



The Hundred  
Schools of  
Thought

诸子百家

王佳◎编著



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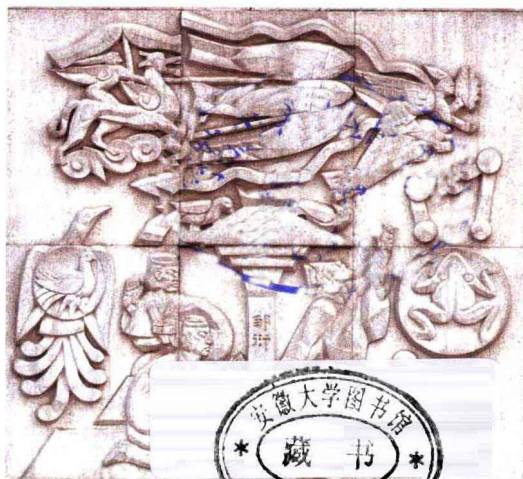
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中华文明是世界上最先形成的文明之一，也是当今世界上唯一延绵至今、不曾断裂的文明。在源远流长的中华历史中，先秦文化占据了非常重要的地位。春秋战国时期，社会的变革促成了思想的空前活跃，因而出现



Chinese civilization is the oldest and the only civilization that has continued uninterruptedly to the present day in the world. In the long history of China, Pre-Qin culture occupied a very important position. During the Spring and Autumn and the Warring States periods, social changes gave birth to an unprecedented expansion of intellectual thoughts and ideas, and for the first time in the Chinese history there emerged an outburst of philosophies and ideas referred to as the Hundred Schools of Thought.

The phenomenon of the Hundred Schools of Thought reflected the prosperity of cultural and intellectual activities in the Spring and Autumn and the Warring States periods. The Hundred Schools of Thought in Chinese consists of *Zhuzi* and *Baijia*, which denote two different meanings. *Zhuzi* refers to intellectual sages, scholars and thinkers such as Confucius, Laozi, Zhuangzi, Mencius and *Zhuzi*, who established their own independent



了诸子百家竞相争鸣的社会现象。

“诸子百家”这个词反映了春秋战国时期学术思想与文化的繁荣。“诸子”和“百家”两个词往往是合在一起说的，但是意思并不完全相同。“诸子”是指那些能够成一家之言的圣贤、学者和思想家，如孔子、老子、庄子、

philosophy. And *Baijia* represents many schools of thought such as Confucianism, Daoism and Legalism. While *Zhuzi* refers to persons and *Baijia* means schools of thought, these two terms are often inseparable because a school of thought must have one or more representatives who founded the core theory and spirit of the school so that the school could be carried forward. For example, Confucius founded Confucianism and Laozi Daoism.

Pre-Qin philosophers were world-famous and prominent scholars in the Chinese culture. Their schools of thought played the most influential role in intellectual enlightenment, exploration of ideas, and cultural and educational development in ancient China. Their philosophies helped ancient Chinese to understand and transform the world. The unique charm of the Hundred Schools of Thought lies in their profound knowledge, simplicity and naturalistic approach, which demonstrated the wisdom of ancient

孟子等；“百家”则是指众多的思想流派，如儒家、道家、法家等。“诸子”侧重指人，“百家”侧重指学派。但两者往往不能分开，因为一个学派必须有一个或多个灵魂性的人物，这些人为这个学派创立核心的观念和精神，然后才能使得这一学派的思想得以传承和发展。比如，孔子创立了儒家，老子创立了道家等。

先秦诸子闻名于世、声誉崇高，是中华文化的标杆性人物。百家学说启迪智慧、开拓思想、推演文化、陶铸群伦，帮助古代的中国人认识世界、改变世界。诸子百家的博大精深、古朴纯真、浑然天成形成了自身独特的迷人魅力，他们的学说不仅是古人的智慧结晶，更是后人开启中华文化的钥匙。

自春秋战国至今两千多年以来，诸子百家的思想学说依然在历史长河的挑选和淬炼下熠熠生辉，如一颗颗璀璨的明星照耀着中华民族。

Chinese and served as the key for later generations to explore and understand the Chinese culture.

The Chinese ancient philosophies in the past 2,000 years of history since the Spring and Autumn and the Warring States periods have showed a remarkable staying power and still maintained a strong influence in the Chinese culture and the life of the Chinese people.

This book provides an introduction





本书介绍了先秦各派学说，主要介绍其思想理论及其对后世的影响。希望通过此书，能让读者了解中国传统文化的渊源，感受它的博大精深。

of Pre-Qin philosophers and scholars, their thought and theories, and their influence on later generations. The book is aimed to inspire readers to explore the origins and the extraordinary depth of the Chinese traditional culture.

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## 诸子百家略论

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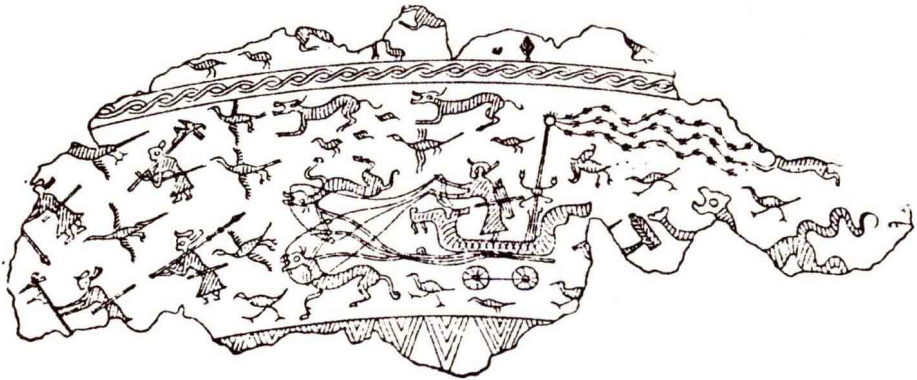
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## 百家争鸣

# Contention of the Hundred Schools of Thought

春秋战国时期（前770—前221）是中国由封建领主制向封建地主制过渡的时期，社会动荡，新旧阶级之间，各阶级、阶层之间的斗争复杂激烈。社会的变革促进了各种思想流派的产生，如儒、法、道、墨等。各学派著书立说，广收门徒，互相论战，出现了学术上的繁荣景象，这被后世称为“百家争鸣”。

The Spring and Autumn and the Warring States periods (770 B.C.–221 B.C.) were an era in China when fiefdom lords were transformed to feudal landlords. During the social unrest and transformation with the intense struggles between different social classes, various philosophies and ideas emerged in profusion such as Confucianism, Legalism, Daoism and Mohism, all of which formed their own schools, attracted their own disciples and challenged other philosophical thoughts. This period of exuberant intellectual creativity was labeled by later generations as the golden era when “contention of the hundred schools of thought”.





## > 诸子百家形成的背景

中华民族从古至今都依靠农业来维持生存，如今的农村人口仍占全国人口的一半左右。春秋战国时期，中国分裂成许多诸侯国，每个诸侯国都以“耕战之术”为国家要务。在大兴农业的基础上，各诸

## > Historical Background of the Hundred Schools of Thought

The Chinese has always depended on agriculture for living since the ancient times. Even today rural population still consists of over half of the total population in China. In the Spring and Autumn and the Warring States periods,

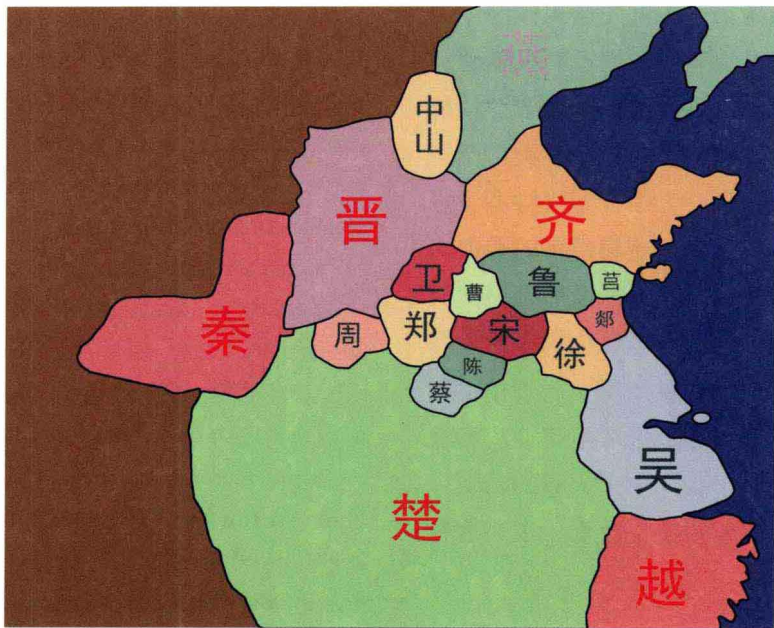


### • 春秋龙首双耳铜簋

簋是中国古代用于盛放煮熟饭食的器皿，也用作礼器，一般为圆口、双耳。

Copper Utensil with Two Dragon-head Handles from the Spring and Autumn Period

This is a copper utensil for food in ancient China. It was also used as a ritual vessel. Usually it has a round shape with two handles.



• 春秋形势图

A Sketch Map of the Vassal States in the Spring and Autumn Period

侯国又注重加强本国的军事实力，不断进行兼并与争霸战争。到战国末期，只剩七个大国割据中原。最终，秦国在经济和军事上都占据优势，得以战胜其他六国，使中国实现了政治统一。而百家争鸣、百花齐放的诸子百家的盛况，正是在春秋战国波澜壮阔的时代洪流中孕育出来的。

春秋时期，由于铁制生产工具的广泛运用，社会生产力得到了巨

China was divided into many fiefdoms, all setting their priority in building a strong foundation in agriculture. Meanwhile these rival states also focused on strengthening their military power with ongoing warfare and conquests. By the end of the Warring States Period, seven bigger states were left to fight over the dominance of the Central Plains. Eventually the most powerful state of Qin with economic and military advantages defeated the other six states and achieved

大的提高。一些首先运用铁制生产工具的贵族开始大规模开采荒地，私田的数量迅速增加。在农业经济大幅度发展的同时，牛耕被广泛运用在农业生产之中，不仅提高了当时的生产效率，还将更多的劳动力解放出来，为其他产业的发展提供了可能。特别是春秋中期以后，各诸侯国已经大量使用金属货币，货币的流通更加促进了手工业、商业的发展，于是产生了大量的商贾。这些商贾积极参与政治，成为春秋



• 春秋金饰  
Gold Ornament in the Spring and Autumn Period

the political unity in China. This era of constant warfare and radical social changes brought about the prosperity of great cultural and intellectual expansions in China characterized by “the contention of a hundred schools of thought”.

In the Spring and Autumn Period the wide use of iron tools greatly increased productivity. Some noble families began to use iron farming tools to cultivate wasteland in a large scale resulting in the rapid increase of privately-owned land. Meanwhile extensively used in agricultural production was the ox-drawn plough, which not only improved farming efficiency, but also freed a lot of manpower potential for other industries. After the mid Spring and Autumn Period in particular large quantities of copper coinage had already been circulated in many vassal states and in turn promoted development of handicraft industry and commerce. As a result many wealthy merchants emerged and with active participation in state affairs, they become an indispensable political force at that time. Advances in agriculture, handicraft industry and commercial development changed the balance of different social forces and established a solid economic foundation for the emerging different



• 春秋夔纹陶罐  
Pottery Decorated with Dragon Patterns  
in the Spring and Autumn Period

时期政治舞台上不可或缺的一股力量。农业的进步、手工业与商业的发展改变了社会各个方面力量的均衡，为诸子百家的产生与发展奠定了坚实的经济基础。

随着春秋时期经济的不断发展，社会阶级也在不断分化。经济实力的增长，使得贵族们开始要求获得更多的政治权利，并与周王室之间的矛盾日益扩大。这样，以周天子为最高权威的等级制度逐步被冲破，周王室日渐衰微，分封制被否定，各诸侯国之间互相攻伐、连年征战。而在各诸侯国内部，动乱

schools of thought.

The continuous economic growth, the disintegration of social classes and increase of their wealth pushed the nobles to ask for more political rights from the Zhou court. As conflicts between nobles and Zhou court grew, the Zhou King's supreme authority and his hierarchical system gradually broke down; Zhou court became increasingly weak; and the fiefdom system eventually fell apart. There were constant warfare and invasions among rival states. Internal unrest and regicides were not uncommon. Violations of the traditional rites frequently occurred causing social and





也时有发生，弑君现象屡见不鲜，各种违反礼制的现象频繁发生，政治局局面动荡多变。

就在这复杂多变的政治环境和频繁的争霸战争中，“士”作为新兴的阶级出现了。“士”本处于统治阶级的最底层，但社会秩序的大变革为其发展提供了契机，将他们从沉重的宗法制枷锁中解脱出来，

#### • 侯马盟书

侯马盟书是在山西侯马晋国遗址出土的盟誓辞文玉石片，上面的文字笔锋清丽，为毛笔所写。它见证了春秋末期晋国的一场激烈政治斗争。

#### Houma Oaths of Alliance

The oaths were written by Chinese writing brushes on jade pieces unearthed in the State of Jin ruins in Houma, Shanxi Province. They are a witness of the bitter political struggles in the State of Jin in the late Spring and Autumn Period.

political turmoil.

In this complex and volatile political environment and endless warfare a new class of scholar-bureaucrats (*Shi*) rose from the bottom of the ruling class. The big transformation of the social order provided them with an opportunity to break away from the old aristocratic system and become an independent and knowledgeable class of intellectual pursuit. The *Shi* class included many social elites who were renowned for their most advanced, comprehensive and innovative thinking in political, military and foreign affairs as well as in philosophy, culture and education. Governments and politicians of that period tried very hard to recruit well-



成为一个独立的、拥有专门文化知识并以脑力劳动为特点的社会阶层。士阶层汇集了社会上的许多精英，集中了当时最先进、最广泛、最具创造力的思想文化，囊括了政治、军事、外交、思想、文教等社会的方方面面，思想活跃，见解精辟。各政权和政客为了扩大影响、巩固地位，都设法招徕士阶层，以张声势，壮大力量。而为了实现自己的理想、宣贯自己的学说，士阶层也通过各种社会、政治、文化活动表现出自己的独立意志，形成了鲜明的群体人格。

当时的政治环境开明，舆论环境自由，为各种思想文化观点的形成发展提供了温床。特别是在春秋时期，周王室的文化官吏流落民间，使得文化典籍等不再是仅被上层阶级所享有的资源，学术的下移为更多人插上了思想腾飞的翅膀，最终形成了诸子蜂起、百家争鸣的局面，开创了影响中国后世5000年的学术大繁荣景象。

known scholar-bureaucrats in an effort to expand their influence, strengthen their position and advocate their political doctrines. These scholar-bureaucrats in turn demonstrated their unique and distinctive identity through upholding their independence and integrity in various social, political and cultural activities.

The liberal political environment with free discussions of ideas in that era provided a breeding ground for the formation and development of various ideological and cultural perspectives. Especially in the Spring and Autumn Period when many Zhou cultural officials had to leave the weakening Zhou court, literary works that used to be enjoyed only by the upper class began to circulate among commoners. Reading of these treatises opened up the horizon of many commoners. As a result many renowned scholars and different schools of thought emerged and with them came the golden age of Chinese philosophies and classics, which transformed the Chinese culture in the next 5,000 years.



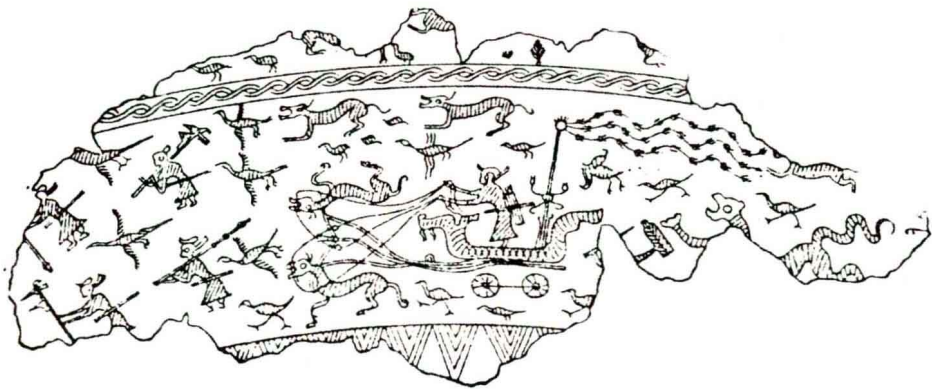


## > 诸子百家的影响

一脉相承的哲学思想在中国文明中的地位，可以与宗教在其他文明中的地位相比拟。古时候的中国，每个人接受教育，都要从学习《论语》、《孟子》、《大学》、《中庸》等开始。而几乎每个四五

## > The Influence of the Hundred Schools of Thought

The significance of the Chinese philosophies in the Chinese civilization is comparable to the importance of religions in other civilizations. In ancient China all education started from learning *The Analects*, *The Mencius*, *The Great*



• 战国铜器纹饰中的行军图  
Military Drill Diagram Carved on a Warring States Period Bronze Ware