

TRACING THE SOURCE OF
THE LIAOHE RIVER CIVILIZATION:
The Formative Period Of
Chinese Civilization



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— 中华文明起源展



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致 辞

中华文明是世界上最古老的文明之一，辽河流域则是中华文明的重要发源地。辽河流域早期文明的发生、发展历程是研究中华文明演进的重要内容，也是学术界非常关注的重大课题。作为“中华文明探源工程”的一部分，研究辽河流域早期文明的起源和发展，以及对中华文明形成的影响，可以让我们更深层次地认知中华文明的本质。

辽河流域的文明因素可以追溯到万年以前。在距今8000年前已经出现了龙的形象和成熟的玉器。红山文化的“坛、庙、冢”宗教礼仪性建筑群显示距今5000年前这一区域的社会组织已具有国家的雏形。以夏家店下层文化为代表的辽河流域古文化更是中华文明建设过程中积极、活跃的因素，为中华文明的发展作出了重大贡献。

为迎接2011年5·18国际博物馆日，在国家文物局的指导下，“辽河寻根 文明溯源——中华文明起源展”的举办，不仅能让大众更好地理解中华文明的形成历程，也是辽河流域史前文明研究工作成果的总结和汇报。通过一系列考古发现和出土文物的全方位展示，运用先进的陈列展示手段，引导人们以多

元的视角和层面感知辽河流域早期文明独具特色的文化内涵。

展览是文化交流与传播的重要媒介，本次展览为更多的人们打开了认识辽宁、了解辽宁的窗口，辽宁悠久灿烂的历史文化会给海内外的朋友带来非同以往的感受。也为辽宁人提供了了解家乡历史、感悟家乡文化的平台，生长在母亲河——辽河流域的父老乡亲会为家乡深厚精彩的文化积淀而感到自豪，也必然会增强建设家乡、振兴老工业基地的责任感与使命感。

本次展览是年度辽宁文化建设的一件盛举，相信对弘扬中华民族优秀历史文化遗产，推动辽宁文化强省建设，繁荣发展社会主义先进文化，产生重要的推动作用。

在此向给予本次展览以鼎力支持的国家文物局和有关单位表示衷心的感谢！向为筹展工作付出辛勤劳动的各位同志表示诚挚的敬意！预祝展览圆满成功！

辽宁省副省长

滕卫平

2011年5月

Address

Chinese Civilization is one of the earliest civilizations in the world, and then the Liaohe River Valley is an important place for the formation of Chinese Civilization. The birth and development of the early Liaohe River Civilization are essential content of the research on the evolution of Chinese Civilization. It is also an issue of great importance that has drawn greater scholarly attention. As part of *the Tracing Source Project of Chinese Civilization*, a comprehensive study of the origin, development and influence of the early Liaohe River Civilization makes it possible to cognize the essence of Chinese Civilization.

Some civilization elements rooted in the Liaohe River Valley ten thousand years ago. About 8000 years ago, images of dragon and highly skilled jade carvings had emerged in this area. Ritual buildings of the Hongshan Culture including “altar, temple and barrows” indicate that an ancient country appeared here in an embryonic form as early as 5000 years ago. The ancient culture in the valley represented by the lower-layered Xiajiadian Culture took a more positive and dynamic role in the constructed process of Chinese Civilization, and also was a great contribution to the development of this civilization.

At the time of the 5·18 International Museum Day in 2011, under the guide of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China, the opening of *Tracing the Source of the Liaohe River Civilization: the Formative Period of Chinese Civilization*, can be regarded as a systematic generation and report on the research of prehistoric civilization in the Liaohe River Valley. It also provides people with guided information to comprehend the development of Chinese Civilization. Through a series

of archeological discoveries, unearthed relics and innovative ways of display, the exhibition aims at leading visitors from different perspectives to experience unique characteristics of this early civilization.

Exhibition is taken as an important medium of cultural communication and propagation. The exhibition opens up a prospect for people to have insight into Liaoning. With its aid the long history and wonderful culture of Liaoning will bring entirely new experiences to people inside and outside China. And also it offers the people of Liaoning the opportunity to acquaint themselves with local history. Fellow countrymen living in the Liaohe River Valley will take a genuine pride in profound inertia of their native culture, and will increase the sense of responsibility and mission to build their native place and revitalize the old industrial base.

As a great undertaking for the cultural construction of Liaoning, it is believed that this exhibition is of historical significance to preserve and develop the cultural heritage of Chinese nation, promote the cultural power of Liaoning Province, and boost the socialist cultural prosperity.

We would like to take this opportunity to offer our warmest thanks to the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China and other relevant institutions for their generous support. We also pay our great devoirs to the people who worked assiduously on this project. Wish the exhibition complete success!

Teng Weiping
Deputy Governor, Liaoning Province
May, 2011

序

中华文明是世界上最重要的历史悠久、独具特色的原生文明之一，她汇聚华夏等各民族的优秀文化，逐渐成长、壮大，至今仍然生机勃勃、从未中断，是中华民族生生不息的精神源泉。探寻中华文明的源头是中外学界和每个中华儿女热切关注的焦点，经过历代考古学家，及其他人文科学家和自然科学家的努力，至20世纪80年代，关于中华文明起源的研究已取得了许多重要成果，但仍然存在大量有待解决的问题。

自2001年起，在科技部和国家文物局等有关部委的组织实施下，开始了多学科联合攻关的“中华文明探源工程”，以充分揭示早期中华文明的丰富内涵，回答中华文明形成的时间、地域、过程、原因和机制等基本问题。并探讨中华文明与周边地区文明化进程的互动关系，通过与世界其他古代文明的比较研究，总结早期中华文明的特点及其在人类文明发展史上的地位。

辽河文明的研究是“中华文明探源工程”的重要组成部分。辽河流域是我国中原接连东北乃至东北亚的重要桥梁和纽带，是中华文明的重要发源地之一。20世纪80年代以来辽河流域一批重大考古发现表明，辽河流域作为我国东北古文化发展的重心和中原与东北相接触的前沿地区，有着悠久的历史 and 独具特色的自成谱系的考古学文化。早在距今8000年前这里就存在着具有中国最早玉器的兴隆洼文化。该文化于距今7000年转变为赵宝沟文化。这里的红山文化，也于距今7000年前期偏后出现，距今5000年晚期，红山文化转入晚期阶段，有专家认为当时已进入文明时代。位于辽西山区牛河梁的红山文化晚期祭祀中心，是5000年前古国的象征。以后又经历了以夏家店下层文化为代表的方国时代，最

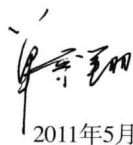
终汇入统一多民族的秦汉帝国。辽河流域文明的形成和发展，是中华文明起源多源性的生动体现，也反映出辽河流域在中华文明形成过程中的重要地位和作用。

“中华文明探源工程”的重要工作之一就是及时展示、准确宣传研究成果，促进研究成果的社会化应用。2009年，国家文物局会同有关部门在京举办了“早期中国——中华文明起源展”，是我国第一次以展览的形式向社会公众宣传、展示中华文明的起源历程，展览取得了圆满成功。在此基础上，国家文物局继续会同有关省份和部门举办该主题的一系列展览，在整体介绍中华文明起源研究成果的同时，有重点地介绍早期文明相关地域的发展历程，通过展览进一步告诉大家，多元中存在着相互关联，即多元一体，从多元走向统一，统一中又有多元，是中华文明的活力和魅力所在。

“辽河寻根 文明溯源——中华文明起源展”，通过辽河流域出土和相关的大量珍贵文物，展示辽河流域由古国一方国一帝国的文明起源与发展历程，旨在让广大观众了解和认识辽河流域独具特色的早期文明及在中华文明起源中的地位和作用，了解我国悠久灿烂、多元并蓄的文化传统。

值此，向创造不朽文明的中华民族先辈们，向竭尽全力保护辽河流域文化遗产的同事们，致以崇高的敬意。

国家文物局局长



2011年5月

Preface

Chinese civilization is one of primordial civilizations with a long history and unique characteristics in the world. As a complex of excellent cultures of various nationalities, it has expanded steadily and is still full of vigor and self-renewing. The civilization, taken as the headspring of ethos, is indispensable to rejuvenate the Chinese nation. The issue of tracing the source of Chinese civilization has become a worldwide attention of the academia and the public. Owing to unremitting efforts of archeologists, natural scientists and humanists, by the eighth decade of the twentieth century, the research regarding the origins of Chinese civilization has acquired fruitful results, but there are still some unsettled problems that need to be solved.

Since 2001, scholars of many disciplines have made joint efforts to tackle *the Tracing Source Project of Chinese Civilization* that organized by the Ministry of Science, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China and relevant ministries and commissions. The project aims at exploring the rich connotation of early Chinese civilization and revealing the time, region, process, cause and mechanism of its formation. It also probes the interactive relationship between Chinese civilization and surrounding civilizations, studies comparatively with other ancient civilizations all over the world, and summaries the features of early Chinese civilization and its position in the development of human civilization.

The study of the Liaohe River Civilization is an essential part of *the Tracing Source Project of Chinese Civilization*. The Liaohe River Valley, as one of important places for the formation of Chinese civilization, has been a vital link between the Central Plains and northeast China as well as Northeastern Asia. Since the 1980s, a series of archeological discoveries in the Liaohe River Valley indicate that this area, as a center of ancient cultural development in northeast China and a frontier joining the Central Plains and the Northeast, has a long history and distinctive archeological culture with its own genealogical system. As early as 8000 years, the Xinglongwa Culture with the earliest jades of China had emerged here. It then changed into the Zhaobaogou Culture around 7000 years ago. The Hongshan Culture of this region had its beginning in about 7000 years ago and came to the late period from about 5000 years ago. Some experts thought that the culture at that time had entered the stage of civilization. The ritual center placed at Niuheliang in the mountains of Liaoxi is regarded as a symbol of *Guguo* (Primitive State, ca.5000 years ago). After going through the stage of *Fanguo* (Regional State) represented by the lower-layered Xiajiadian Culture, the region

was finally merged into the unitary multinational Qin-Han Empire. The formation and development of the Liaohe River Civilization presents vividly the multivariate characteristic of the origins of Chinese civilization. It also reflects that this valley took an important role for the formation of Chinese civilization.

Displaying and propagating the results of research, and promoting their social application have been seen as one of important tasks for carrying out *the Tracing Source Project of Chinese Civilization*. In 2009, *Early China: the Formative Period of Chinese Civilization* was sponsored by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China and other organizations. It was the first time to show the illustrious accomplishment of the formative period of Chinese civilization in the form of exhibition in China. The exhibition was crowned with success. Thus the State Administration of Cultural Heritage with relevant provinces and departments decided to hold continuously a series of exhibitions on such topic. Both a comprehensive introduction to the results of research on the origins of Chinese civilization, and a detailed exploration of the developing process of early civilizations in related areas, the exhibition is an attempt to display the multivariate and unified rule of the formation and development of Chinese civilization. Certainly it is where the vigorous and charming character of this civilization lies.

Tracing the Source of the Liaohe River Civilization: the Formative Period of Chinese Civilization, with large quantities of cultural relics unearthed from the Liaohe River Valley, embodies a process of birth and development that transformed the Liaohe River Valley from *Guguo* through *Fangguo* into the Empire. This exhibition will be accessible from visitor's prospective to comprehend fully the feature, position and role of this early civilization during the shaping of Chinese civilization, and also to have insight into the splendid and multilayered tradition of Chinese culture.

We would like to express deep appreciation to the predecessors of Chinese nation, the creators of remarkable civilization. Our gratitude is extended also to the many people who give wholehearted support for preserving cultural heritage of the Liaohe River Valley.

Shan Jixiang

Director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China

May, 2011