

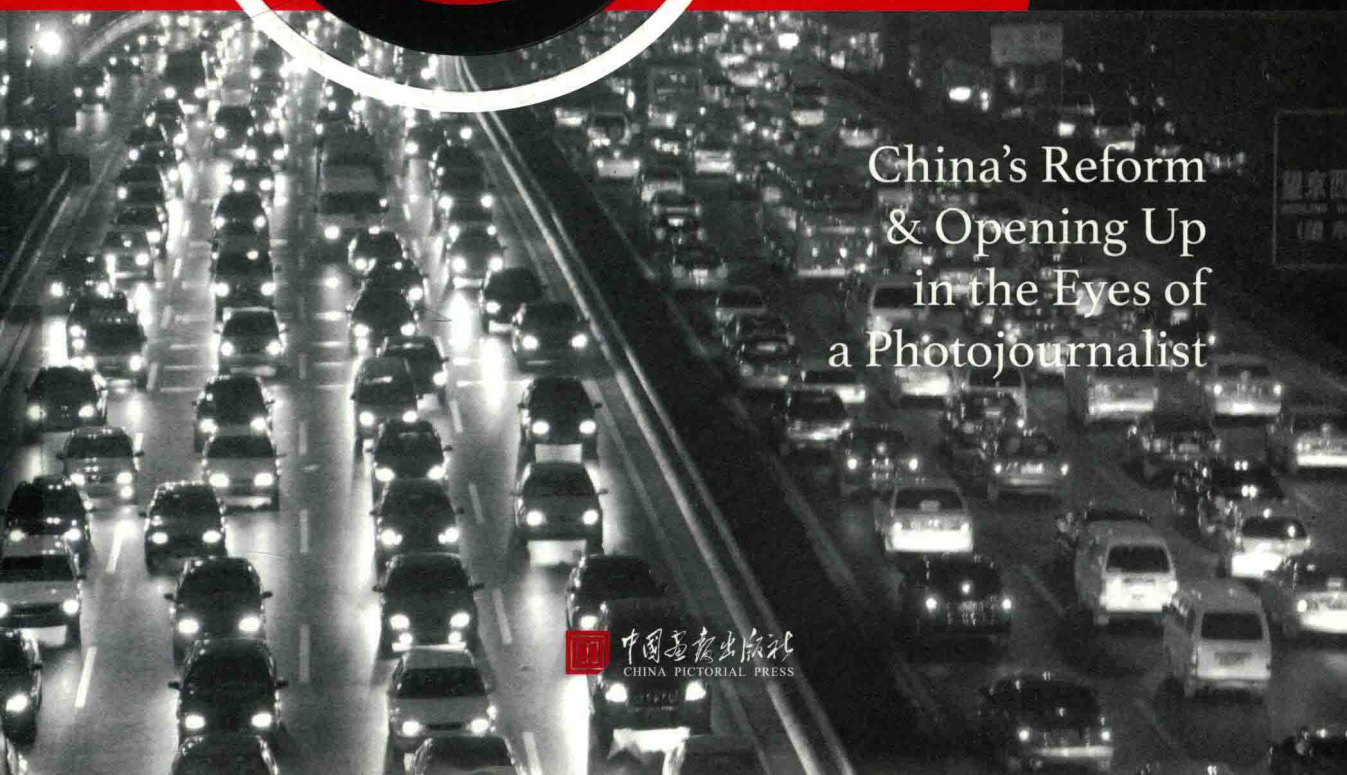


Lan's  
Lens

观澜

王文澜 著

一位  
摄影记者  
眼中的  
改革开放



China's Reform  
& Opening Up  
in the Eyes of  
a Photojournalist



中国摄影出版社  
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## 照片的日子

我从出生之日，就和相机结下了不解之缘：从满月到周岁，从上学到工作，从结婚到生子，生活的轮回与生命的延续，都在镜头前真实生动地呈现着。从拿起相机开始，我又用镜头去拍摄人：人的心态、人的精神、人的处境、人的一切；变的与不变的，内在的和外部的，看得见的与看不见的。有了活生生的人，有了酸甜苦辣的味道，有了柴米油盐酱醋茶，照片就有了灵魂。

四十年一瞬间，中国像一个沸腾的大工地，在这个传统的国度里，正在进行着世界经济史上最伟大的实验。我们用高速发展取得了发达国家百年发展的文明成果，这样难得的历史机遇，正是摄影人大显身手之时。

摄影器材的日新月异给拍摄带来随心所欲的惊喜，这让摄影变得太容易，然而摄影难就难在太容易了。容易掌握的东西，也容易最终失去它，只有把镜头对准身边瞬息即逝的日子，即保存了珍贵的记忆，才能留住人类的历史。

在中国有上亿人的拍摄群体，每天都在产生着无数的照片。拍照如此有魅力，在拍别人之前，你就已经成为别人照片里的角色，所以每个人都是摄影师，都是在照片里长大的，照片可以唤醒我们沉睡的记忆，留下令人难忘的日子。

从胶片年代迈入数码时代，我们按下快门，得到的是触摸不到的一个个数据，唯一不变的是拿在手里的照片，瞬间凝固了千变万化的时空。一张照片是一句话，两张照片就是一个对话：对照变化、对照生活、对照情感、对照历史、对照世纪间。长年累月的相对性瞬间，就是一个人的影像史记。

当我举起相机时，就开始用照片说话，就像作家用笔，画家用颜料，作

曲家用音符，舞蹈家用形体一样。不同的是，摄影作为瞬间语言，是区别其他艺术的重要特性，也是摄影价值的最终体现。

好照片是来之不易的，用照片说话，说得明白，说得幽默，说得有分量，就要下功夫了。拍不出好片子，是摄影者经常面临的处境，这恰恰是产生好照片的土壤。关键在于取景框后面的头脑，这比手中的相机更重要，因为我们不是手持机器的机器。

好照片是千载难逢的，有价值的景象每分每秒都在消失，到了下个世纪回头看，人们可以写、可以画、可以演，唯独摄影过期作废，一不留神，我们只能留下空白。一张照片放在那里，像一幅画、一首诗、一支歌；或是一个故事、一段历史；也可以说什么都不是，只是一张照片。

好照片是不言自明的，摄影是门技术，也是一种精神。所有的智慧都在“咔嚓”之中了。瞬间千变万化，在一生拍摄中，好照片只是凤毛麟角。照片好坏之间只差一点，早点晚点都会与好照片无缘。我的照片几乎每张都差一点，我这辈子就是为了这一点点。

生活之广，历史之厚，一个瞬间只是一个碎片，我力求给变化的历程留下一些痕迹。摄影早已不是一种仪式，我比任何时候都渴望按动快门，日子的节奏有如呼吸一样，呼是抒发，吸是充实，偶然之中包含着积蓄的必然，按下快门就是释放，我想说的也都在这些照片里了。



## Preface

### Days in Photos

Since the day when I was born, my life has been connected to the camera. Through the lens of a camera, every unforgettable moment in my life—celebrations for the completion of my first month and my 100th day in the world, my first day at school, my first day of work, my falling in love, my wedding, and birth of my child—was vividly recorded as a witness to the reincarnation and continuity of life. From the moment I got my own camera, I focused the lens on people to shoot their mind, their inner world, their dilemmas, and everything else about them—whether it is inside or outside, visible or invisible. The photos have souls only when they demonstrate true feelings and document real lives.

Time flies. Over the past decades, China has been like a busy construction site. The greatest experiment ever in the history of the world economy is ongoing in this country known for ancient civilization. It has realized rapid development and made achievements that cost developed countries a century to accomplish. This provides historic opportunities for photographers to give full use to their talent to record this great era with their photographic works.

The increasing advancement in photography equipment makes photography an easy job: It seems that everyone can snap a beautiful picture anytime. However, such convenience also makes photography harder than before. The easier one thing can be got, the faster one may lose it. Only when a photographer pays attention to transient moments in daily life can he or she capture precious memories and document the history of humanity.

At present, some 100 million people in China are engaged in photography. They create numerous photos every day. Photography has a magic power. As you focus your camera on others, you become the subject of pictures shot by someone else. So, everyone can be a photographer and the one to be photographed. Every photo can awaken our unforgettable memories of the past.

As photography has moved from film to digital, we now press the shutter and get an array of untouchable data rather than a slide of negative film. One thing remains consistent: The printed photos freeze the moments in our lives. A picture is a monologue, and two pictures together compose a dialogue on the comparisons of changes in life, emotion, era and history. Through the photos I took to document historical moments over decades, I compiled a photographic history of the nation's reform and opening up from my personal perspective.

As I raise my camera, I speak with photos just like writers using their pens, painters using their pigments, composers using music scores, and dancers using their body language. The only difference is that photographers document transient moments in daily life. This is not only an important feature that distinguishes photography from other genres of art, but also an embodiment of the ultimate value of photography.

It isn't an easy task to create a good picture. It takes painstaking efforts to snap a picture that speaks clearly, humorously and meaningfully. Many photographers find it difficult to shoot a satisfying picture. Don't get discouraged because failure is the mother of success. The head behind the viewfinder is much more important than the camera in hands. Photographers aren't machines but the minds taking control of the camera.

Capturing a perfect picture happens once in a blue moon since valuable images elapse in just a minute or even a second. As we look back next century, we'll still reproduce today through writing, painting or performances. But photography is an art requiring instant response. Once a moment is gone, it is gone forever. A printed picture is like a painting, a poem or a song, and at the same time, it is the carrier of a story or an episode of history. In some people's eyes, however, it may be nothing but a photo.

A good picture speaks itself. Photography is not only a technique, but also represents a kind of spirit. All wisdom of a photographer bursts out at the moment he or she presses the shutter. However, one can only snap very few good pictures in a lifetime. There is a fine line between a good picture and a bad one. You'll miss a good picture whether you press the shutter sooner or later. Almost every photo I have shot is so close to perfect; I have committed my whole life to pursuing for such perfection.

Life is all-encompassing, and history is profound. Any moment recorded in photos is a transient fragment of life or history. I try to leave some traces of the changing process of life and history with my photos. Photography has long been no more ceremonial. I'm more eager to press the shutter than any moment in the past. The rhythms of life are like exhaling and inhaling; exhaling is a way of expression, and inhaling is a way of enrichment. Behind any success that seems accidental is necessary accumulation of experiences. Pressing the shutter is a way of releasing. All I want to say is in these photos.

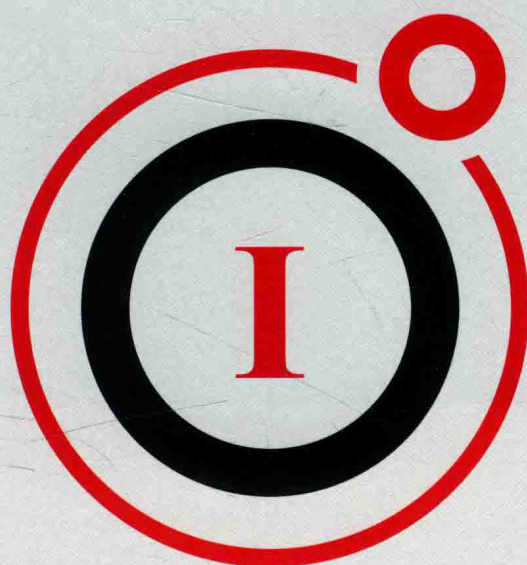
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1980.4

时尚潮品太阳镜

Fashionable women wearing sunglasses

北京八大处

Badachu Park, Beijing



*2005.6*

意大利威尼斯  
Venice, Italy

假面舞会国人秀  
Chinese people at a masquerade ball



1984.1

满堂腊梅报新春

Blooming wintersweet heralding the arrival of spring

上海城隍庙

Chenghuangmiao Market, Shanghai



2007.12

北京北新桥  
Beixinqiao, Beijing

小丑送花美到家  
A flower delivery boy dressed like a clown



*1983.6*

衬衫成了抢手货

A crowd of customers purchasing shirts

北京展览馆

Beijing Exhibition Center, Beijing



1985.3

重庆解放碑  
Jiefangbei, Chongqing

应急全靠铁栅栏

An iron fence separating hasty shoppers from salesclerks



1982.1

买布做衣老习惯

Buying cloth to make garments

北京百货大楼

Beijing Department Store, Beijing