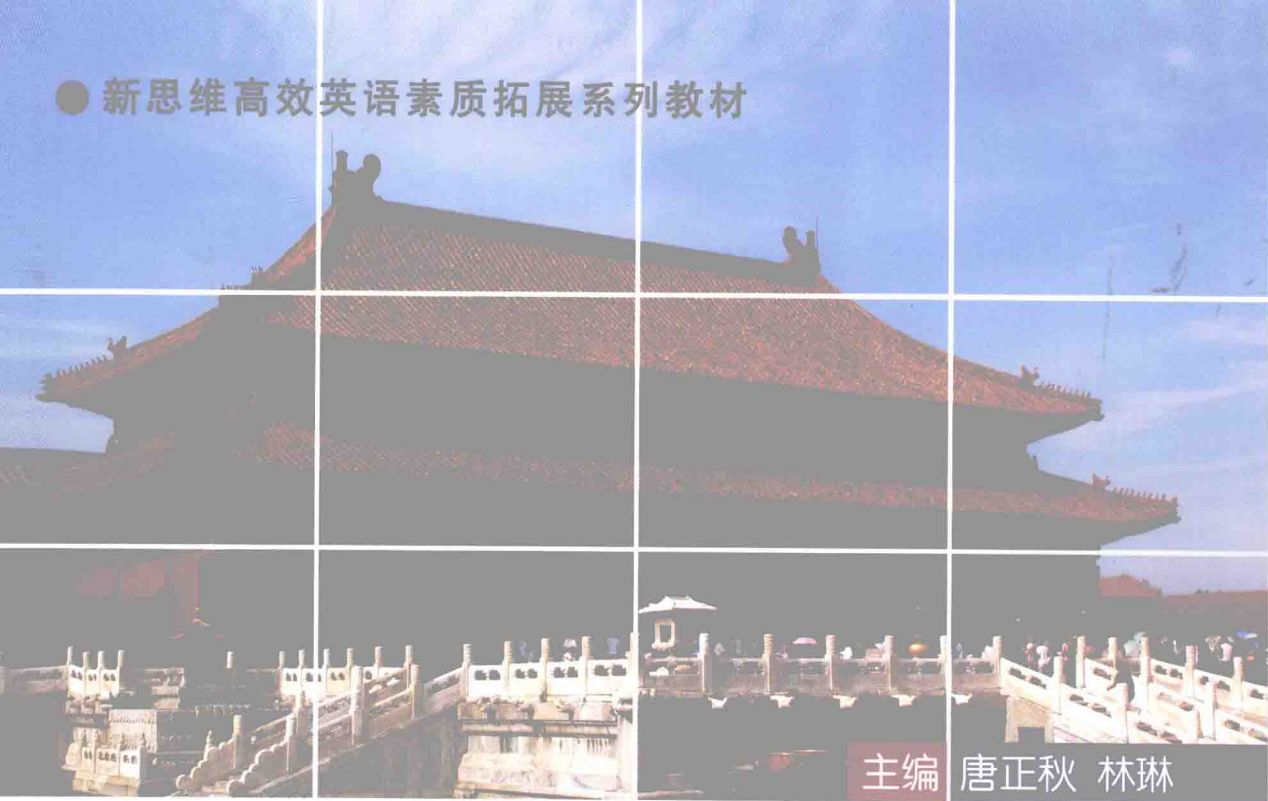


● 新思维高效英语素质拓展系列教材



主编 唐正秋 林琳

中国文化

A Guide to Chinese Culture (英文)
(English Edition)



大连理工大学出版社

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中国文化博大精深，拥有五千多年的辉煌历史，是人类文明宝库中的瑰宝。每一个中国人都会为自己祖国的灿烂文化而自豪。中国古代的文化在世界上产生过重要的影响，如儒家哲学，四大发明，茶、瓷器、丝绸，唐诗等等。在中国的国际地位和影响日益提高，全国人民同心同德，为实现民族复兴的伟大梦想而努力奋斗的今天，作为新中国的大学生，有责任和义务在对外交往中能用英语向对方介绍中国的文化。但令人遗憾的是，目前有不少大学生对祖国的历史、文化缺乏深入了解，他们的英语可能学得很好，过了四级、六级，甚至英语专业八级，对美国历史倒背如流，对西方文化如数家珍，但却无法用英语来表达和介绍自己祖国的历史文化，这不能不说是我们英语教育的一个重大缺失。为了弥补这个缺憾，我国一些高校在本世纪初着手，编写了一些有关中国文化的英文教材或读物出版。我本人也于2008~2010年间在广州中山大学四个校区开设了《中国文化简介》（英文）课程，最初没有固定的教材，只是在课堂上发讲义，并做成课件讲解，获得了很好的反响。这个课在2010年被列为中山大学素质教育项目课程后，我又在讲义的基础上编出一个初步的试用教材使用。到2013年，广州乃至全国好几所大学也筹划开设用英语介绍中国文化的课程并有意使用这个教材，于是我们召集有关的老师根据需要对这个教材做一些改编。时值大连理工大学出版社正在组编一套高等学校英语专业教材，他们对此书表示大力支持，于是便有了本书的出版。

和其他同类教材相比，本书主要内容和特色如下：

1. **内容更加丰富。**包括中国的地理、历史、哲学、宗教、文学、艺术、教育、科技、建筑、饮食、娱乐以及风俗民情等方方面面。
2. **侧重语言表达。**教学中不强调学术研究，而是侧重引导学生学习用英语表达中国的文化及事物。
3. **加入文化比较和译介知识。**在讲解中适当加入中外文化的比较和中国文化外译方面的情况。比如“四书五经”及“四大名著”的不同外文版本和译名；“梁山伯、

祝英台”与“罗密欧、朱丽叶”的比较；莎士比亚和汤显祖的比较，等等。

在教学中，希望老师要求学生积极参与，师生互动。课堂练习可分问答、小组讨论、翻译以及专题研讨（seminar）等形式。

本书编写过程中，也参考借鉴了不少作者的著作和观点，在此我们表示衷心感谢。

由于编纂工作浩繁，失误之处在所难免，请专家和读者不吝指正。

唐正秋

2013年5月

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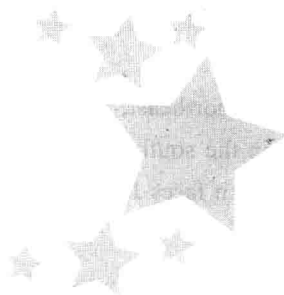
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—— Part One ——

An Overview of China



Chapter 1

The Land and the People

Section 1 Geography

The People's Republic of China is situated in eastern Asia on the western shore of the Pacific Ocean, with an area of 9.6 million square kilometers. It is the third largest country in the world, ranking after Russia and Canada; its continental coastline extends about 18,000 kilometers, and its vast sea surface is dotted with (分布着) more than 5,000 islands, of which Taiwan and Hainan are the largest two ones.

China is bordered by Korea in the northeast; Russia and Mongolia in the north; Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and India in the southwest; and Burma, Laos and Vietnam in the south. Across the sea to the east and southeast it faces Japan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei (文莱) and Indonesia.

China's land drops off in escarpments (急斜面) eastward to the ocean, letting in humid air current and leading many rivers eastward. Among the rivers totaling 220,000 kilometers in length in China, the Changjiang (Yangtze) and the Huanghe (Yellow) are world-known.

China has a beautiful scenery, with mountains and ranges, highlands, plains, basins, and hills. The highlands and hill regions account for 65 percent of the country's total land mass, and there are more than 2,000 lakes. The highest mountain peak Qomolangma, 8,848 meters above sea level, is the highest in the world; the lowest point is the Turpan Basin, 154 meters below sea level.

From north to south, the territory of China measures some 5,500 kilometers, stretching from the center of the Heilongjiang River north of the town of Mohe to the Zengmu Reef at the southernmost tip of the Nansha Islands. When north China is still covered with snow, people in south China are busy with spring plowing. From west to east, the country extends about 5,200 kilometers from the Pamirs to the confluence (汇流处) of the Heilongjiang and Wusuli rivers, with a time difference of over four hours. China has 22,800-kilometer long land borders. The Chinese mainland is flanked to the east and south by the Bohai, Yellow, East China and South China seas, with a total maritime area of 4.73 million square kilometers.

An integrated territory, a tidy shape, plus a combination of inlands and islands, constitute an important characteristic of Chinese territory. The integrated territory is advantageous to national defense, while numerous islands are advantageous to the exploration of ocean and international exchange.

Section 2 Climate and Resources

China enjoys a superior geographical position. Located in East Asia, on the western shore of the Pacific Ocean, China faces the ocean in the southeast and stretches to the Asian inland in the northwest. Most of the national territory is distributed at middle latitude. It is thus characterized by a continental climate. The latitude spans nearly 50 degrees. The greater part of Chinese territory is situated in the Temperate Zone, its southern part in the tropical and subtropical zones, and its northern part near the Frigid Zone. Temperatures differ therefore rather strikingly across the country. The northern part of Heilongjiang Province has long winters but no summers; while the Hainan Island has long summers but no winters. The Huaihe River valley is marked by distinctive seasonal changes, but it is spring all year round in the south of the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau. Within the northwest hinterland (内地), the temperature changes dramatically. China high tundra zone (冻土带, 冻土高原) is situated in the Qinghai-Tibet, where the temperature is low in all four seasons. Some desert areas are dry all year round. However, as a result of global warming, the climate is changing in some parts of China, especially in the north.

China abounds in natural resources. It leads the world in many proven mineral deposits. No country in the world boasts more wildlife than China, many of which are native to China, such as the giant panda, the Chinese river dolphin (白鳍豚), and the Chinese alligator (扬子鳄); China's dawn redwood (水杉) and Cathaya argyrophylla (银杉) are known as the living fossils of ancient plants.

To protect the nation's native animals and plants, especially the endangered species, China has established more than 700 nature reserves.

Section 3 The Capital

Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China. It is not only the nation's political centre, but also its economic, cultural, scientific and educational heart and a key transportation hub. Beijing has served as a capital for more than 800 years. The city has many places of historic interest and scenic beauty, including the imperial Palace (also known as the Forbidden City), the largest and best-preserved ancient architectural complex in the world; the Temple of Heaven, where Ming and Qing emperors performed solemn rituals for bountiful harvests; the Summer Palace, the emperors' magnificent garden retreat; the Ming tombs, the stately and majestic mausoleums of 13 Ming Dynasty emperors; and the world-renowned and genuinely inspiring Badaling section of the Great Wall. Large-scale construction since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 has brought great changes to Beijing. Today's Beijing still retains the alluring fascination of an ancient capital, but has added a small forest of skyscrapers and a complete range of municipal facilities, transforming itself into an attractively modern metropolis redolent of (令人回忆或联想的) history.

Section 4 The National Flag, Emblem and Anthem

The National Flag of the People's Republic of China is red in color, rectangular in shape, with five stars on it. The proportion between the length and height of the flag is three to two. The five five-pointed yellow stars are located in the upper left corner. One of them, which is bigger, appears on the left, while the other four hem it in on the right.

The red color of the flag symbolizes revolution and the yellow color of the Stars symbolizes the golden brilliant rays radiating from the vast red land. The design of four smaller stars surrounding a bigger one signifies the unity of the Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The National Emblem of the People's Republic of China is Tiananmen in the center illuminated by five stars and encircled by ears of grain and a cogwheel. The ears of grain, stars, Tiananmen and cogwheel are painted golden, and the inner part of the circle and hanging ribbons are painted red because these two colors are traditional Chinese colors representing auspiciousness (吉祥) and happiness. Tiananmen symbolizes the unyielding national spirit of the Chinese people in their fight against imperialism and feudalism; the ears of grain and cogwheel represent the working class and the peasantry; and the five stars stand for the great unity of the Chinese people under the leadership of the CPC.

The National Anthem was created in 1935, the lyrics were written by Tian Han, and the music by Nie Er. Originally named March of the Volunteers, it is the theme song of the film *Young Heroes and Heroines in Stormy Years* (《风云儿女》). The film describes the people who went to the front to fight against the invaders in the 1930s when Japan invaded northeast China and the fate of the Chinese nation was hanging in the balance.

The lyrics are as follows:

**Arise, you who refuse to be slaves,
with our flesh and blood.
Let us build our new Great Wall.
The Chinese nation has come to the time of greatest danger.
Every person must join in the ultimate cry:
Arise! Arise! Arise!
The masses are of one mind,
Brave the enemy's gunfire,
March on!
Brave the enemy's gunfire,
March on! March on! March on! on!**
(Tr. Ed Peaslee 1999)

March of the Volunteers, inspiring and forceful, expresses the determination of the Chinese people to sacrifice themselves for national liberation, and their fine tradition of bravery, firmness and unity in their fight against aggression. It was for this reason that the CPPCC (Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference) on September 27, 1949 decided to adopt the song as the national anthem of the People's Republic of China, and the National People's Congress on December 4, 1952 officially decided to adopt the song as the national anthem of the People's Republic of China.

Section 5 Administrative Divisions

China is divided into 23 provinces, five autonomous regions, four municipalities under the direct jurisdiction of the Central Government, and two special administrative regions. The 23 provinces are Hebei, Shaanxi, Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Shanxi, Guangdong, Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan, Anhui, Fujian, Gansu, Qinghai, Shandong, Henan, Hunan, Hubei, Jiangxi, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Taiwan and Hainan; The five autonomous regions are Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Xinjiang, Guangxi, and Tibet; The four municipalities are Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, and Chongqing; Hong Kong and Macau are the two special administrative regions.

Section 6 Nationalities and Population

China, as the world's most populous country, has a population exceeding 1.3 billion, which makes up 22 percent of the world total. China is a multiracial country with 56 ethnic groups. The largest group, the Han, makes up over 91.59% of China's vast population, and the world uses the term of Han culture to refer to Chinese culture. The other 55 minority ethnic groups, nestling away in China's vast frontiers, maintain their own rich traditions and customs. Great contributions have been made by the minority ethnic groups to China's culture and science. Many of China's beautiful poems, myths, folk tales, songs, and dances come directly from minority ethnic groups.

Han Nationality

As mentioned before, the Han nationality is the largest among the 56 nationalities in China, making up about 92 percent of the total population.

The Han people are found in all parts of the country, but mainly in the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River, the Yangtze River, and the Pearl River as well as the Songliao Plains.

The Han nationality has its own spoken and written languages, known as the Chinese language, which belongs to the Chinese-Tibetan language family. It is commonly used nowadays throughout China and is one of the working languages of the United Nations. The Chinese language has a history

of four thousand years, originating from pictograph. Traditionally, agriculture was the Hans' main occupation. Agriculture provided the nation's basic wealth and was highly advanced, especially in irrigation and intensive farming. There was also a high level of handicraft production, such as bronze, silk, porcelain, architecture and painting. The Han culture belongs to the world's oldest civilizations, boasting a lot of outstanding achievements in many fields including politics, military affairs, philosophy, literature, history, art and natural science, etc. The rich Han culture has given birth to many notable scientists, philosophers, artists and poets who, as the nation's elite, have had great impact on the course of Chinese history. China's four great inventions — compass, papermaking, printing and gunpowder — have exerted great influence on the history of human development.

In Han culture, Confucianism, the oldest form of Chinese religion whose concepts and teachings have dominated the Chinese ruling class as well as intellectuals for the last two thousand years, is a philosophy rather than a religion. Ancestor worship is widely practiced across the entire country; although it has been simplified in modern times, it never fades away from the Chinese community. Buddhism is the most popular form of Chinese religion. Since its introduction in 400 AD, Buddhism has slipped into and occupies every aspect of the Chinese lifestyle. Daoism, named national religion, originated in the Han Dynasty, but is not widely accepted. Additionally, there is an increasing number of Chinese who practice Christianity and Islamism.

The appellation (称谓) of “Han” originated from the Han Dynasty during the 2nd and 3rd centuries, the first prosperous Dynasty of Chinese history after Qin unified China. It continues to be the majority population in China, merged with many different tribal clans like the Yi (夷), Rong (戎), Di (狄) and Man (蛮). Before that, the people were called “Huaxia” (华夏).

The earliest Han people can be traced to the Huaxia tribe, who originally settled in the middle area of the Yellow River. The legendary leader of the Huaxia tribe was Huang Di (黄帝) (Emperor Yellow). The Chinese refer to themselves as the descendants of Huang Di, and describe the Yellow River as the cradle of their civilization development.

National Minorities

