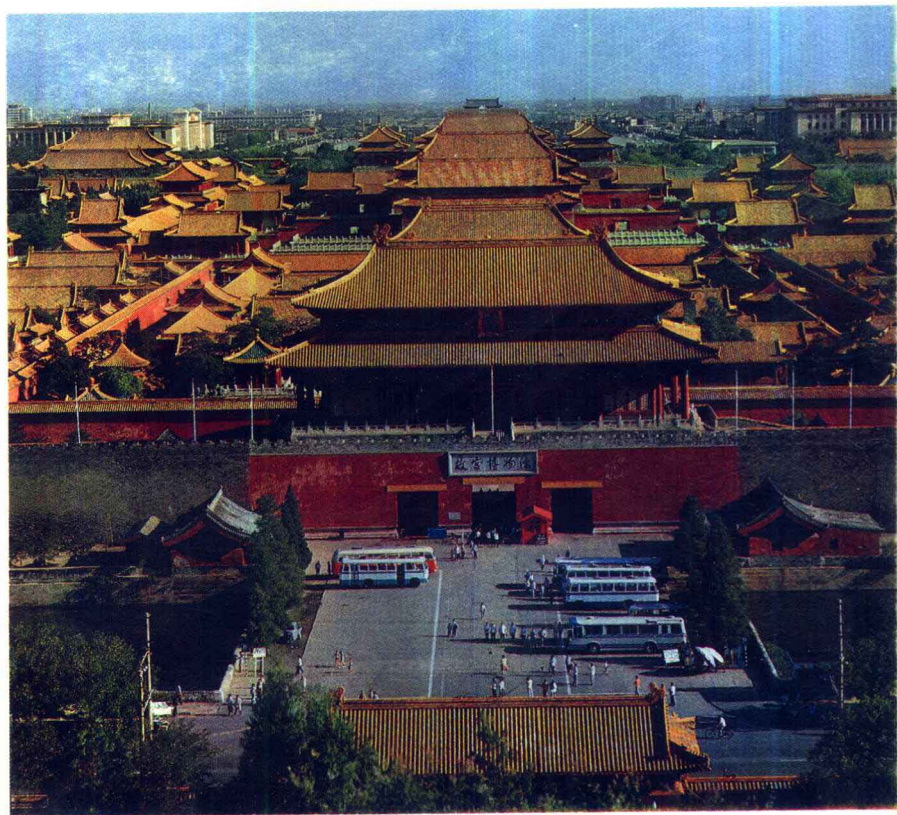


China Handbook Series

CULTURE



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS BEIJING



CHINA HANDBOOK SERIES

CULTURE

Compiled by

the *China Handbook* Editorial Committee

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EDITOR'S NOTE

More than 30 years have elapsed since the birth of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949. "What is China really like today?" many people abroad wish to know. To answer this question, we plan to compile and publish a voluminous *China Handbook*, in which we intend to introduce the New China in every field of its activities. Emphasis will be on the process of development during the past three decades, the accomplishments, and the problems that still remain. The book will contain accurate statistics and related materials, all of which will be ready references for an interested reader.

To enhance the usefulness of the forthcoming volume, we plan to publish 10 major sections separately at first, so that we shall have an opportunity to take into consideration the opinions of our readers before all the composite parts are put together, revised and published as one volume. These separate sections are:

- Geography
- History
- Politics
- Economy
- Education and Science
- Literature and Art
- Sports and Public Health
- Culture
- Life and Lifestyles

Tourism

Here, we wish particularly to point out the following:

First, the statistics listed in each separate book exclude those of Taiwan, unless otherwise indicated.

Second, the statistics are those compiled up to the end of 1980.

The *China Handbook* Editorial Committee

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Chapter One

NEWSPAPERS, BROADCASTING AND PUBLISHING

1. NEWS AGENCIES AND NEWSPAPERS

(1) NEWS AGENCIES

China has two news agencies. One is the state-owned Xinhua (New China) News Agency and the other is the privately owned China News Service.

The Xinhua News Agency The Xinhua News Agency has its origins in the *Red China News Press*, founded in November 1931 in Ruijin, Jiangxi. The present Xinhua News Agency was formally established on April 1, 1937 in Yan'an, and branch offices and sub-branches were established in some of the larger liberated areas after 1938. Initially, local newspaper offices had been responsible for sending news items and articles to Xinhua, but eventually Xinhua editorial branch offices were set up in combination with local newspaper offices. After May 1941, local news agencies were reorganized into Xinhua branches, which could independently set up direct contact with the Xinhua News Agency in Yan'an. The Xinhua News Agency was developing into a fair-sized news agency. It was releasing about 4,000 to 5,000 characters a day in domestic and world news, and transmitted reports from major news agencies at home and abroad. On September 1, 1944, it began over-

seas broadcasting in English. Towards the end of 1948, its first overseas branch was set up in Prague. In October 1949, after the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Xinhua News Agency became the nation's official news agency.

The head office of the Xinhua News Agency is located in Beijing. It consists of a general editorial office and editorial departments for domestic and international news, and a foreign news service. It also has professional departments for photography, foreign affairs and technology and also its own printing house and film processing workshop. It has branches in each of the 29 provinces, centrally administered municipalities and autonomous regions, and more than 700 reporters. Xinhua also runs a People's Liberation Army News Agency with 13 branches and more than 100 reporters. It also receives news from amateur correspondents in basic-level units throughout the country. In addition, it has branches in 85 foreign countries and regions, with over 150 correspondents. It also has branches in Hong Kong and the United Nations. Reports from correspondents and reporters within China are transmitted through its branches every day by telex, telegram and telephone to the head office in Beijing, and are uniformly released after processing by the domestic news editorial department. Xinhua branches abroad transmit news home mainly in English, French, Spanish and other languages; sometimes it also uses the Chinese phonetic alphabet or Chinese telegraphic code. The reports are sent by commercial telex or telegram in the countries where Chinese correspondents are stationed to Xinhua relay centres abroad, which in turn transmit the news to the head office in Beijing.

Xinhua's professional services are as follows: a. It pro-

vides news and newsphotos for domestic newspapers and broadcasting. Xinhua now releases about 40,000 to 50,000 characters daily in home and world news to Beijing's national newspapers and radio stations, about 30,000 to 40,000 characters to newspapers at the provincial, municipal and autonomous regional level, and about 10,000 to 20,000 characters to local papers below that level. b. Xinhua transmits domestic and world news abroad in English, Russian, French, Spanish and Arabic. The Chinese texts for these reports average about 10,000 to 30,000 characters daily. The news transmitted by Xinhua abroad includes items in English suitable for all countries, together with items in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian specially designed for certain countries. c. Xinhua has news-gathering offices and professional contacts with many countries abroad. It has 25 offices in over a dozen countries and Hong Kong, from which it publishes and distributes daily and weekly bulletins containing telegraphic dispatches for foreign consumption. It also has contracts with news agencies in several dozen countries for the exchange of news and newsphotos without cost. More than 30 foreign news agencies now receive Xinhua news. d. It sends newsphotos abroad daily by radiophoto and by post. Xinhua can also provide special and feature articles at the request of domestic and foreign newspapers and journals. e. In Beijing, Xinhua issues a daily *News Bulletin* in Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian, *Reference News* in Chinese and *News from Foreign Agencies and Press* in English and French.

The China News Service The main function of this agency is to supply news to overseas Chinese newspapers and journals. It was set up on October 1, 1952, as a private agency managed by a council of patriotic individuals with

a wide range of backgrounds. The agency, which is located in Beijing, provides news items for Chinese language newspapers and journals abroad and in Hong Kong and Macao in the form of broadcasts, dispatches, news reports, feature articles and newsphotos. It also distributes abroad films on Chinese landscapes, art treasures, economic development and local opera.

The China News Service head office consists of departments for news, exclusives, photography, films and so on. It has branches in Guangdong, Fujian and Shanghai and an office in Hong Kong. Correspondents are also stationed in Yunnan and Guangxi.

(2) NEWSPAPERS

China's earliest newspapers The earliest newspaper in China was the *Dibao* (*Court Gazette*), distributed by an office (*di*) of the local government in the capital. Its major concern was with official items such as imperial edicts and memorials to the throne, and reports on the political situation. According to the latest research on historical records, the *Court Gazette* was already in existence during the reign of the Tang Emperor Xuanzong (r. 712-56), and continued in various forms down to the 20th century. Early in the 12th century, during the Song Dynasty, a hand-copied newspaper called the *Xiaobao* (*Small Paper*) was published. In 1638, during the reign of the Ming Emperor Chongzhen, the *Court Gazette* was printed from movable wooden types. Around the end of the Ming and beginning of the Qing Dynasty, the name was changed to *Jingbao* (*Peking Gazette*) and it became a commercial undertaking. It was a daily

publication in the form of a small pamphlet. The printing was done from a clay plate coated with coal dust mixed with water on coarse paper, so the print was not very clear. In the late Qing, wooden and metal movable types were used in printing. Following the invasion of the colonialist powers, Western missionaries set up the first modern newspaper in China in August 1815. In the 50 years after the 1840 Opium War, foreigners set up over 300 newspapers, mostly in Chinese. They included the *Shanghai Xinhao* (*Shanghai News*), *Wanguo Gongbao* (*International Review*), *Shen Bao* (*Shanghai Gazette*), *Xinwen Bao* (*News Gazette*) and *Min Bao* (*Fujian News*). Most were published in Shanghai. The longest-running paper was the *Shanghai Gazette* (April 30, 1872 to May 1949), and the most important paper in the business world was the *News Gazette* (February 17, 1893 to May 1949). Both were founded by foreign businessmen, and after some time were taken over by Chinese capitalists. The earliest newspapers founded by the Chinese in modern times were the *Zhaowen Xinhao* (*Clarity News*) published in Hankou in 1873, and the *Xunhuan Ribao* (*Cycle Daily*) published in Hong Kong in 1874.

Progressive newspapers before Liberation The first newspaper run by Chinese bourgeois revolutionaries under the leadership of Sun Yat-sen was the *Zhongguo Ribao* (*China Daily*), founded in Hong Kong in January 1900. One of the most influential papers was *Min Bao* (*People's Journal*) founded in Tokyo in 1905 by the Tongmenghui (China Revolutionary League), an organization led by Sun Yat-sen; the first issue had a circulation of over 17,000. Another influential paper was the *Chinese Women's Paper*, founded in Shanghai by the famous revolutionary Qiu Jin. At the time of the May 4 Movement in 1919,

the development of the revolutionary movement encouraged the appearance of many progressive newspapers. Some of the newspaper supplements in particular played an important role in spreading bourgeois learning and culture as part of the new cultural movement. The supplement of the *Chen Bao* (*Morning Post*), *Juewu* (*Awakening*), a supplement of *Minguo Ribao* (*Republic Daily*), *Xue Deng* (*Academic Lamp*), the supplement of *Shishi Xinbao* (*The China Times*) and the supplement of the *Jing Bao* (*Peking Gazette*) were known as the "four supplements of the new cultural movement". Another influential journal was the *Tianjin Xuesheng Lianhehui-bao* (*The Tianjin Student Union Bulletin*) edited by Zhou Enlai, which showed an obvious tendency towards socialism.

The Chinese Communist Party paid great attention to the role of newspapers in the revolutionary cause. Soon after the founding of the Chinese Communist Party and during the First Revolutionary Civil War (1924-27), the Communist Party founded newspapers in Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Jinan, Guangzhou and other places. The most influential were the *Laodong Zhoukan* (*Labour Weekly*) in Shanghai and the *Gongren Zhoukan* (*Workers' Weekly*) in Beijing. The *Labour Weekly* was an organ of the Chinese Labour Union Secretariat, and was the first national newspaper for workers. It started publication in the summer of 1921, and was banned on June 9, 1922 by the Shanghai Municipal Council in the international settlement for the "crimes" of publishing extremist opinions and advocating labour revolution. The *Workers' Weekly* was published in the name of the Workers' Weekly Society by the Communist Party in Beijing. It started publication in July 1921. In May 1922 the Chinese Labour

Union Secretariat moved to Beijing from Shanghai, and not long after, the *Workers' Weekly* replaced the *Labour Weekly* as the organ of the secretariat. In 1924, it became the journal of the Chinese National Federation of Railway Unions. It ceased publication in December 1925, with 133 issues behind it.

The central organ of the Chinese Communist Party during the Second Revolutionary Civil War (1927-37) was the *Hongqi Ribao* (*Red Flag Daily*). It began publication in Shanghai on August 15, 1930 and was forced to cease publication in March 1931.

On November 7, 1931, the Chinese Communist Party set up the Central Workers' and Peasants' Democratic Government in Ruijin, Jiangxi. A number of official newspapers were founded, including *Hongse Zhonghua* (*Red China*), *Douzheng* (*Struggle*), *Hongxing* (*Red Star*), *Qingnian Shihua* (*Young People's Truth*) and *Suqu Gongren* (*Soviet Area Worker*). The *Red China* subsequently became the combined organ of the Chinese Communist Party, the Central Workers' and Peasants' Democratic Government, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions and the Communist Youth League of China. This was the first fairly long-term newspaper printed in letterpress by the Chinese Communist Party in the revolutionary base areas. It published altogether 240 issues. In October 1934, it moved to north Shaanxi on the Long March with the Red Army. On January 29, 1937, it resumed publication in Yan'an, changing its title to *Xin Zhonghua Bao* (*New China Daily*). On May 15, 1941, it merged with the *Jinri Xinwen* (*News Today*), becoming a large-format paper under the name *Jiefang Ribao* (*Liberation Daily*). The *Liberation Daily* ceased publication on March 27, 1947, after 2,130 issues, when Yan'an was evacuated.

Other newspapers were also set up in liberated areas during the War of Resistance Against Japan (1937-45), including the *Jin-Cha-Ji Ribao* (Shanxi-Qahar-Hebei Daily), *Jizhong Daobao* (Central Hebei Guide), *Ji-Lu-Yu Ribao* (Hebei-Shandong-Henan Daily), *Dazhong Ribao* (Popular Daily), *Fuxiaobao* (Daybreak), *Kangzhan Ribao* (Resistance Daily) and *Jianghuai Ribao* (Central China Daily). The Communist Party's official newspaper in Kuomintang-controlled areas was *Xinhua Ribao* (New China Daily). It began publication on January 11, 1938, in Hankou and moved to Chongqing on October 25 the same year, where it circulated openly until banned by the Kuomintang government on February 28, 1947.

During the Third Revolutionary Civil War (1945-49), the newspapers continued to flourish in the liberated areas. One of the more important was the *Dongbei Ribao* (Northeast Daily) in the Northeastern China Liberated Area, which began publication on November 1, 1945.

Newspapers in China after Liberation The founding of New China greatly increased the number and circulation of newspapers. In 1950, the total annual circulation of national and provincial newspapers was 798 million copies; in 1980 it was 14,041 million copies, 17 times that in 1950. In 1980, there were 188 newspapers nationwide (not including local papers below the provincial level). New papers began to appear in 1980 and 1981, such as the *Zhongguo Nongmin Bao* (Chinese Peasant Gazette), *Zhongguo Fazhi Bao* (Chinese Legal Gazette) and the English-language *China Daily*. The publication of newspapers run by different organizations, trades, professions, regions, cities and counties was resumed or initiated, and evening newspapers also appeared.

The main national newspapers in China at present are listed below:

Renmin Ribao (People's Daily): Began publication on May 15, 1946, in Handan, Hebei, in the North China Liberated Area. After moving from Shijiazhuang to Beijing in January 1949, it became the organ of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party in August the same year.

Guangming Ribao (Enlightenment Daily): Began publication in Beijing on June 16, 1949 as the organ of the Central Committee of the China Democratic League. At the end of 1952, it became the combined organ of the democratic parties. Its main readership now is composed of intellectuals.

Gongren Ribao (Workers' Daily): Organ of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions; began publication on July 15, 1949 in Beijing. Its main readers are workers, managerial personnel and trade union staff.

Zhongguo Nongmin Bao (Chinese Peasant Gazette): A comprehensive newspaper in simple language for peasants. It began publication in April 1980 in Beijing. It publishes two issues per week, with eight pages per issue.

Zhongguo Qingnian Bao (Chinese Youth): The organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League. It began publication on April 27, 1951 in Beijing. Its main readership is composed of officials and members of the Youth League, and young people in general.

Zhongguo Shaonian Bao (Chinese Children): A paper for children, run by the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League. It began publication in September 1949 under the title *Zhongguo Ertong (Chinese Children)*. In November 1951, it became a weekly and adopted its present name.

Tiyubao (Sports): Run by the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission. It publishes two issues a week. It was founded on September 10, 1956 in Beijing.

Shichang (The Market): Began publication on October 1, 1979. It is a weekly journal for producers and consumers, with reports on the economy and marketing news from home and abroad.

Newspapers are also published at the provincial, municipal and autonomous regional level. As well as reporting important national news, these newspapers concentrate on local news and developments. In addition there are evening papers in Kunming, Beijing, Nanchang, Guangzhou and other cities. These evening papers, which complement the dailies, are lively and informative tabloids.

The Chinese government has always paid great attention to the publication of newspapers for minority ethnic groups. In 1962, there were newspapers in 11 minority languages, namely Mongolian, Tibetan, Uygur, Kazak, Korean, Zhuang, Kirgiz, Dai, Jingpo, Lisu and Xibe. The total circulation of minority newspapers in 1978 was over 12,776 million copies.

(3) EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN JOURNALISM

Education in journalism in China is just in the developmental stage. The Department of Journalism in the Graduate Studies Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences offers training in seven fields, namely journalistic theory, the history of Chinese journalism, the history of journalism in the Chinese Communist Party, world journalism, news writing, international reporting and news writing in English.