

Wang Jienan

ZHENG HE'S VOYAGES TO THE 郑和下西洋 WESTERN OCEANS

ROADS TO THE WORLD

王介南 著



辽海传播出版社

China Intercontinental Press

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Translated by Ego



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·周黎明 (美) 李莎 (加) 威廉·林赛 (英)

主编：荆孝敏 邓锦辉

著者：王介南

翻译：Ego

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Contents 目 录

Foreword 4

I. Sanbao Eunuch Zheng He 8

II. Seven voyages to western oceans 24

III. Zheng He's fleet 98

IV. Sino-foreign cultural exchanges on an
unprecedented scale 118

前 言 6

1. 三宝太监郑和 9

2. 七下西洋 25

3. 郑和船队 99

4. 规模空前的中外文化交流 119

FOREWORD

It has been a long and exciting history of tremendous cultural exchange between China and other countries. In terms of culture, economy, ideology, and personnel, these exchanges between China and other countries can be dated back to the times of Qin and Han dynasties—directly or indirectly, by land or sea. The long-term and multi-faceted cultural exchange helps the world to understand more about China and the rest of the world, enriching the common wealth of mankind—both materially and spiritually.

The book series entitled *Roads to the World* offers the most splendid stories in the entire history of Sino-foreign cultural exchange. We hereby offer them to foreign students learning the Chinese language, and to foreign readers who have a keen interest in Chinese culture. These stories depict important personalities, events, and phenomena in various fields of cultural exchange between China and other nations, and among different peoples. By reading the books, you may understand China and Chinese civilization profoundly,

and the close link between Chinese civilization and other civilizations of the world. The books highlight the efforts and contributions of Chinese people and Chinese civilization in the world's cultural interchange. They reflect mankind's common spiritual pursuit and the orientation of values.

This book tells the story of Zheng He's seven voyages to the western oceans. Zheng He is a Chinese navigator of the Ming Dynasty, who led a massive fleet and visited more than 30 countries and regions on the coast of the West Pacific and the Indian Ocean from 1405 to 1433, half a century prior to the inception of the Great Era of Navigation in Europe. His voyages strengthened the friendly relations between China and the Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Asia, and East African nations in the Ming Dynasty, and conducted unprecedented economic and cultural exchanges, achieving a host of win-win results.

前 言

中国与其他国家、民族之间的文化交流具有悠久而曲折的历史。在中国与外国之间，通过间接的和直接的、陆路的和海路的、有形的和无形的多种渠道，各种文化、经济、思想、人员方面的交流，可以上溯至秦汉时代，下及于当今社会。长期的、多方面的交流，增进了中国与其他国家、民族之间的了解，使人类的共同财富（物质的和精神的）更加丰富。

中外文化交流故事丛书（Roads to the World）的宗旨，是从中外文化交流的历史长河中，选择那些最璀璨的明珠，通过讲故事的方式，介绍给学习汉语的外国学生和对中国文化感兴趣的外国读者。这些故事描述中国与其他国家、民族在各个领域文化交流中的重要人物、事件和现象，以使外国读者能够更深入地理解中国，理解中国文明，理解中国文明与其他各文明之间的密切关系，以及中国人和中国文明在这种交流

过程中所作出的努力和贡献，并尽力彰显人类共同的精神追求与价值取向。

本书讲述的是中国明代航海家郑和率领船队七次下西洋的故事。1405—1433年，在欧洲大航海时代到来的半个多世纪之前，郑和先后七次率领庞大的船队访问了西太平洋和印度洋沿岸的30多个国家和地区，加深了明代中国与东南亚、南亚、西亚、东非地区国家之间的友好关系，开展了规模空前的经济文化交流，取得了双赢的效果。

I

Sanbao Eunuch Zheng He

Zheng He (1371–1433) was an outstanding politician and world-renowned navigator. With an aim to establish and develop the friendly ties and economic and cultural exchange between China and overseas countries, Zheng He led 100 vessels and more than 27,000 officials and soldiers to visit more than 30 countries and regions in Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Asia and East Africa through seven trip in a period of 28 years between 1405 to 1433 under the orders of Emperor Yongle during the Ming Dynasty (Yongle was on the throne from 1403–1424). The fleet departed from Nanjing, the capital of the Ming Dynasty. It launched from the Liujiagang Port in Suzhou, sailed past the South China Sea, the Strait of Malacca, the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea and reached coasts in East Africa. All told, it navigated 160,000 sea miles. It established peaceful and friendly relationships with the countries and regions visited, carried out economic and cultural exchanges and received warm welcomes and hospitality

1

三宝太监郑和



郑和（1371—1433）是中国历史上杰出的外交家和世界历史上名闻遐迩的航海家。为了恢复和发展中国与海外诸国的友好关系和经济文化往来，他奉明朝永乐皇帝（1403—1424年在位）之命，从1405年至1433年的28年间，连续七次出访西洋。他从明朝京师南京启程，在苏州刘家港整队出航，云帆高张，昼夜星驰，际天而行，过南海，穿马六甲海峡，渡印度洋，经波斯湾，达红海，到东非海岸。航程总计16万海里，遍访东南亚、南亚、西亚和东非30多个国家和地区，与所访国家和地区建立和平友好关系，开展经济文化交流，

from people in more than 30 countries in Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Asia and East Africa. Zheng He's voyages to the western oceans were a miracle in the history of navigation the huge ships involved, the massive number of sailors, the sheer scale, long distances and time spent at sea. The voyages are also a splendid chapter in the peaceful diplomatic activities of ancient China for the deep and friendly ties established, broad economic and trade exchanges and prosperous cultural blends it accomplished. Zheng He defeated risks associated with sailing in his era with exquisite navigation skills. He is regarded as one of the 30 most influential explorers of the past 1,000 years.

The goals of Zheng He's voyages to the western oceans were opening, exchange and development—including the development of Chinese and foreign politics, economy and culture via opening and exchanges. Zheng He's voyages to the western oceans brought mutual benefits to Ming Dynasty China and Asian and African countries, enhanced bilateral friendships, developed Sino-foreign ocean shipping and international trade, promoted the prosperity of the Silk Road at Sea and resulted in Chinese and foreign exchanges of unprecedented scale.

Zheng He's voyages to the western oceans were a splendid chapter not only in history of marine navigation in China but also the world. They have been confirmed and warmly praised by Chinese people. In his *Biography of the Grand Navigator Zheng He*, Liang Qichao (1873-1929),

受到亚非国家人民的热烈欢迎和盛情款待。郑和的航海活动，以船舶之巨、船员之众、规模之大、航程之长、历时之久，创造了世界航海史上的奇迹；以友好交往之深、经贸往来之广、文化交融之盛，造就了中国古代和平外交的辉煌。郑和以其精湛的航海技术战胜了帆船时代的海上风险，被誉为“过去1000年间最具历史影响的30位世界探险家之一”。

郑和下西洋这一盛举的本质是开放、交流和发展；发展中外政治、经济和文化是目的，开放与交流是手段。郑和下西洋取得了明代中国与亚非国家双赢的效果，在政治外交方面增进了双边的传统友谊，经济方面发展了中外远洋国际贸易，促进了海上丝绸之路的繁荣，文化方面展开了空前规模的中外文化交流。

郑和下西洋不但在中国航海史上写下了光辉的一页，而且在世界航海史上谱写了灿烂的篇章，因而受到中国人民的充分肯定和热情赞颂。近代中国启蒙思想家梁启超（1873—1929）在《祖国大航海家郑和传》中说：“反观郑君，则全世界历史上所号称航海伟人，能与比肩者，何其寡也。”中国民主革命先行者孙中山先生（1866—1925）在《建国方略》

an enlightenment ideologist in modern China wrote: "Only few number of grand navigators in the history of the world can match Zheng He." Sun Yat-sen (1866–1925), the driver of the Chinese democratic revolution, praised Zheng He's voyages to the western oceans highly as "a miracle in the history and future of China" in his book *The International Development of China*. Zheng He's voyages to the western oceans also received high praise and a great deal of attention from scholars of all countries. J.J.L.Duyrendak (1889–1954) in the Netherlands described the voyages as "great sea trips of the Chinese people in early 15th century." Joseph Needham (1900–1995) from the U.K. praised the voyages as the greatest navigation ventures in Chinese history. Terada Takanobu (1931–) from Japan says: "the voyages completed by Zheng He were really a great undertaking. They were not only the biggest offshore activity in the history of China, but also the largest one among similar undertakings completed by human beings till early 15th century. The voyages started in the so-called Great Era of Navigation dozens of years later paled by comparison with Zheng He's voyages to the western oceans." Zheng He's voyages to the western oceans started in 1405, 87 years earlier than Christopher Columbus' (1451–1506) arrival in America in 1492, 83 years earlier than Bartholomeu Dias' (1455–1500) crossing the Cape of Good Hope in 1488, 92 years earlier than Vasco da Gama's (1469–1524) arrival in Calicut, India, in 1497, and 114 years before Ferdinand Magellan (1480–1521)

中，赞扬郑和下西洋“为中国超前轶后之奇举”。与此同时，郑和下西洋也受到各国学者的高度重视和盛情赞扬。荷兰的戴文达（J.J.L.Duyrendak，1889—1954）说它是“15世纪初中国人伟大的海上航行”。英国的李约瑟（Joseph Needham，1900—1995）称赞它“是中国历史上最伟大的航海探险”。日本的寺田隆信（1931—）则说：“郑和完成的航海事业，应该说的确是伟大的事业。这不仅是中国历史上最大的海上活动，而且是直至15世纪初，在人类所进行的同样事业中规模最大的一次。在它的面前，迟于数十年才开始的所谓的‘大航海时代’的种种航海，便相形见绌了。”郑和下西洋开始于1405年，比哥伦布（Christopher Columbus，1451—1506）1492年到达美洲早87年，比迪亚士（Bartholomeu Dias，1455—1500）1488年发现好望角早83年，比达·伽马（Vasco da Gama，1469—1524）1497年到达印度卡利卡特早92年，比麦哲伦（Ferdinand Magellan，1480—1521）1519年开始环球航行早114年。不仅如此，郑和的船队在西太平洋、印度洋上建立的亚非海上交通贸易网，还为其后欧洲人的东来和欧洲人的环球航行创造了条

undertook his voyage around the world in 1519. Moreover, the Asia-Africa offshore traffic and trade network Zheng He's fleet established in the Western Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean created conditions for Europeans coming from the east and navigation around the world. It can be said that Zheng He's voyage to the western oceans was the forerunner of the great geographical discoveries that made active contributions to the Great Era of Navigation and created direct links between east and west.

Zheng He's original surname was Ma. He took the first name He and styled a Sanbao. He was born in 1371, during the Ming Dynasty, into a family of the Hui nationality, which traditionally follows Islam, in Hedai Village, Baoshan Township, Kunyang Prefecture (today's Jinning County, Kunming City), Yunnan Province of China. His sixth generation ancestor Sayyid Ajjal Shams al-Din Omar (1211–1279) was stationed in Xianyang and won merit when following Mongolian noble Genghis Khan in war. During the reign of Kublai Khan, in the Yuan Dynasty, Sayyid Ajjal Shams al-Din Omar assumed the post of Pingzhang Zhengshi or governor of Yunnan Province. In his six-year tenure, Omar made outstanding political achievements and was loved and respected by the people. After his death, he was awarded the title of "Xianyang King." His offspring lived in Yunnan and inherited the title of Dianyanghou. The family lived side by side with the Han people for generations and, over time, began following the customs of Han, including

件。因之可以说，郑和下西洋是“地理大发现”的先导，它为“大航海时代”的到来作出了积极的贡献，也为地球的东西两方联成一体作出了直接的贡献。

郑和，本姓马，名和，字三宝，公元1371年生于明代中国云南省昆阳州（今昆明市晋宁县）宝山乡和代村一个世代信奉伊斯兰教的回族家庭。他的六世祖赛典赤·瞻思丁（Sayyid Ajjal Shams al-Din Omar, 1211—1279）因随蒙古贵族首领成吉思汗征战有功驻镇咸阳；元世祖忽必烈即位后，赛典赤·瞻思丁出任



云南晋宁郑和故居
Former residence of Zheng He in Jinning, Yunnan Province

adopting the surname Ma. Zheng He's grandfather and father all visited Tianfang, a holy land of Islam (known as Mecca in Saudi Arabia today) to make a pilgrimage. They were given the honorable title of "Hazhi". Zheng He's father was named Ma Hazhi. He was tall and of a sturdy stature. He was upright and willing to help others and was well respected.

When he was young, Zheng He was clever and handsome with a high forehead and big eyes. He was loved by his neighbors. He grew up and learnt from his parents the stories of his grandfather's visit to Mecca despite the distance and hardship of the sea route. These stories inspired his desire to travel to the holy land of Mecca and his curiosity to explore overseas countries. Zheng He's parents guided him to study the Arabic language and Islamic sutras and paid close attentions to his physical body and the cultivation of his courage and perseverance.

In 1382, when Zheng He was 12 years old, armies of the Ming Dynasty occupied Yunnan. Zheng He's father died in the war. Zheng He was captured by Ming armies. They took him to Nanjing and castrated him into a young eunuch. The Hongwu Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang (on the throne from 1368-1398) gave Zheng He to his fourth son Prince Yan Zhu Di (guarded in Beijing) as a young domestic servant. As a young domestic servant, Zheng He had to shoulder a heavy daily workload at the Mansion of Prince Yan, from cleaning up the four treasures of the