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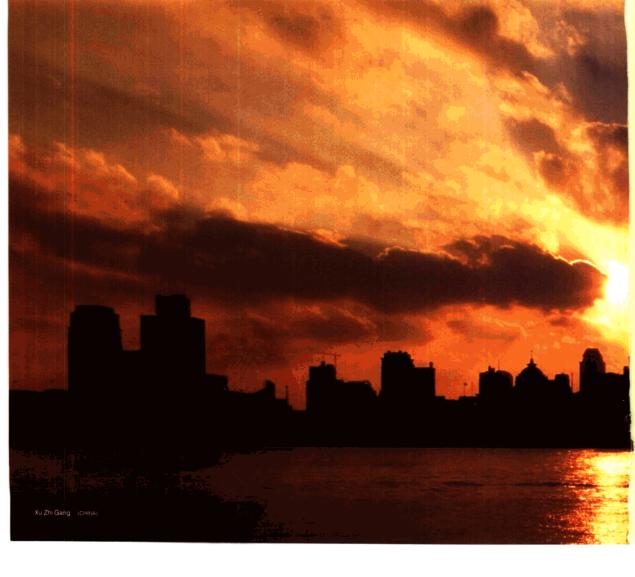


What kind of city is Shanghai?

上海,是一个怎样的城市?





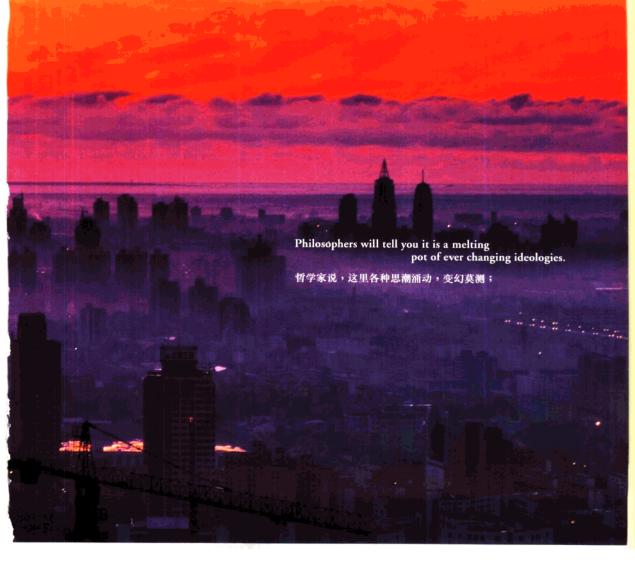


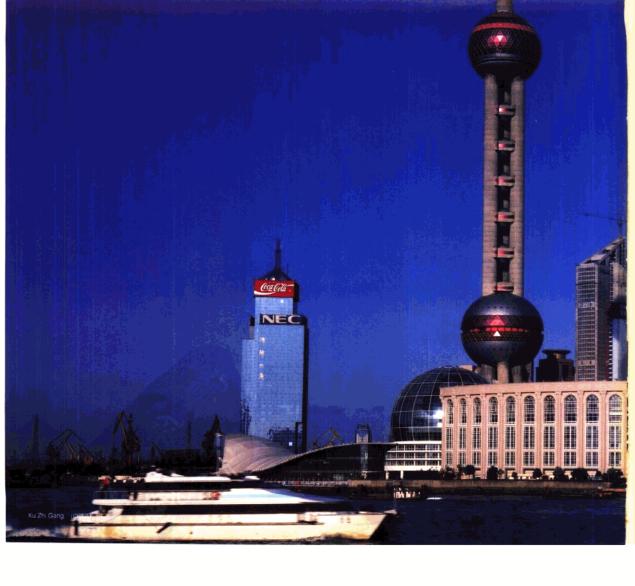


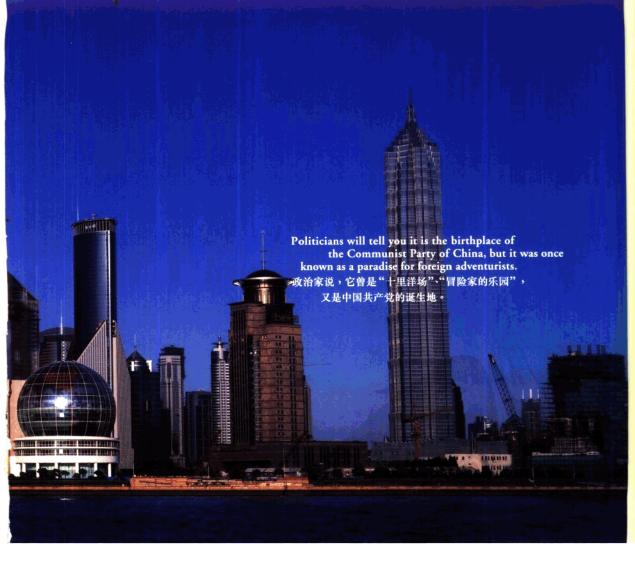
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Historians will tell you it was a fishing village 700 years ago that has evolved into a modern metropolis. 历史学家说, 它有七百年的历史,是一个由渔村发展到今天的国际都市;











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## Shanghai

鳴謝 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

















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What kind of city is Shanghai? Geologists will tell you it is a city built on land once submerged under the sea. Historians will tell you it was a fishing village 700 years ago that has evolved into a modern metropolis. Philosophers will tell you it is a melting pot of ever changing ideologies. And politicians will tell you it is the birthplace of the Communist Party of China, but it was once known as a paradise for foreign adventurists.

But what would photographers from across the globe say about this city as they view it through their lenses?

In the last week of May 1999, a group of professional photographers from around the world gathered in Shanghai to participate in a six-day photo-taking expedition of the city. The project was called "Shanghai in the Eyes of Top World Photographers."

What those photographers could capture through their "eyes" was just a moment in the life of Shanghai. A moment, of course, passes in the twinkling of an eye. However, if you string all the moments together, you create a panorama of the real world. Since Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre, a French artist, invented the daguerreotype process for obtaining positive photographic prints on August 19, 1839, generations and generations of photographers have used the "third eye" to observe and capture happenings all around the world. In the past 160 years, they have left behind an eyewitness account of who we are, what we do and where we are going. This time again, photographers have recorded for history a special time in a special place.

Sitting on the threshold of the 21st century, Shanghai might be described as an ocean of wonders and the photographers as maritime explorers. Instead of standing on the heach watching the blue waters under the bright sunshine, they have dived deep into the sea to record the mysterious world there. From sunrise to sunset, from high in the sky to the underground, from street corners to local residents' apartments, the photographers pointed their cameras at any subject that kindled their interest, excited their passions or inspired their souls.

Shanghai was a hospitable host, opening all its doors to the photographers. They were free to visit any places they wanted to see, free to shoot any scenes that caught their fancy or piqued their interest. All the photographers had ample opportunity to explore FOREWORD

the city by themselves. Bridges, elevated roads, skyscrapers, banks, the stock exchange, street markets, modern production lines, the sea port, the international airport, laboratories, the theatre, schools, museums, libraries are all pieced together into a mosaic of a modern metropolis that is the center of finance, trade, scientific research, culture and education in China. Using their special visual language, the photographers have vividly expressed their impressions of this dynamic city. Their works will refresh heartwarming memories in those who have visited Shanghai and will introduce this beautiful oriental pearl to those who have never come.

In a short week, no one can expect photographers to capture every scene of the city, but what they caught in their lenses is the life and breath of Shanghai -- its past glories, its present ambitions, its future aspirations. One hundred years from now, when the face of Shanghai has completely changed again, people will open this album to relive old dreams and marvel at history.

This is what kind of city Shanghai is in 1999.