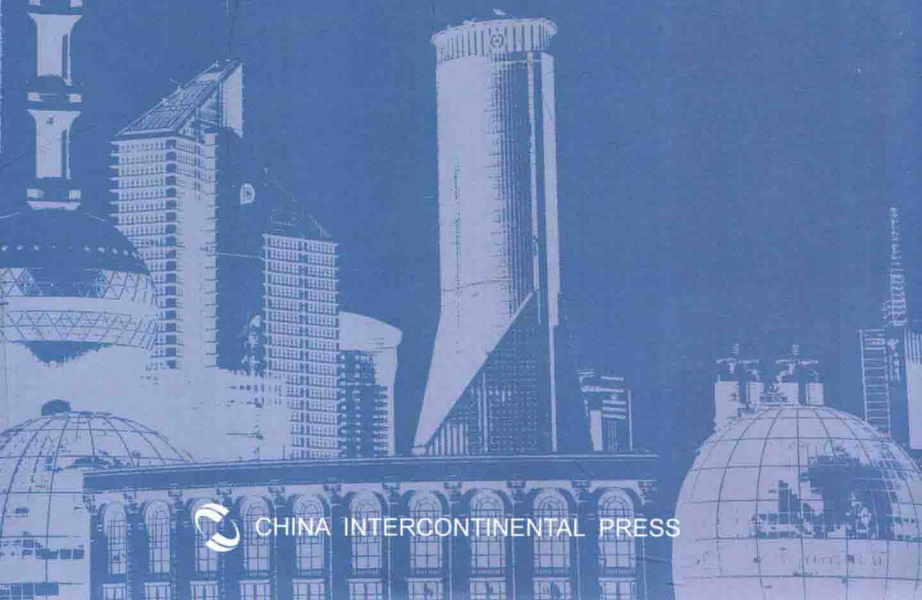




GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF CHINA

Compiled by Song Shuhong & Shao Da
Translated by Shao Da



CHINA INTERCONTINENTAL PRESS

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CONTENTS

I Brief Survey

Country Name	008
Geographical Position	008
Capital City	009
National Flag	010
National Anthem	011
National Emblem	013
Currency	013
Administrative Division	014
The System of People's Congress	016
State Organs	017
Party System	021
People's Political Consultative Conference	022
The System of Regional Autonomy of Ethnic Groups	024

II Natural Conditions

Land Boundary	028
Topography	028
Coastline	029
Islands and Islets	029
Rivers	030
Lakes	032
Climate	032

Mineral Resources	034
Rare Fauna	035
Rare Flora	038

III A Brief History of China

Era of Five Virtuous "Emperors"	042
Xia Dynasty	042
Shang Dynasty	043
Zhou Dynasty	043
Qin Dynasty	044
Han Dynasty	044
Three Kingdoms	045
Jin Dynasty	045
Northern and Southern Dynasties	046
Sui Dynasty	046
Tang Dynasty	047
Five Dynasties and Ten States	047
Song Dynasty	048
Yuan Dynasty	048
Ming Dynasty	049
Qing Dynasty	049
The Republic of China	050
The People's Republic of China	051

CONTENTS

IV Nationalities and Religions

Descendants of Red and Yellow Emperors.....	054
<i>Huaxia</i>	055
Chinese Nation.....	056
Han Nationality.....	057
Minority Nationalities	059
Religions	060

V Select Elements of Traditional Chinese Culture

Surnames.....	066
Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches.....	068
The 24 Solar Terms	070
The 12 Symbolic Animals.....	072
Traditional Festivals.....	073
Chinese Language.....	098
Chinese Characters.....	100
Creation Myths.....	102
Heroic Myths	104
Various Schools of Thought During the Pre-Qin Times	106
<i>The Art of War</i>	110
<i>The Book of Poetry</i>	112
<i>The Poetry of Chu</i>	114
Tang Poetry	115

Song <i>Ci</i> (Poetry)	119
Yuan Songs.....	125
Classical Novels	128
Folktales	138
Traditional Music and Instruments.....	142
<i>Kun Qu</i> Opera	145
Beijing Opera.....	147
Calligraphy.....	150
Four Treasures of the Study.....	159
Traditional Chinese Painting.....	164
Sculpture	169
Architecture.....	170
Four Great Inventions of Ancient China	193
Traditional Handicraft Art	198
Traditional Chinese Medicine and Pharmacology	216
<i>Wushu</i>	227
Chinese Cuisine.....	230
Chinese Tea.....	244
Alcoholic Drinks.....	266

Appendix: List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in China

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CONTENTS

I Brief Survey

Country Name	008
Geographical Position	008
Capital City	009
National Flag	010
National Anthem	011
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Currency	013
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The System of People's Congress	016
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The System of Regional Autonomy of Ethnic Groups	024

II Natural Conditions

Land Boundary	028
Topography	028
Coastline	029
Islands and Islets	029
Rivers	030
Lakes	032
Climate	032

Mineral Resources	034
Rare Fauna	035
Rare Flora	038

III A Brief History of China

Era of Five Virtuous "Emperors"	042
Xia Dynasty	042
Shang Dynasty	043
Zhou Dynasty	043
Qin Dynasty	044
Han Dynasty	044
Three Kingdoms	045
Jin Dynasty	045
Northern and Southern Dynasties	046
Sui Dynasty	046
Tang Dynasty	047
Five Dynasties and Ten States	047
Song Dynasty	048
Yuan Dynasty	048
Ming Dynasty	049
Qing Dynasty	049
The Republic of China	050
The People's Republic of China	051

CONTENTS

IV Nationalities and Religions

Descendants of Red and Yellow Emperors.....	054
<i>Huaxia</i>	055
Chinese Nation.....	056
Han Nationality.....	057
Minority Nationalities	059
Religions	060

V Select Elements of Traditional Chinese Culture

Surnames.....	066
Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches.....	068
The 24 Solar Terms	070
The 12 Symbolic Animals.....	072
Traditional Festivals.....	073
Chinese Language.....	098
Chinese Characters.....	100
Creation Myths.....	102
Heroic Myths	104
Various Schools of Thought During the Pre-Qin Times	106
<i>The Art of War</i>	110
<i>The Book of Poetry</i>	112
<i>The Poetry of Chu</i>	114
Tang Poetry	115

Song <i>Ci</i> (Poetry)	119
Yuan Songs.....	125
Classical Novels	128
Folktales	138
Traditional Music and Instruments.....	142
<i>Kun Qu</i> Opera	145
Beijing Opera.....	147
Calligraphy.....	150
Four Treasures of the Study.....	159
Traditional Chinese Painting.....	164
Sculpture	169
Architecture.....	170
Four Great Inventions of Ancient China	193
Traditional Handicraft Art	198
Traditional Chinese Medicine and Pharmacology	216
<i>Wushu</i>	227
Chinese Cuisine.....	230
Chinese Tea.....	244
Alcoholic Drinks.....	266

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I

Brief Survey

General Knowledge of China

Country Name

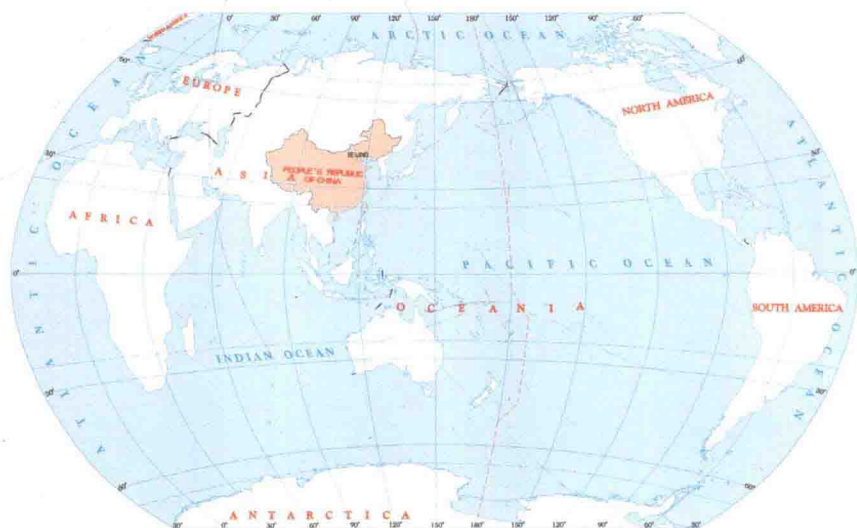
The People's Republic of China (PRC) was established on October 1, 1949.

China is a country with a glorious ancient civilization of 5,000 years. With 56 ethnic groups living together, she has a population of more than 1.3 billion, constituting roughly one-fifth of the world's total. Undoubtedly, she is the most populous country in the world.

Geographical Position

Taking the shape of a rooster on the map, China is situated in the eastern part of the Eurasian land mass. Facing the Pacific Ocean in the southeast and stretching inland in the northwest, it covers a land area of about 9.6 million square kilometers, accounting for one-fourth of Asia's total and one-fifteenth of the world's total. A little smaller than Europe, it's the third largest country in the world next to Russia and Canada.

China's Location on the World Map (Schematic diagram)



Lying in the Northern Hemisphere, it spans a longitude of 62 degrees, with a longitudinal distance of 5,200 kilometers and a time difference of over 4 hours; and a latitude of 50 degrees, with a latitudinal distance of 5,500 kilometers.

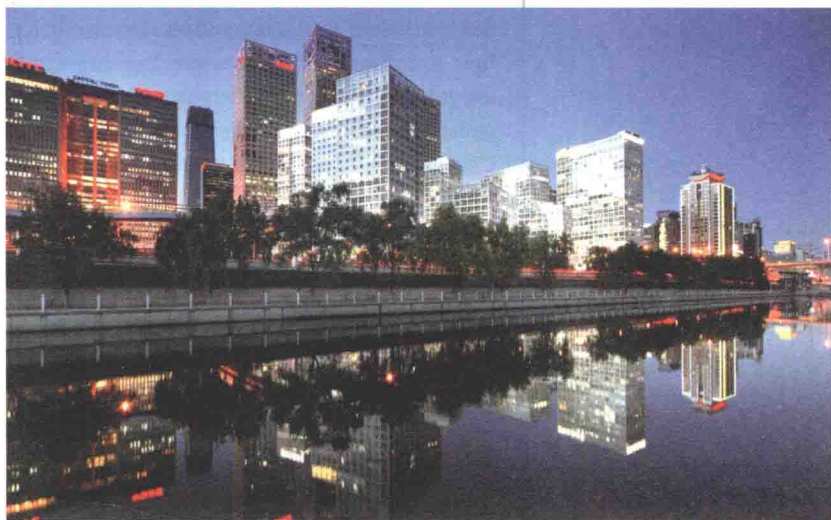
Capital City

On September 27, 1949, the Plenary Session of the First Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) unanimously agreed to make Beijing the capital of the People's Republic. And Beijing was renamed Beijing as from that day.

One of China's four municipalities directly under the Central Government, Beijing, a well-known historical city, is the country's political, economic and cultural centre, and a hub of international activities.

Lying in the northern part of the North China Plain, Beijing has an elevation of 43.5 meters and covers an area of 16,807.8 square kilometers. It boasts a permanent population of 16 million, and

A Glimpse of the Beijing Central Business District



has 16 administrative districts and two counties under its jurisdiction.

With a temperate continental monsoon climate, Beijing has four clearly marked seasons. Typically winter is cold and dry, characterized by occasional dust storms, whilst summer is humid and rainy here. The average temperature is 4 degrees below zero in January, and 26 degrees in July. Spring and autumn (specifically from late April to early June, and from late August to November) are the city's golden tourist seasons.

National Flag

The national flag of the People's Republic is the five-star red flag. The flag is oblong, and the proportion of length to height is 3 to 2. On the upper right corner of the flag is a yellow five-pointed star surrounded by four other smaller stars-- each having an angle pointing to the center of the big star. The diameter of the circumcircle of the big star is three-tenth, and that of the four small stars is one-tenth of the flag height. The red flag stands for revolution, whilst the yellow stars symbolize light over the land. The five stars together signify the great unity of the revolutionary Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC). According to the National Flag Law,



National Flag of the People's Republic of China