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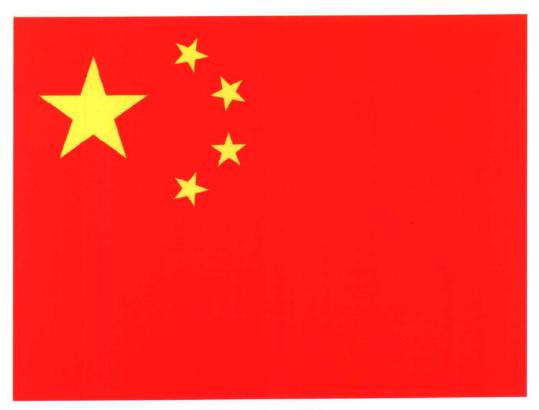
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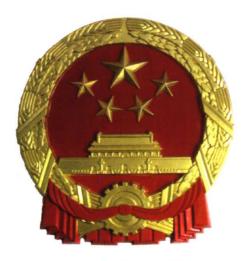
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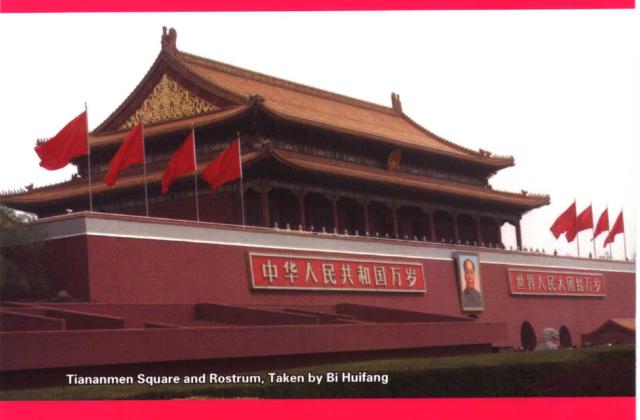
National Flag of China



National Emblem of China



Map of China

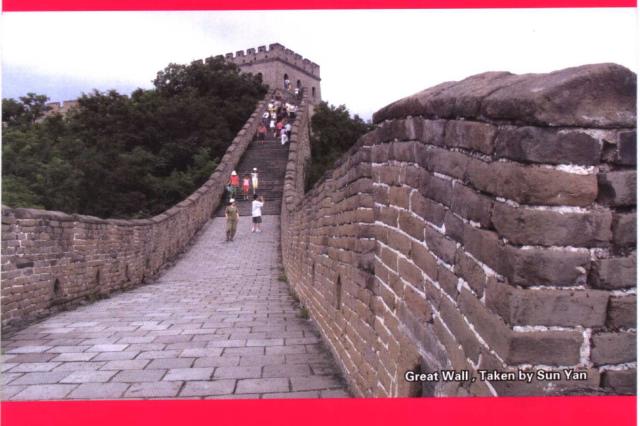


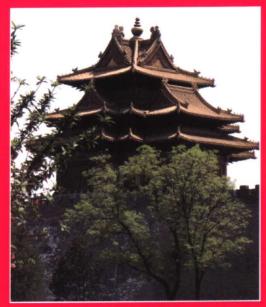


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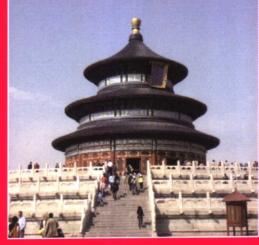


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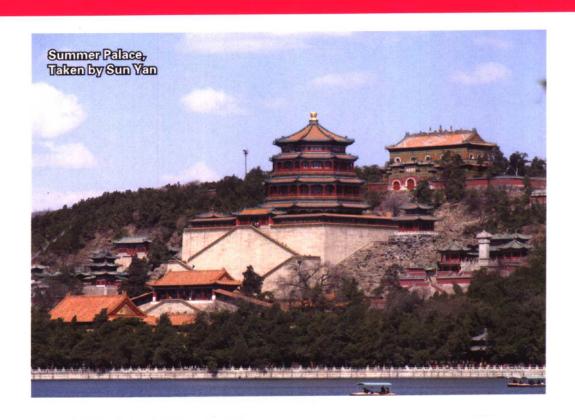


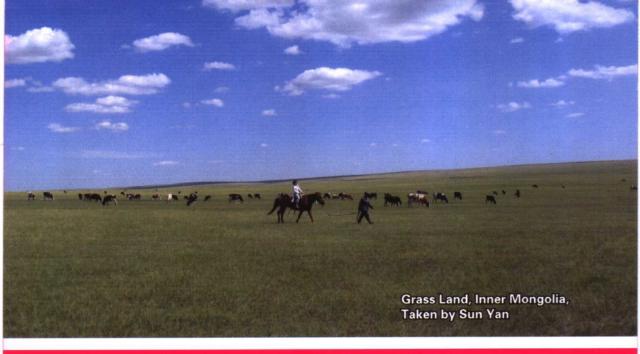


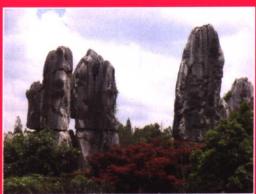
Corner Tower in Forbidden City, Taken by Sun Yan



Heaven Temple, Taken by Bi Huifang

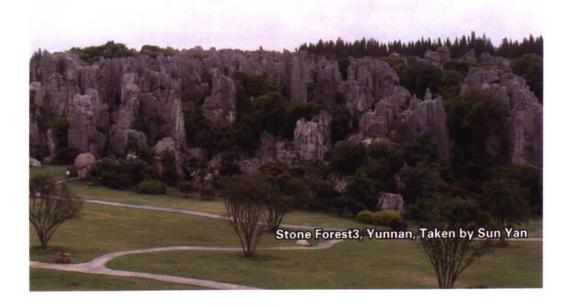










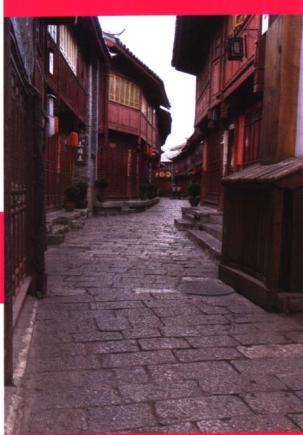




Tri-Tower, Yunnan, Taken by Sun Yan



Naxi Nationality, Yunnan, Taken by Sun Yan



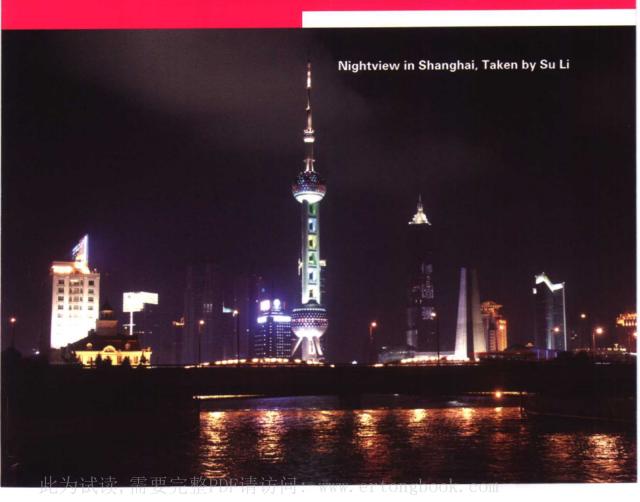
Street in Lijiang Ancient City, Yunnan, Taken by Sun Yan



Rock Carving in Longmen Grotto, Henan, Taken by Sun Yan

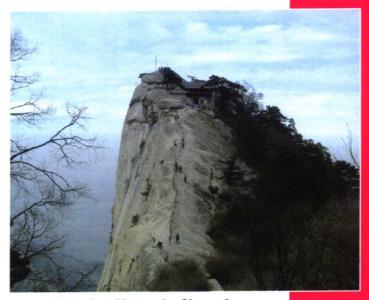








Hukou Waterfall of Yellow River, Taken by Sun Yan



Huashan Mountain, Shaanxi, Taken by Sun Yan



Buddhist Sutra Flag, Tibet, Taken by Tang Xiaoqing

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FOREWORD

China, representing one of the earliest civilizations in the world, has a recorded history of 5,000 years. The Chinese created a brilliant culture in the past thousands of years. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, great changes have taken place, especially after 1978 when China began to carry out the policy of reform and opening up to the outside world.

Today China is playing an increasing role in the international affairs economically, politically and culturally and has attracted more and more attention worldwide. However, quite a few foreign people do not know China and the Chinese well enough to deal with their living environment in China and fully understand Chinese society, as well as Chinese people.

This book is designed to provide some necessary, basic and important information to foreigners who are interested in China, in particular, to foreign students who are studying or will study in China.

We sincerely hope that this book will help you to understand China and the Chinese well and will promote exchange and friendship between Chinese and people from various countries.

The Editors





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Quick Facts

A. The National Flag

The national flag of China consists of five yellow stars on a red field. On September 27, 1949, the First Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) approved the proposal for using the red five-star flag as the national flag of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

B. The National Emblem

The National Emblem has Tian'anmen (the Gate of Heavenly Peace) at the center surrounded by wheat stalks with a cog-wheel at the bottom. On June 18, 1950, the Second Session of the First CPPCC National Committee adopted the National Emblem.

C. The Capital

The Capital of China is Beijing. On September 27, 1949, the First Session of the CPPCC adopted a resolution making Beiping, renamed