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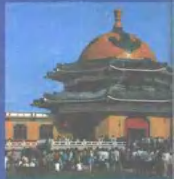
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黃上高原，這哺育中華
民族誕生和成長的搖籃，她
給予了黃河——我們偉大民
族的象徵——以無比的力量，
躍下了壺口，沖決了龍門，以
排山倒海之勢向東方奔流！

The Loess Plateau is the cradle of the Chinese Nation, giving the Huanghe River (Yellow River), the symbol of Chinese civilization, tremendous force. The River rolls to the east with the momentum of an avalanche.

序

黃土高原，這塊舉世矚目的蒼茫大地，是中華民族的搖籃、古老文明的發祥地。在這古老的黃土地上，哺育了“黃帝”及其黃色子孫，繁衍生息，創造了光輝燦爛的文化。

面對這舉世無雙的奇觀——黃土地，不禁使你心曠神怡，浮想聯翩。

那巨厚而廣袤的黃土，緣何而來？這是一塊神祕的土地！

那一溝萬壑，丘崗起伏，波瀾壯闊，被稱為“瘋神捏就的土地”，令人驚嘆不已！

那梯田聳峙，花果飄香，黃河電站明珠璀璨，煤海鑽塔轟鳴，這是一塊火熱的土地！

那風格迥異的窟洞，那深沉古樸的《信天遊》，這是一塊多情的土地！

然而，黃浪滔天，風沙瀰漫，這又是一塊多苦多愁而步履艱難的土地！

黃土高原西起青海日月山，東至太行山，北靠長城和陰山，南抵秦嶺，包括晉、陝、甘、寧、內蒙古、青、豫等省區的一部或全部，面積達63萬平方公里。黃河呈一個大彎套，環抱黃土高原的主體部分。這裏有波瀾壯闊的黃土丘陵，有“塞上江南”的河谷平原，有廣闊的草原和沙漠，有遍佈森林的山地。在這片黃色的土地上，居住着八千萬漢、回、蒙古、藏等十幾個民族的人民。

黃土高原土地廣闊，資源豐富，具有發展農林牧業的優越條件，適宜耕地達2.8億多畝，草原3億畝。尤其是煤炭資源特別豐富（初步探明儲量5000多億噸，佔全國的三分之二），是我國和世界上的大煤海。這裏分佈着神府、同朔等著名世界的特大煤田，加土黃河幾十個梯級水電站的開發，將成為我國最重要的、規模最大的能源基地。此外，還有豐富的鉛土、有色金屬以及鹽、碱、石油等礦產。

遠古時代的黃土高原，曾是森林和草原茂盛，野生動物出沒的地方。但是隨着人口的增加，人們毀林毀草，開荒種地，造成土壤侵蝕加劇，沙漠化不斷擴大，生態環境嚴重惡化。特別是嚴重的水土流失，不僅影響了黃土高原人民的生產、生活，而且還由於大量泥沙沖進黃河，造成下游時常面臨着洪水威脅。長期以來，特別是近30多年來，黃土高原的人民在改造山河方面，進行了艱苦卓絕地鬥爭。他們修築梯田，淤地打壩，造林種草，開發礦業，建設了一批批新的城市和農村。

為了使這古老的土地煥發美麗的青春，合理開發資源和治理環境，中央政府責成中國科學院，邀請農業、地質、水利等部門以及高等學校的幾百名科學家，於50年代（1955—1958）和80年代（1985—1990）兩次組成科學考察隊，深入黃土高原進行了多年的綜合科學考察，系統、全面地探討了這裏的自然條件、自然資源、社會經濟、生態環境、區域發展等重大問題，揭開了黃土高原之謎。可以預見，在不久的將來，這個傳頌着中華始祖赫赫功業、哺育了中華文明的地方，將會重現光輝，建設成我國能源、重工業和化工工業基地、林業基地和牧業基地。

孫天管

一九九〇年十月

PREFACE

The vast Loess Plateau is the cradle of the Chinese Nation and the birthplace of ancient Chinese culture. It is a mysterious, rugged land, cut by ravines and gullies and believed by past generations to be created by gods gone mad. Terraced fields climbing up the mountainsides, blossoming fruit trees, unique cave dwellings and simple but beautiful local songs—these are all features of the Loess Plateau that attract the visitor.

The 630 000 square kilometers of the Loess Plateau covers large parts of Shanxi, Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai and Henan provinces and Hui Autonomous Region of Ningxia and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Eighty million people of Han, Hui, Mongolian, Tibetan and other nationalities live here. The Huanghe River (Yellow River) winds its way across the Plateau, turning first north and then south. The topography of the area is a complex mixture of loess hills, ravines, plains, grasslands, desert and mountains. The land is often in the grip of winds that shift the sand and turn the sky yellow.

The Loess Plateau abounds in natural resources: it has 280 million *mu* (15 *mu* is one hectare) of arable land, 300 million *mu* of grassland and about 500 billion tons of coal deposits making up more than two thirds of the country's total reserves. The Shenfu and Tongsu coal fields are world famous and together with the dozens of hydro-power stations along the Huanghe River, they serve as China's largest energy base. In addition, the plateau has rich deposits of aluminum, nonferrous metals and oil.

In ancient times, forests and grass grew luxuriantly and wild animals roamed freely across the Plateau, but as population increased, more and more forests were cut down for farming. This caused serious soil erosion, gradual desertification and eventually a serious imbalance in the ecological environment. Enormous amounts of silt washed into the Huanghe River are still threat-

ening all forms of life on the river's lower reaches, and the people on the plateau have been struggling to transform and rebuild the land for many years. They have achieved remarkable success, especially in the past 30 years, building enormous terraced fields, planting forests and pastures, and opening mines. On much of the formerly barren land cities and new rural areas have appeared.

To harness this ancient land and to explore its resources in a rational way, the Chinese government has entrusted the Chinese Academy of Sciences together with related agricultural, geological, and water conservation departments and colleges and universities, to make a general survey of this land. Some surveys had already been done in the late 1950s by a number of scientists. The present one started in 1985 and will be completed in 1990. Both surveys have yielded a great deal of useful information.

In today's modernization drive, a great deal of emphasis is being put on the development of the Loess Plateau. It is to be built into one of the country's important energy-heavy industry-chemical industry base as well as base of fruit, forestry and animal husbandry.



Oct. 1990

本書系統、全面地介紹了中國黃土高原獨特的自然景觀和社會經濟概況，包括黃土高原的成因、演變、水土流失治理、能源重化工基地建設，以及黃土高原豐富多采的民族風情與旅遊勝景等。全書納入各類彩照374幅，各種地圖（如黃土分佈與厚度、黃土高原覆被等）19張，共分黃土之謎、中華民族的搖籃、人與環境、世界大煤海、考察黃土地、馳名中外的特產、黃土風情、黃土高原覆被、江山重描畫——黃土高原治理開發前景等九大部份。書中圖文并茂，內容豐富，形式生動，情調高雅，是一部科學與文化、人文與自然相結合的綜合性大型珍貴畫冊。

This book introduces systematically and comprehensively the unique natural scenery, social and economic general conditions, including the formation and evolution of loess plateau, the harness of soil erosion, the construction of the base of energy heavy industry chemical industry, as well as the rich and colourful national customs and tourist attractions, etc. The whole book consists of 374 various colour photographs, nineteen various maps (such as the distribution and thickness of loess, the attractive scenery of the Loess Plateau) it includes nine parts: Mystery of the Loess Land; Cradle of the Chinese Nation; Man and the Environment; On the-spot Investigation of the Loess Plateau; Coal Ocean in the World; World famous Special Local Products; Culture and Customs of the Loess Plateau; Tourist Attractions on the Loess Plateau; Re-building the Land; Hopful Prospects for the Loess Plateau. The pictures and writing of this book are rich and colourful. It has abundant contents, vivid forms and lofty sentiment. It is a large-scale precious picture album with the integration of science and culture, humanity and nature.

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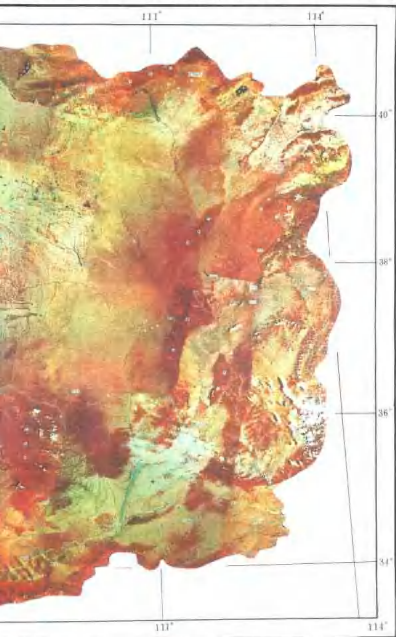
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3 长城遗址 3 The ruins of Great Wall

Principal Picture (Topography of Loess Plateau)

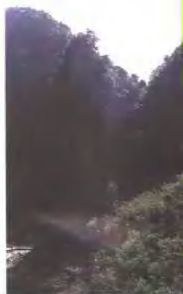


9 华山

9 Huashan Mountain



12 太行山 12 Taihang Mountain



11 太行山 11 Taihang Mountain



10 鄆山

10 Mangshan Mountain

