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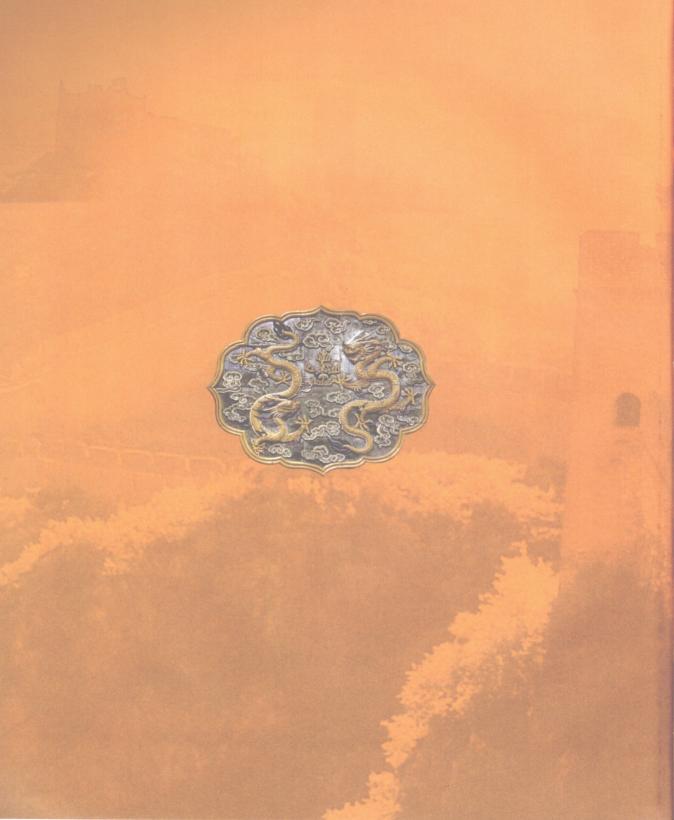
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Wang Yuelong



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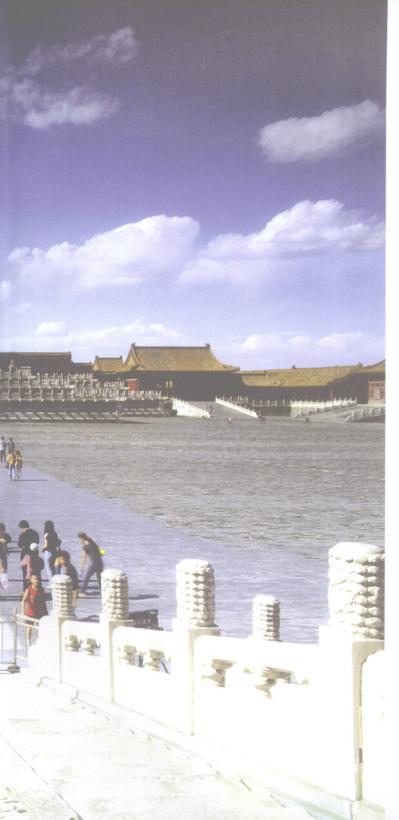
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Beijing is a young city too. Today's Beijing, is developing with rapid speed that ranks among the international metropolises.

Beijing is located in the northernmost part of the North China Plain in the North of China. The climate of Beijing makes a clear distinction between the four seasons. If you want to take a trip to Beijing, had better choose the April and May, commutative period between spring and summer or the September and October in autumn. At those times, it is warm in the air and the flowers in blossom or sky in autumn is high and atmoshere pleasant, the highest temperature generally from 20 to 15 °C in the daytime, that is very suitable for tourists.

This is an old and beautiful national capital, a young and charming city, she warmly Stretch out both arms, welcome you approaching this place and come into Beijing.

Chapter

The Historical Beijing

Nearly 600,000 to 700,000 hundred years ago, Yongding River which flowed through the southwest of Beijing was still a wide great river with abundant water, gathering brooks, flourish forest on both banks, haunted wild animal. On a hill in river valley of Yongding, there were gregarious ape-mans lived in the caves. They made a living by enclosing and catching preys and fishing. They were the Peking Man. In the 1920s or 1930s, some tooth fossils of Peking Man and several intact cranium fossils were found by the archaeologists. In the same place, some ancient zoolites and used fire marks were found also.

About 5,000 or 6,000 years ago, Chinese ancestors who were generally acknowledged, the two heads of the northern clans, emperors of Huangdi and of Yandi formed an alliance, they defeated other clans at that time. Later the Yandi were defeated by the younger Huangdi who became the new leader and established the capital in the area near Beijing. This was the earliest legend that Beijing area as the capital. Beijing area was called Youzhou at that time, so the Youzhou was the earliest name of Beijing area.



From Northern Important Strategic Town to Political Centre

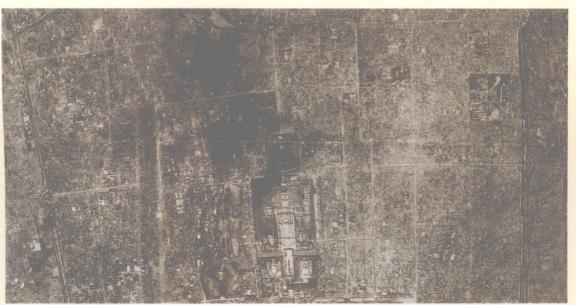
In the 11th century B.C., the clan of "Zhou" was powerful in the North of China. In 1045 B.C., the first monarch of the Zhou Dynasty, the king of Zhouwu conferred "North Yan" area on the "Zhaogong", it is today's Beijing and surrounding area. The offspring of "Zhaogong" were all called the Yanhou. In the site of ancient city where the capital of Yan of Western Zhou was found in the Dongjialin village of Liulihe in Fangshan district of

Beijing, there is history of more than 3,000 years nowadays.

In the Spring and Autumn period after Zhou Dynasty, through the constant civil war, amalgamated from dozens of small countries conferred by king of Zhou into seven big countries progressively, these were "Seven Powerful States of the Warring States Period" in China's history. State of Yan was one of "Seven Powerful States", regarded Ji as the capital. According to the archaeological discovery, the expert infers Ji city should be the area from Xuanwu Men to Heping Men in the southwest of Beijing today.



Six-corner Pavilion of Yuanmingyuan

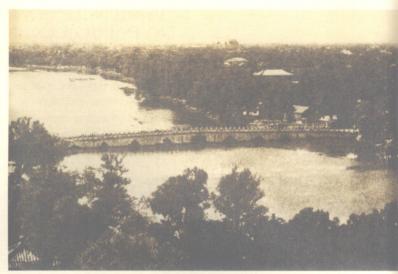


The Air Map of the Old Beijing

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In 221 B.C., Qin Shihuang, the first emperor of Qin had unified China. After that, in the Chinese history nearly one thousand years, Ji was the important city in the North all the time.

After the downfall of the strong Tang Dynasty, the North of China had entered the period of chaos caused by war. In 936, one military officer called Shi Jingtang led his army betrayed Tang for the independence, and in 938, had ceded 16 states of Yanyun to the Liao country set up by Qidan clan in the North of China. The Yanyun 16 states are today's Beijing and the surrounding area. Youzhou was called "Nanjing" (also named Yanjing) by Liao Kindom. In 1153, Kin Kindom set



Beihai's Yudong Bridge of the Old Beijing

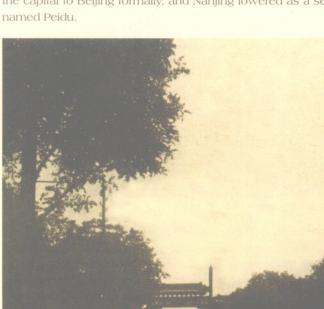
up by the northern Nyzhen moved the capital to Yanjing, and was named "Zhongdu", this was the beginning of Beijing as the capital in the history.



Decorated Archway of the Old Beijing

In 1206, the Tiemuzhen established the Great Mongolia Kingdom and was elected as Genghis Khan. Genghis Khan led his Mongolian army marched into Central Plains, and had occupied the area of Yanjing. In 1272, Yuan Shizu, the founder of Yuan Dynasty Qubilai built the new governance centre here named Dadu, called Yanjing too. From then on, Beijing became the political centre of a unified multi-nationality country from a important borderland strategic town in the North of China. In the 13th century, Marco Polo, a Italian tourist came to China from the remote place, he had exactly seen the prosperous scenes of Yuan Dadu at that time, and propagated the economy and culture here to the western countries by his travels.

In 1368, Zhu Yuanzhang set up Ming Dynasty and establish the capital in Yingtianfu (today's Nanjing of Jiangsu Province). In the same year, he eliminated the army of Yuan Dynasty, captured Dadu mostly, rename as the Beipingfu. In 1403 the Ming Chengzu, emperor Zhu Di renamed the Beipingfu as Shuntianfu, called Beijing also. This was the earliest origin name of "Beijing". In the 19th year of Yongle (1421), Ming Dynasty moved the capital to Beijing formally, and Nanjing lowered as a second capital named Peidu.



The East Chang'an Street of the Old Beijing



Qinghuayuan of the Old Beijing

R

In March of the 17th year of the last emperor Chongzhen on the throne of Ming Dynasty (1644), a peasant uprising leader, the pathbreaker named Chuangwang Li Zicheng led his army to capture Beijing and set up the regime of Dashun. The general of Ming Dynasty Wu Sangui who was garrisoned the Shanhai Pass, asked for the Great Qing country that eatablished by northern Manchu to dispatch troops and suppress the Dashun together. Taking this opportunity, Great Qing country had captured Beijing rapidly. In September of the same year, Emperor Shuizhi moved the capital to Beijing from Shengjing (today's Shenyang of Liaoning Province), had begun the more than 200 years-long governance regarded Beijing as capital of Qing Dynasty.

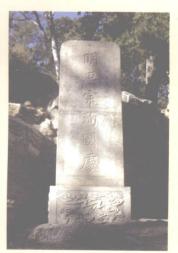


Decorated Archway of Jingshan Park

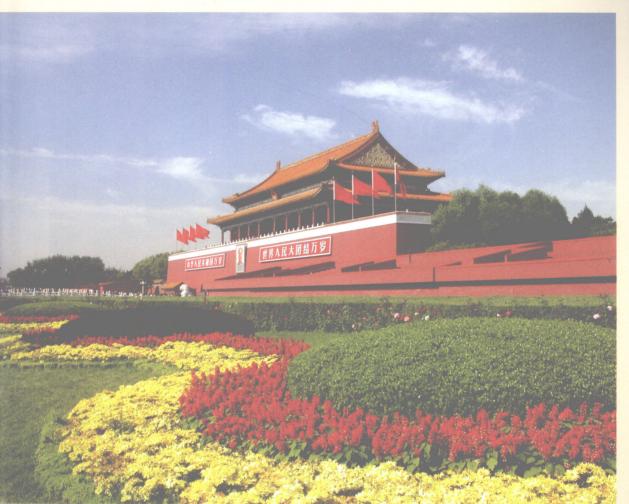
In 1911, the Revolution of 1911 led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, overthrew Qing Dynasty, and established the Republic of China and finished the feudalistic rule of China for more than 2000 years. In the early years of the Republic of China, Beijing was still the capital and renamed as Beiping After 1928.

The names of Beijing in the Different Period 6000 B.C. You 1045 B.C. Yan 475 B.C. Ji A.D. 938 Nanjing / Yanjing A.D. 1153 Zhongdu A.D. 1272 Dadu A.D. 1368 Beipingfu A.D. 1403 Shuntianfu / Beijing

A.D. 1928 Beiping A.D. 1949 Beijing



The Spot Hanged Emperor Chongzhen by Himself in the Jingshan Park



Tian'an Men in Festival

On October 1, 1949, the People's Republic of China was declared its establishment here, Beijing has became the capital of the People's Republic of China, the old Beijing take on an entirely new looks. About the history of Beijing, there are relevant exhibitions in the newly-built the Capital Museum located in West Chang'an Street of Beijing.