The Forbidden City was renamed the Palace Museum and opened to the general public.

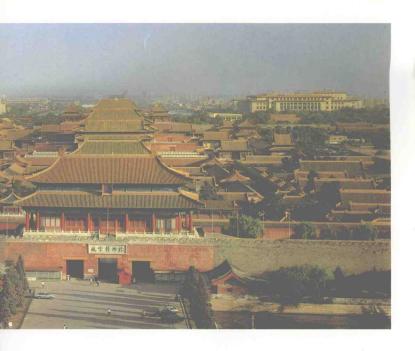
在北京城的中央有一組發帳準備的宮殿攀,四周環繞 確高大的羅垣、這便是明清兩代的帝王的寫室紫禁城,

古代神話傳說天帝住禁城垣, 人間帝王自歸是天帝之 子, 古人就把帝王的住所叫做紫宫, 皇宫是常人不能進人 的蘇地, 因此, 北京的宫城叫紫禁城,

北京繁禁城從公元一四二〇年建成到一九二四年中國 歷史上最後一個皇帝從宮内被逐出。這裏居住遇明清兩代 的二十四個皇帝。五百年間。許多影響中國歷史遺程。主 幸修萬人命運的重大決策都出自遭義。皇室中無數的政治 紛爭。權力較量和要壞哀艷的故事也發生在這裏。所有這 一切給據原其解補與的實際署上了一層掉極的產影。



Panorama of the Forbidden City, which occupies a total space of more than 720,000 square metres. The buildings in this palace complex are measured in 9,999.5 bays. The surrounding palace walls are 10 metres high and have a total length of 3,400 metres, and are pretected by a 52-metre-wide moat. The Forbidden City consists of two parts, the Outer Court and the Inner Court. The Outer Court centres around the Hall of Supreme Harmony, the Midway Hall of Harmony and the Hall of Preserved Harmony, which are flanked by the hall of Literary Glory and the Hall of Military Prowess. The Inner Court centres around the Hall of Celestrial Purity, the Hall of Union and Peace and the Hall of Terrestrial Tranquility, which are flanked by the Six East Palaces and the Six West Palaces. The layout is orderly and symmetrical. The picture shows the Forbidden City viewed from the north.



被稱爲"戰字之海"的紫禁城、總面積七十二萬多平方米、有戰字宫室九千九百九十九 間半。周圍環境書高十米、長三千四百米的宮牆、纏外有五十二米寬的護城河、紫禁 城分外廟和內廷兩大部份。外朝以太和、中和、保和三大殿爲中心。文華、武英殿爲 兩翼: 內廷以乾清宮、交泰殿、坤寧宮爲中心、東西六宮爲兩翼。佈局聽護有序、圖 爲由北向南陳遊樂崇城。

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