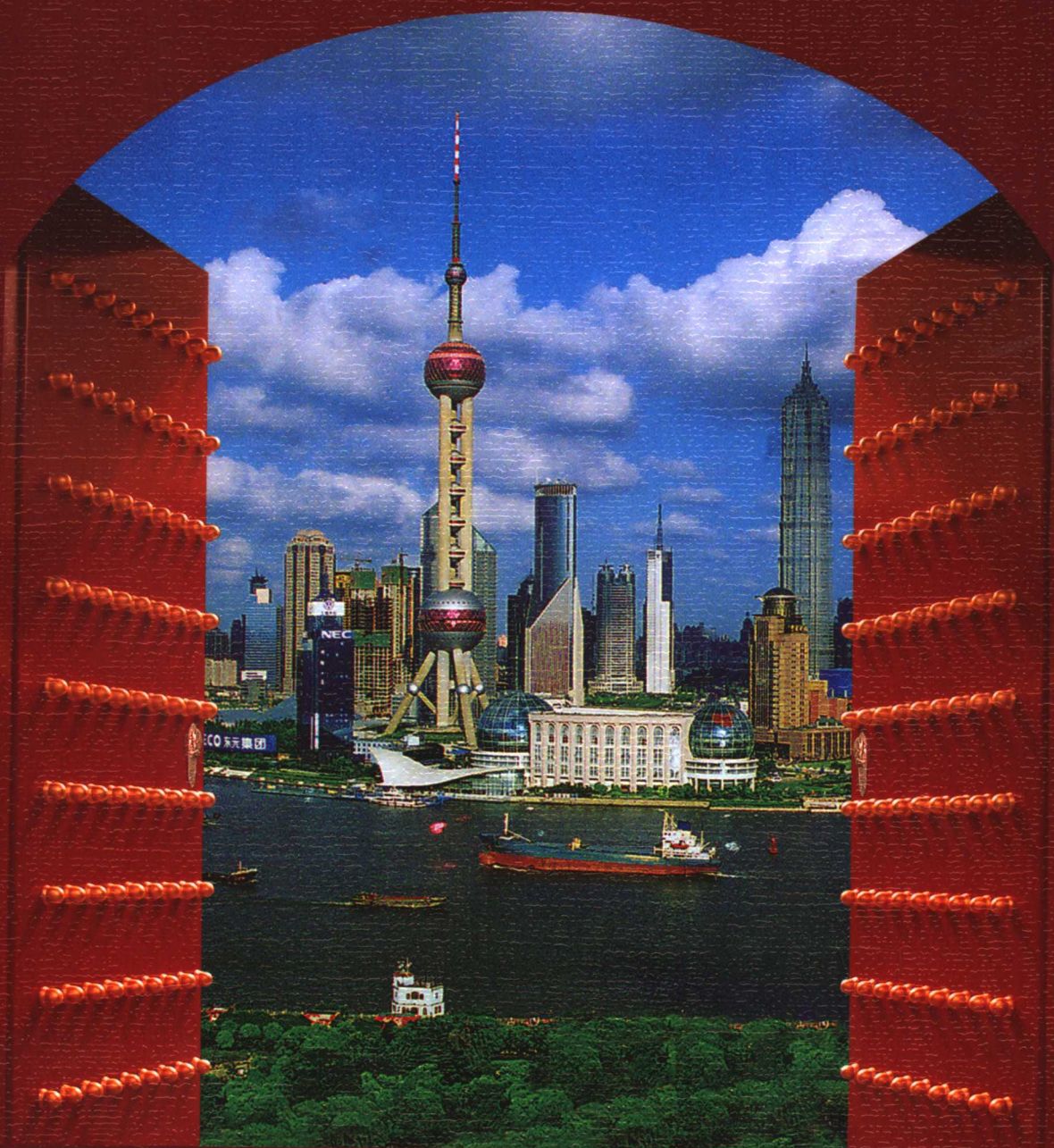


PANORAMIC CHINA

SHANGHAI

DOWN THE CENTURIES



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS

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Shanghai

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It is easy to have a quick look at China's past and present, but it takes time to gain a panoramic knowledge of China. The "Panoramic China" series is meant to assist readers, especially those overseas, in this respect. Each volume in the series focuses on a province, municipality or autonomous region, describing, with illustrations, the outstanding characteristics of each area from different perspectives.

As a city, Shanghai is only some 700 years old and its history as a well-known international metropolis is even shorter—a little over a century. During that time Shanghai has experienced many vicissitudes, its rise and prosperity becoming the stuff of legend. Being near the sea and reflecting this in its name, since the beginning of China's modern history, Shanghai has become the most vibrant and most internationalized place in China's modernization process. It is the epitome of modern, fast-changing China.

Today, Shanghai attracts more and more attention from all over the world. The legend continues.

PANORAMIC CHINA

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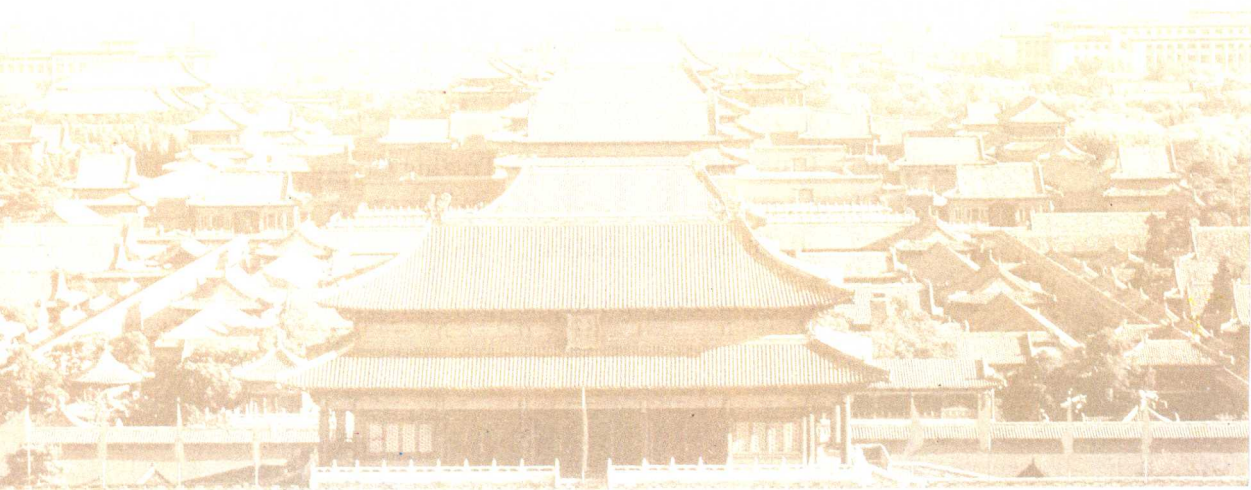
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Introduction

China has 23 provinces, four municipalities directly under the Central Government, five autonomous regions and two special administrative regions. Due to geographical and topographical differences and climatic variations, each area has its own unique natural scenery. The mountains in the north of the country are rugged and magnificent, the waters in the south are clear and turbulent, the Gobi in the northwest shines brilliantly in the sunlight, the hills in the southeast are often shrouded in floating fog, green waves of sorghum and soybean crops undulate over the vast fields of the northeast, and the mountains in the southwest, with sequestered villages and terraced fields, look tranquil and picturesque.

There are 56 ethnic groups in China. The Han, making up the overwhelming majority of the population, mainly lives in the eastern and central parts of the country, while many ethnic groups with smaller populations live in the west. In China, all ethnic groups, regardless of size, are equal and respect each other. Each ethnic group has its own folk customs, religious beliefs and cultural traditions, and most use their own language and script. Regional autonomy is practiced in areas where ethnic minorities live in compact communities. All the ethnic groups call themselves "Chinese." They are courteous and friendly. In the ethnic-minority areas, the quiet environment, quaint buildings, exquisite fashions, unsophisticated folk customs and hospitality of the local people hold a great appeal to visitors from afar.

China boasts 5,000 years of recorded civilization and a brilliant culture. The country is home to such world-renowned cultural treasures as the Great Wall, terracotta warriors and horses of the First Emperor of the Qin Dynasty, Mogao Grottoes at Dunhuang, and Ming and Qing imperial palaces and mausoleums, and large numbers of ancient architectural masterpieces, including temples, Buddhist pagodas, residential buildings, gardens, bridges, city walls and irrigation



works. There are also cultural relics unearthed from ancient sites, including painted pottery, jade ware, bronze ware, large and ornate tombs and foundations of historical buildings, and many more as yet undiscovered. The museums of China's various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions house thousands of cultural relics and works of art, among which are treasures rare in the world, displaying the long history of China and the splendid Chinese culture from different aspects. The strong, deep-rooted Chinese culture has always influenced the mentality and moral standards of the Chinese people, having developed continually in pace with the civilization. A careful study of today's Peking opera, *kunqu* opera, shadow play, calligraphy, painting, paper-cutting, and even the flower-shaped steamed buns on the kitchen range of farmers will reveal elements of traditional Chinese culture as well as replications of the art of the past.

Like other countries of venerable age, China has suffered grievous calamities. During the century and more before the 1950s, the Chinese people made unrelenting struggles for the prosperity of the country, and national independence and liberation. A large number of insightful people and revolutionaries, cherishing all kinds of dreams for a strong China, studied the ways of the West in quest for prosperity and strength, and borrowed the revolutionary experience of foreign countries. At last, the Communist Party of China, proceeding from the reality of China, and relying on the working people, founded a brand-new country, the People's Republic of China, in 1949. Since then, the Chinese people have made persistent efforts and explorations for the grand revitalization of the Chinese nation. The Chinese people's efforts in the past two decades and more have resulted in outstanding achievements, with rapid social progress, a well-developed economy, and a modern civilization and traditional culture enhancing each other.

It is easy to have a quick look at China's past and present, but it takes time to gain a panoramic knowledge of China. The "Panoramic China" series is meant to assist readers, especially those overseas, in this respect. Each volume in the series focuses on a province, municipality or autonomous region, describing, with illustrations, the outstanding characteristics of each area from different perspectives. Through this series, the reader will acquire knowledge of the real and vivid daily life of the local people, the colorful society and the developing economy, assisted by relevant information.

Location of Shanghai in China



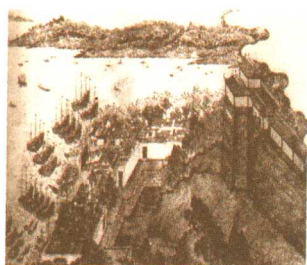
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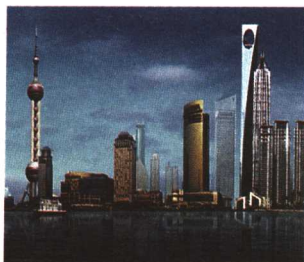


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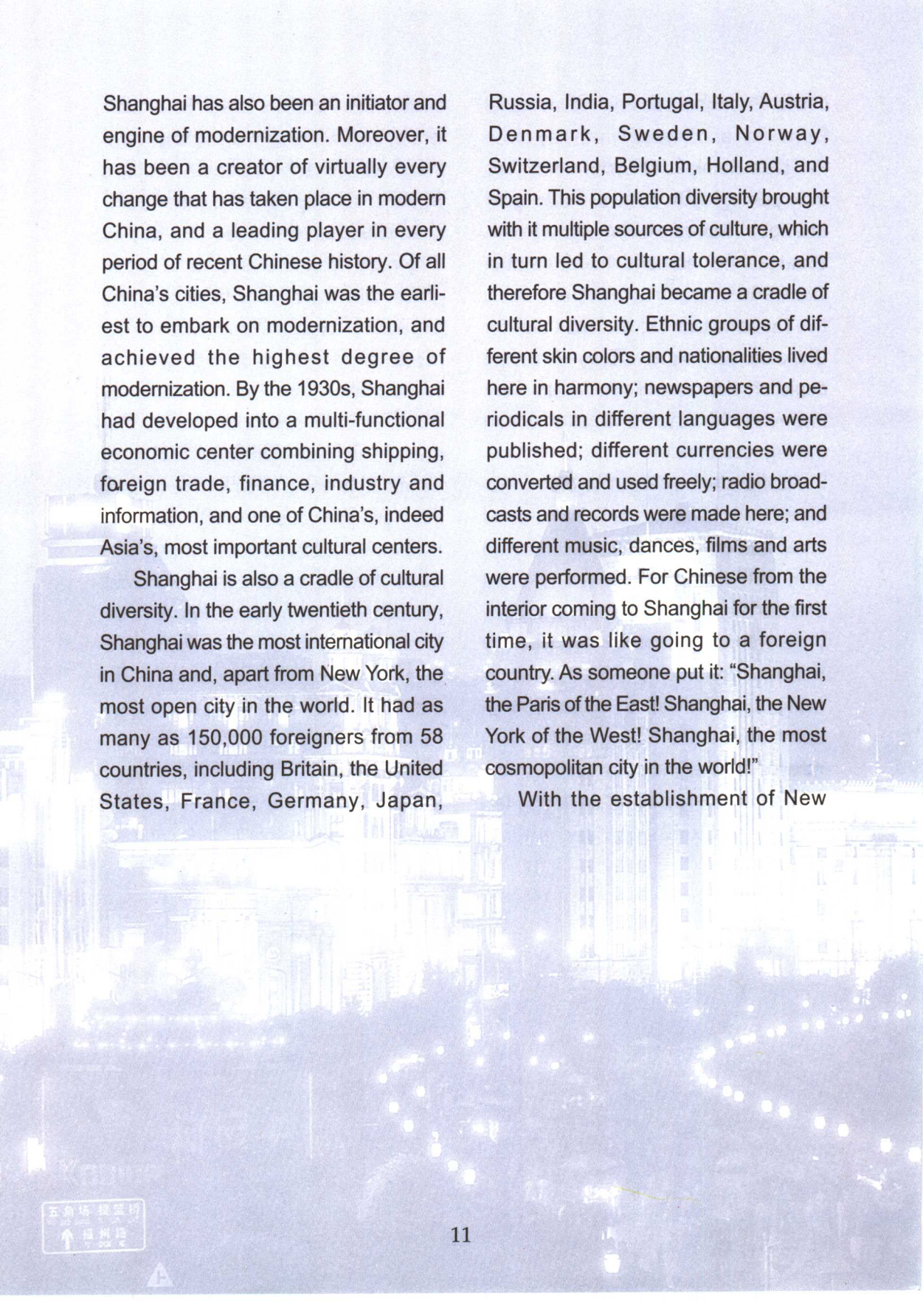
“Look back 2,000 years to Xi'an, 500 years to Beijing, a century to Shanghai.” “Look at Shenzhen in the 70s, Hainan in the 80s, and Shanghai in the 90s.”

These two sentences are popular in China, familiar to many. They are a vivid depiction of Shanghai's special position in Chinese history of civilization and in the process of reform and opening up. For a hundred years, Shanghai has epitomized change in modern China and in recent decades, Shanghai has taken over from Shenzhen in the vanguard of China's reform and opening-up.

Anyone with a smattering of history will know that Shanghai is a typical city rising in modern times. Before Shanghai was opened for foreign trade in 1843, if anyone had said that it would soon become the most prosperous metropolis

in China, in Asia even, he would have been taken for an idiot. However, only after a few decades after opening up to foreign trade, the ordinary coastal town of Shanghai had developed into the “most thriving commercial port in China,” and an international metropolis. It was amazing. The most important significance embodied in the rise of Shanghai was the creation of a unique type of city. As a huge commercial port whose main function was trade, it was created by Chinese and foreign migrants during the process of cultural conflict and intermingling between East and West. It was called “National Commercial Center” and “No.1 Port of China.”

Shanghai (literally “on the sea”), on the East China Sea, is as critical to China as London is to Britain or New York to the United States, and could not be replaced by any other Chinese city. A product of China's modernization movement,



Shanghai has also been an initiator and engine of modernization. Moreover, it has been a creator of virtually every change that has taken place in modern China, and a leading player in every period of recent Chinese history. Of all China's cities, Shanghai was the earliest to embark on modernization, and achieved the highest degree of modernization. By the 1930s, Shanghai had developed into a multi-functional economic center combining shipping, foreign trade, finance, industry and information, and one of China's, indeed Asia's, most important cultural centers.

Shanghai is also a cradle of cultural diversity. In the early twentieth century, Shanghai was the most international city in China and, apart from New York, the most open city in the world. It had as many as 150,000 foreigners from 58 countries, including Britain, the United States, France, Germany, Japan,

Russia, India, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, and Spain. This population diversity brought with it multiple sources of culture, which in turn led to cultural tolerance, and therefore Shanghai became a cradle of cultural diversity. Ethnic groups of different skin colors and nationalities lived here in harmony; newspapers and periodicals in different languages were published; different currencies were converted and used freely; radio broadcasts and records were made here; and different music, dances, films and arts were performed. For Chinese from the interior coming to Shanghai for the first time, it was like going to a foreign country. As someone put it: "Shanghai, the Paris of the East! Shanghai, the New York of the West! Shanghai, the most cosmopolitan city in the world!"

With the establishment of New

China, Shanghai became the industrial foundation and financial mainstay of the People's Republic of China. And since the opening-up in 1990 of Pudong on the east bank of the Huangpu River, Shanghai has come to the forefront of China's reform and opening-up, taking the responsibility of the lead city for China's economic development. During these 15 years Shanghai's development has really rocketed and taken on an entirely new look.

Nanjing Road, known as "Ten-li Foreigners' Paradise" has been re-modeled into a new pedestrian street, combining shopping, sightseeing, and entertainment. In Pudong, former villages have been redeveloped into a new city area with skyscrapers and groups of foreign businesses. Along the waterfront on both banks of the Huangpu River a financial marketplace has taken shape with row upon row of Chinese and foreign banks, the stock and futures

exchanges. People's Tower, headquarters of the Shanghai municipal government overlooks the splendid People's Square. Cramped residential compounds and streets have made way for lofty high-rises and carpets of green grass. Outdated roads have been replaced with a comprehensive network of rapid air, land, and underground transportation. Stand in the bustling city center are new museums, libraries, theaters and other cultural facilities. Cramped housing has been renovated into new, spacious residential communities with garden layout managed by computerized system. Iron and steel, petrochemicals, automobiles, finance, foreign trade, new and high-tech industries are the mainstay of a re-structured industrial set-up. Educational institutions have been reorganized into several comprehensive universities combining teaching and research, and a wide variety of schools geared to specific types and lev-