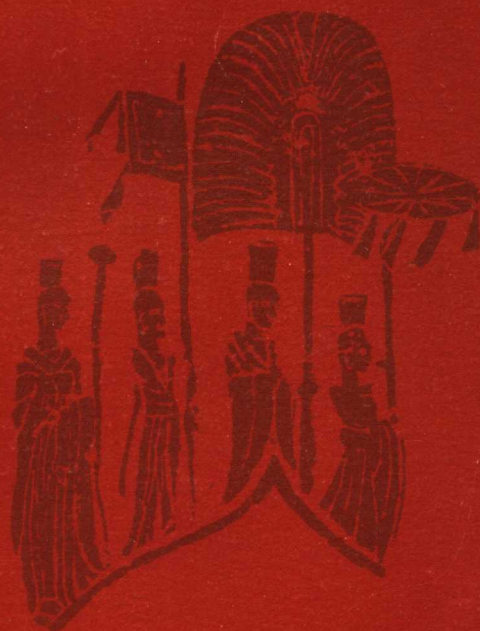


Common Knowledge About

CHINESE HISTORY

中国历史常识

(中英对照)



国务院侨务办公室

The Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of
the State Council

国家汉语国际推广领导小组办公室

The Office of Chinese Language
Council International



高等教育出版社
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前言

《中国文化常识》、《中国历史常识》和《中国地理常识》是由中华人民共和国国务院侨务办公室组织北京华文学院、南京师范大学和安徽师范大学编写的一套汉语教学辅助读物，供海外华裔青少年通过课堂学习或自学的方式了解中国文化、历史、地理常识，同时供家长引导孩子学习使用，在海外反响很好。

近年来，随着中国经济社会的迅速发展和国际影响的不断扩大，海外学习汉语的人数，尤其是非华裔汉语学习者人数大幅度增加。为了进一步适应广大海外汉语学习者了解中国文化的需求，促进中外文化交流，中华人民共和国国务院侨务办公室授权中国国家汉语国际推广领导小组办公室对《中国文化常识》、《中国历史常识》和《中国地理常识》进行改编。

《中国文化常识》、《中国历史常识》和《中国地理常识》改编本是一套面向世界各国汉语学习者的普及型、口语化的文化辅助读物，适用于海外对中国文化和汉语感兴趣的各类人员。在中华人民共和国国务院侨务办公室编写的中英文对照版基础上，此次改编增加了中文与德、法、日、韩、俄、泰、西班牙、阿拉伯语的对照版本。

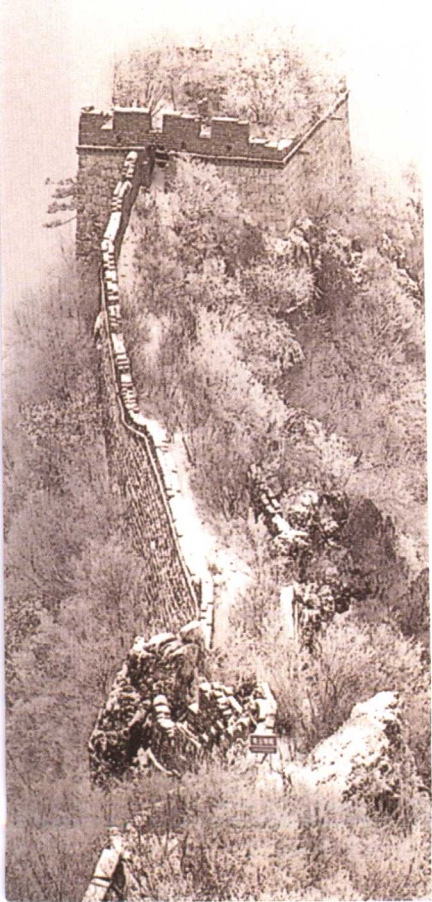
中国国家汉语国际推广领导小组办公室委托高等教育出版社对《中国文化常识》、《中国历史常识》和《中国地理常识》进行改编，高等教育出版社对原书的部分内容进行了增删，修订了部分数据，重新遴选和修改了插图，并翻译出版英、德、泰语版本；外语教学与研究出版社翻译出版法、日、韩语版本；华语教学出版社翻译出版俄、西班牙、阿拉伯语版本。此次改编力求在原书强调科学性、思想性和实用性的基础上做进一步创新。希望本系列读物成为您了解中国的窗口，成为您通向汉语世界的桥梁。

此次改编得到了海内外诸多专家、学者和教师的关心与支持，他们提出了许多中肯的建议，在此向他们表示诚挚的谢意。

由于时间所限，书中不免会有疏漏和不当之处，希望使用者和专家学者不吝赐正，以供今后修订时改正。

中国国家汉语国际推广领导小组办公室

2006年11月



Preface

Common Knowledge About Chinese Culture, *Common Knowledge About Chinese History* and *Common Knowledge About Chinese Geography* are a series of readers initiated by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. The readers were jointly developed by Beijing Chinese Language College, Nanjing Normal University and Anhui Normal University. Serving as teaching aids for learners of Chinese, these readers make the general knowledge of Chinese culture, history and geography accessible to the young generation of overseas Chinese by means of either classroom delivery or self-study. These books are also for parents to help their children with the study. The previous versions of these readers were well received.



In recent years, with the rapid economic and social development in China and the rising of her international status, the world witnesses a phenomenal increase in learners of the Chinese language outside China, especially from non-Chinese ethnic groups. To meet the demand from overseas Chinese learners to better their knowledge about Chinese culture, and to foster cultural exchanges between China and the world, a revision of the above-mentioned readers has been decided by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. They assigned the Office of Chinese Language Council International to work out the new edition of *Common Knowledge About Chinese Culture*, *Common Knowledge About Chinese History* and *Common Knowledge About Chinese Geography*.

The revised version of *Common Knowledge About Chinese Culture*, *Common Knowledge About Chinese History* and *Common Knowledge About Chinese Geography* is intended to be a popular edition of learning aid for Chinese culture in a conversational style. These readers make Chinese culture, history and geography more accessible to all people. Based on the original Chinese-English version edited by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, the newly-revised version has kept its bilingual format, only broadening the foreign language coverage to German, French, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Thai, Spanish and Arabic.

The Office of Chinese Language Council International delegates the revision of *Common Knowledge About Chinese Culture*, *Common Knowledge About Chinese History* and *Common Knowledge About Chinese Geography* to Higher Education Press, who adds and subtracts parts of the original Chinese version with amendments to some data and illustrations. The bilingual versions of Chinese-English, Chinese-German and Chinese-Thai are developed by Higher Education Press. The versions of Chinese-French, Chinese-Japanese and Chinese-Korean are developed by Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press. The Chinese-Russian, Chinese-Spanish and Chinese-Arabic versions are done by Sinolingua. All revisions are meant to be innovative while maintaining the original focus of being accurate, instructive and practical. It is our sincere hope that this series of readers become windows for you to know more about China, and bridges leading you to the world of Chinese.

We would especially like to express our sincere appreciation to many experts, scholars and Chinese teachers both at home and abroad for their pertinent suggestions.

Developed under a tight schedule, the new editions might be blotted with oversights and inappropriateness. We sincerely welcome readers, especially those better versed in the relevant fields to contribute ideas for the correction and future revision of these books.

The Office of Chinese Language Council International
November, 2006

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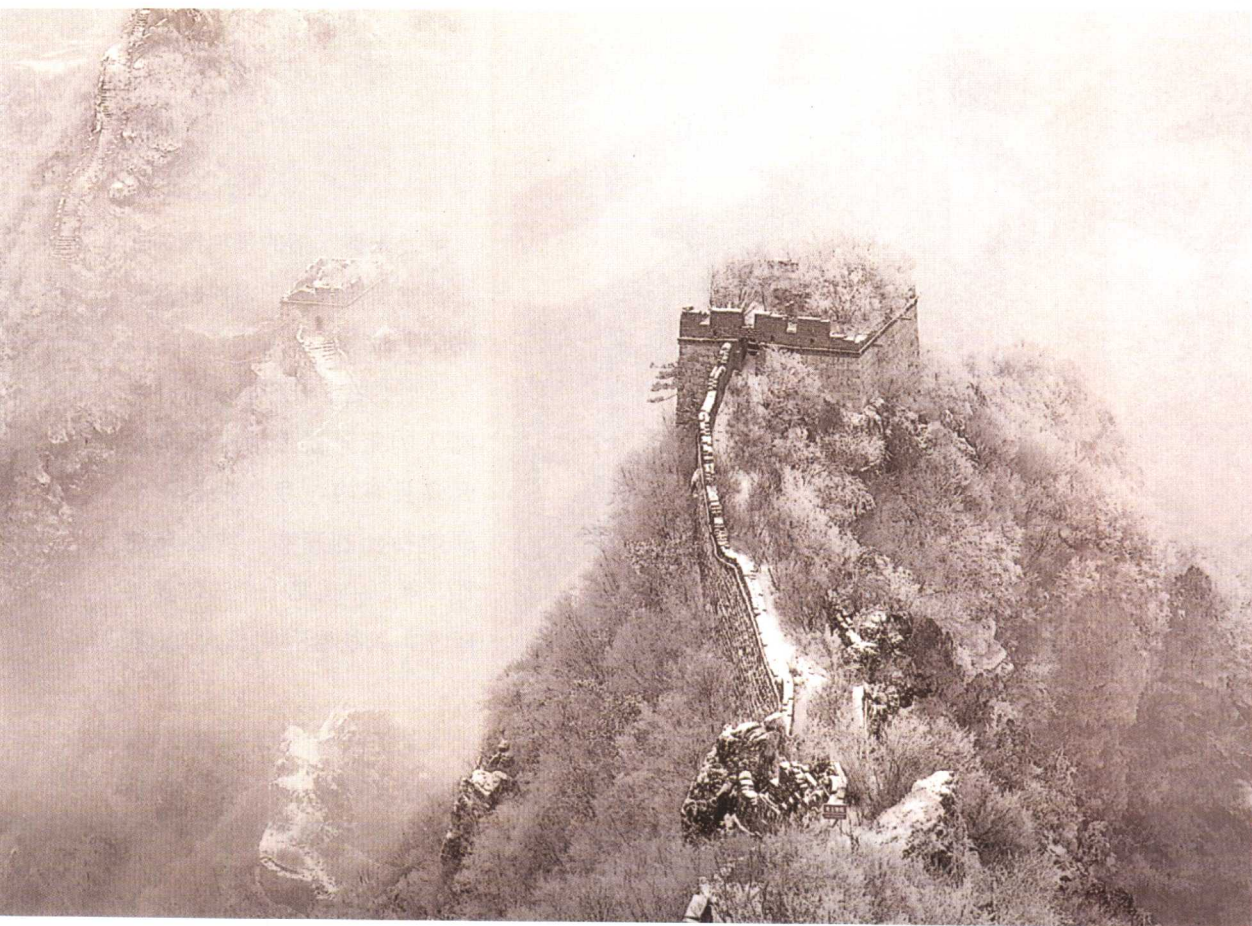
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中国古代史

PERIOD BEFORE THE
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中国历史的开篇——

先秦

The Dawn of Chinese History —
The Pre-Qin Period

概述

Introduction

“先秦”指的是中国历史上秦始皇统一中国以前的漫长的历史时期。

大约在170万年以前，中国人的祖先就生活在云南的元谋县境内，我们把这作为原始社会的开端。约公元前2070年，中国第一个王朝夏朝建立，其统治时间长达400多年。

第二个王朝是商朝，也叫殷（Yīn）朝（因为商朝

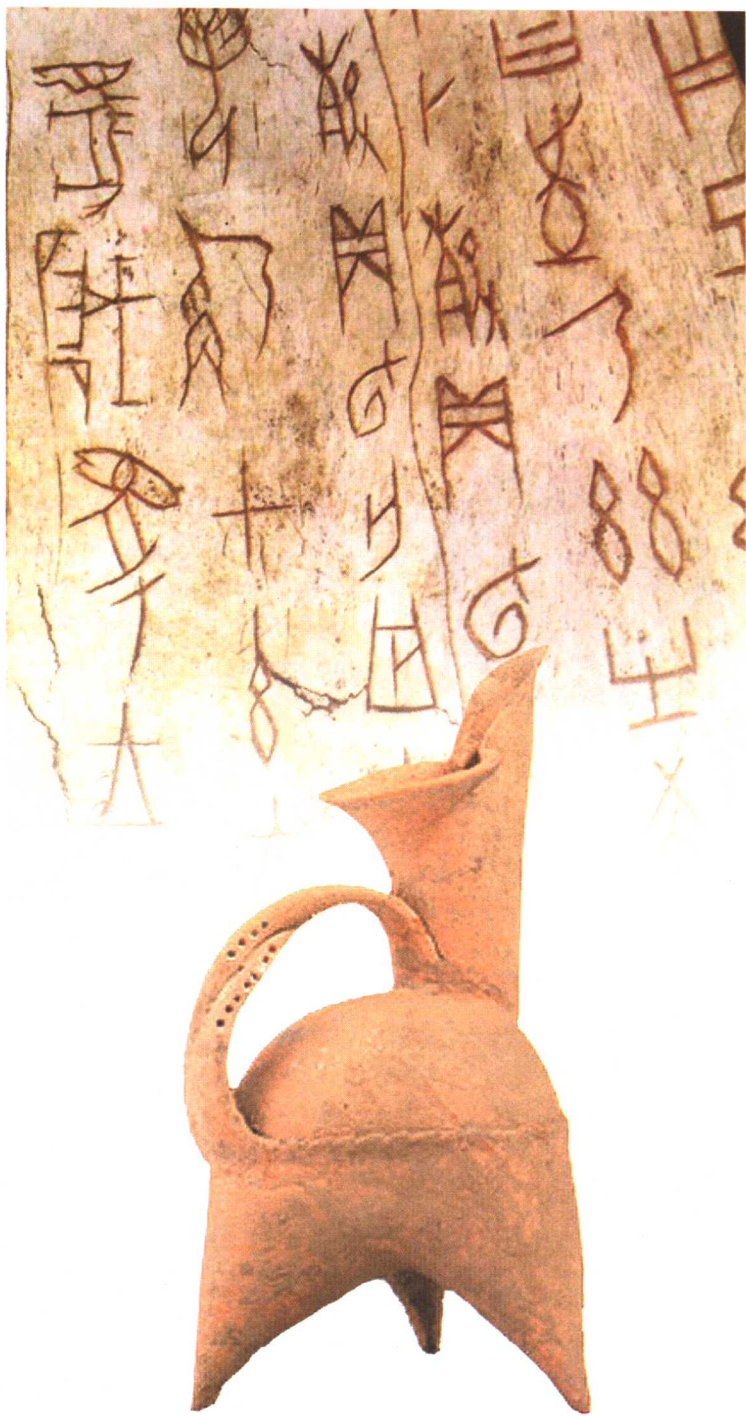




初年，多次迁都，最后迁到殷——今河南安阳，并在那里统治了300多年）。商朝是当时世界上的一个大国，统治时间长达500多年，留下了甲骨文、青铜器等许多极其珍贵的史料和文物。

第三个统一的王朝是西周，都城在今天的西安。后来西周的都城被少数民族攻占，周王室被迫迁都到今天的洛阳，历史上叫做东周，西周与东周的时间共约800年。东周分为春秋和战国两个时期。春秋时期，国家分裂成许多小国；到了战国时期，形成了7个力量强大的国家，这些国家通过改革进入了封建社会，并为后来秦国的统一打下了基础。

与世界历史对照，当古埃及、古巴比伦、古印度文明发展进步之时，中国正经历文明勃兴的夏、商、西周王朝。当欧洲希腊、罗马城邦国家繁荣之时，正是中国春秋战国思想文化昌盛的时代。东西方文明交相辉映，地中海地区和中国，逐渐形成世界两大文明的中心。



The Dawn of Chinese History — The Pre-Qin Period

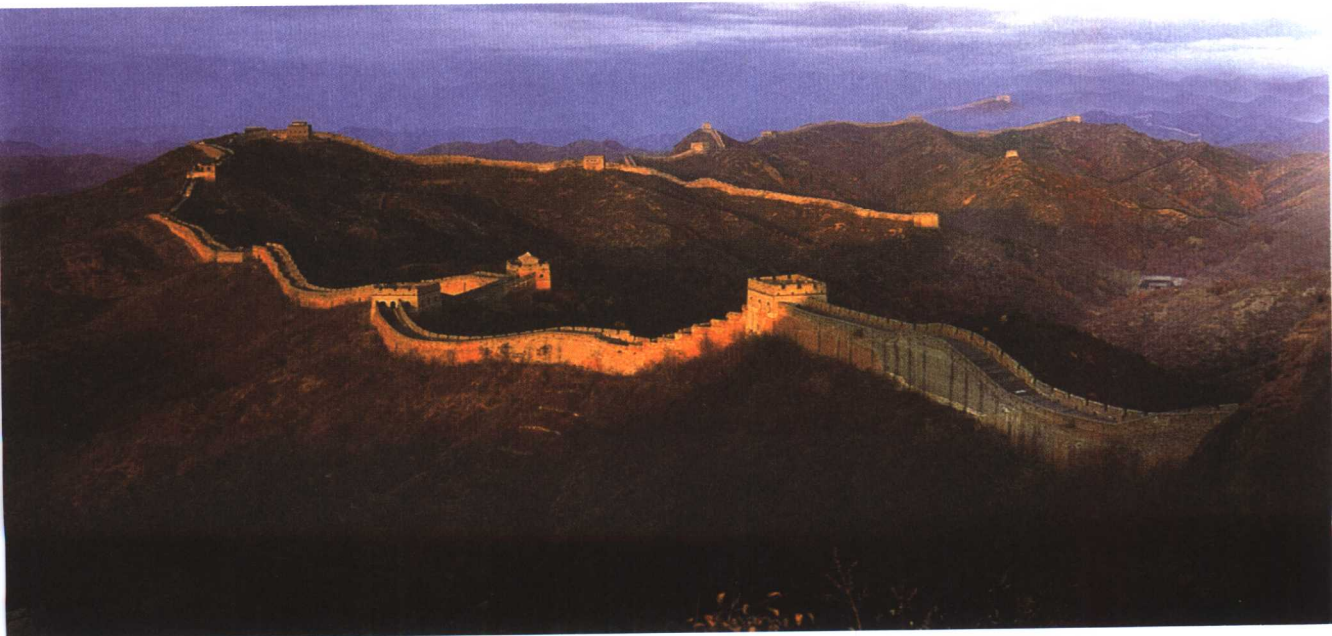
Introduction



The pre-Qin period refers to the long period before Emperor Qinshihuang's unification of ancient China.

About 1 700 000 years ago, the ancestors of the Chinese people lived in present-day Yuanmou County, Yunnan Province. This period is now generally considered the beginning of primitive society in China. About 2070 BC, the Xia Dynasty came into being. This was China's first dynasty and it lasted for more than 400 years.

Succeeding the Xia was the Shang Dynasty (also called the Yin Dynasty for changing its capital several times and finally in Yin, today's Anyang city, Henan Province). The Shang Dynasty was a great power in the world which lasted over 500 years. This dynasty bestowed to its posterity a great heritage of artifacts such as extremely precious inscriptions on bones, tortoise shells and bronze wares.





The third kingdom was the Western Zhou Dynasty, with Hao as its capital (today's Xi'an city, Shaanxi Province). Later as its capital fell into the hands of the minority invaders, the Western Zhou had to move its capital eastward to today's Luoyang city, Henan Province, hence called the Eastern Zhou Dynasty. From the Western Zhou to the Eastern Zhou Dynasties, they altogether existed about 800 years. The Eastern Zhou was later divided by historians into distinct periods: the Spring and Autumn Period (770—476 BC) and the Warring States Period (475—221 BC). During the Spring and Autumn Period, China was split into many small rival vassal states. By the time of the Warring States Period, these small states coalesced into seven powerful

bigger states. By way of reforms, these seven states developed into the feudal society, which paved the way for the later unification of China under the Qin Dynasty.

When the ancient Egyptian, Babylonian and Indian civilizations were progressing, the ancient Chinese civilization in the Xia, Shang and Western Zhou dynasties was already in full bloom. When the Greek and Roman city states were in their heyday, the thought and culture of the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods was flourishing in ancient China. With a broad view of the ancient world civilization, one may find that the two stars of civilization — one in the East, the other in the West — were shining at the same time. This gradually developed into two centers of world civilization.

