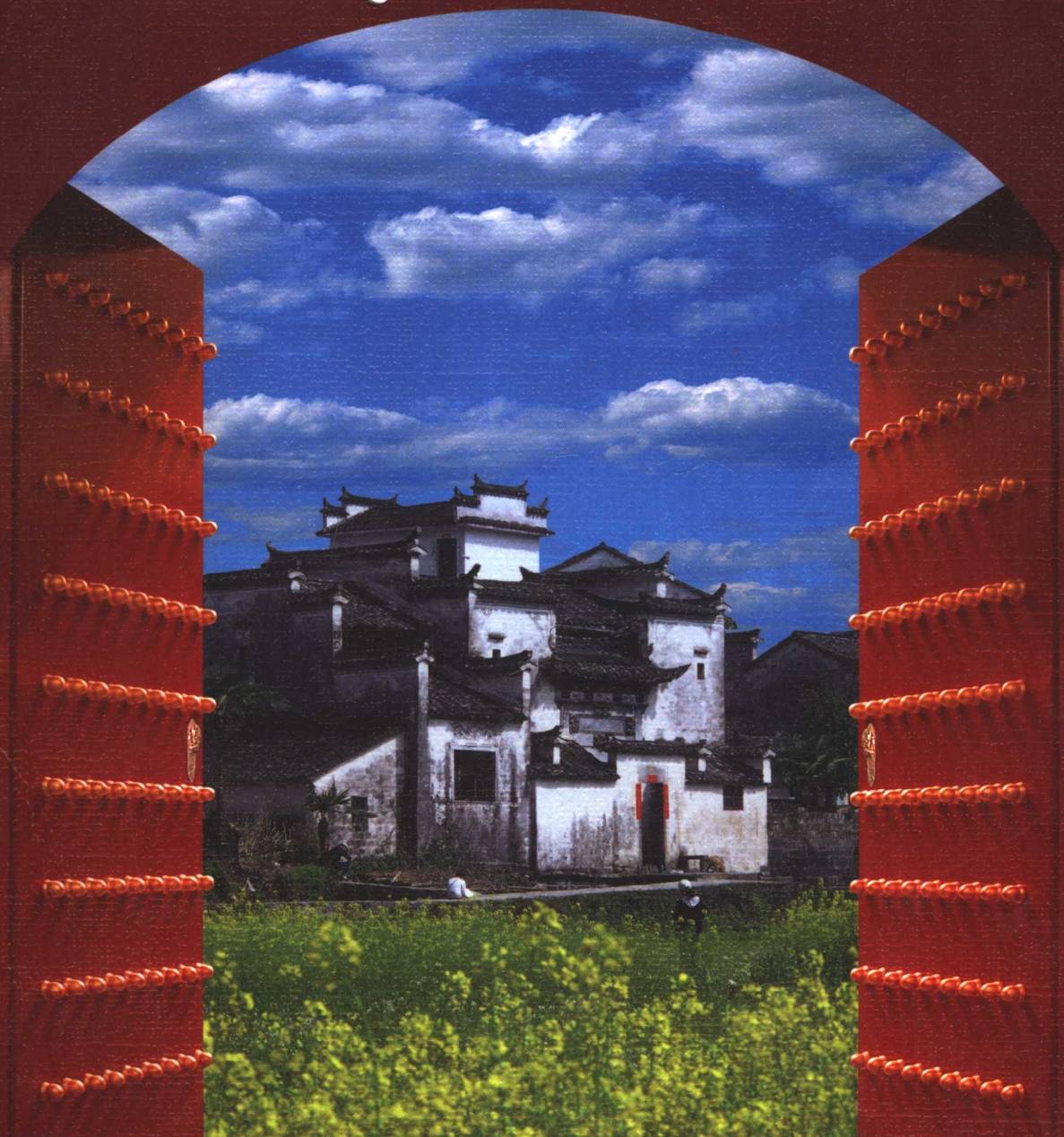


PANORAMIC CHINA

# ANHUI

## Mount Huangshan and the Hui Culture

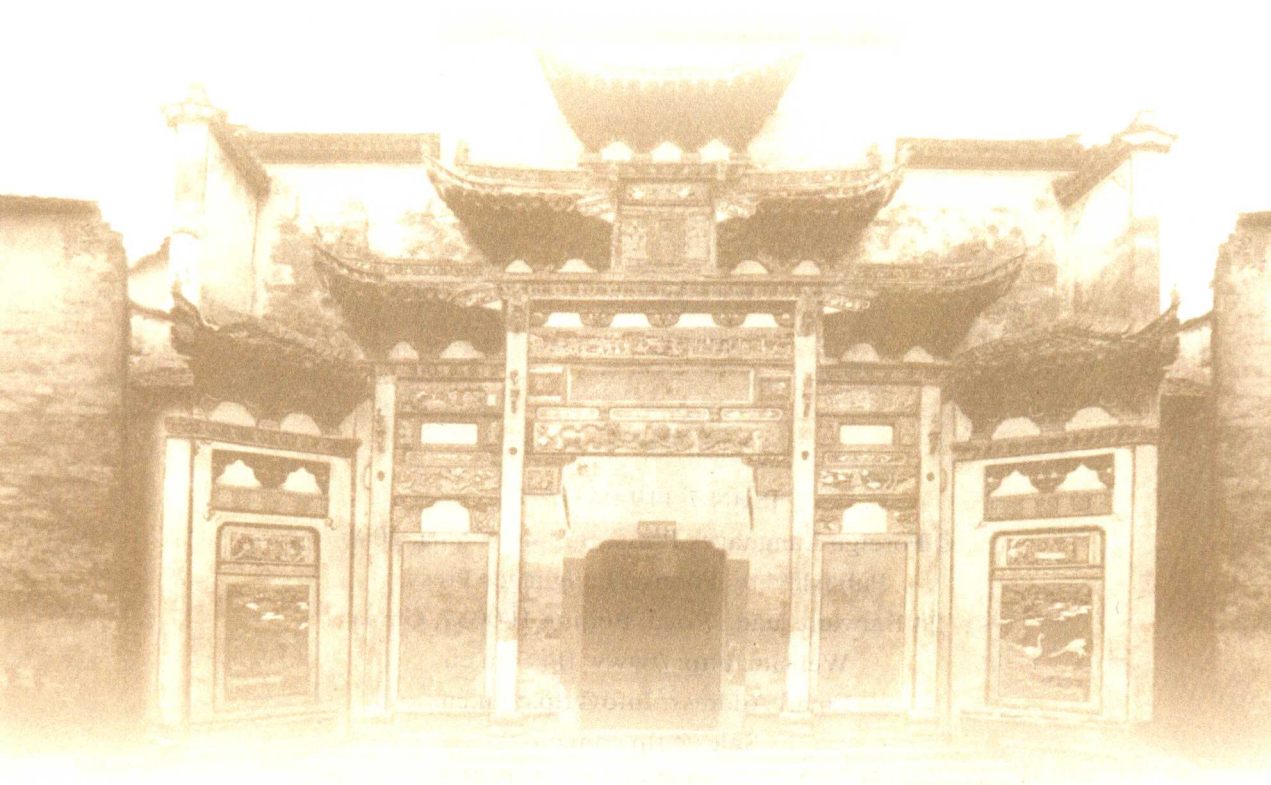


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# Introduction

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 live 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.

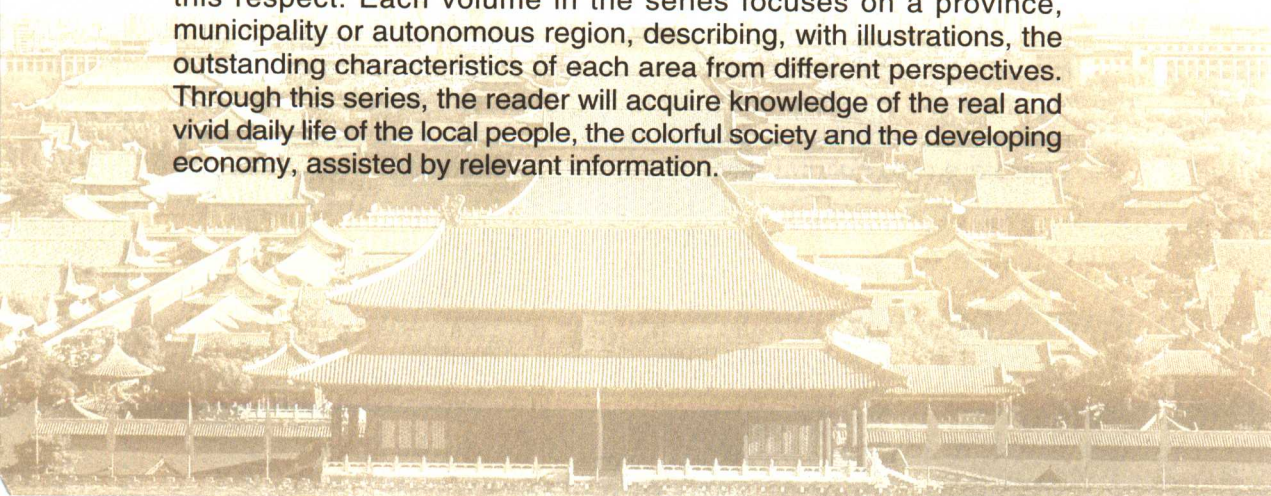
China boasts 5,000 years of recorded civilization and a brilliant culture. The country is home to such world-renowned cultural treasures as the Great Wall, terracotta warriors and horses of the First Emperor of the Qin Dynasty, Mogao Grottoes at Dunhuang, and Ming and Qing imperial palaces and mausoleums, 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



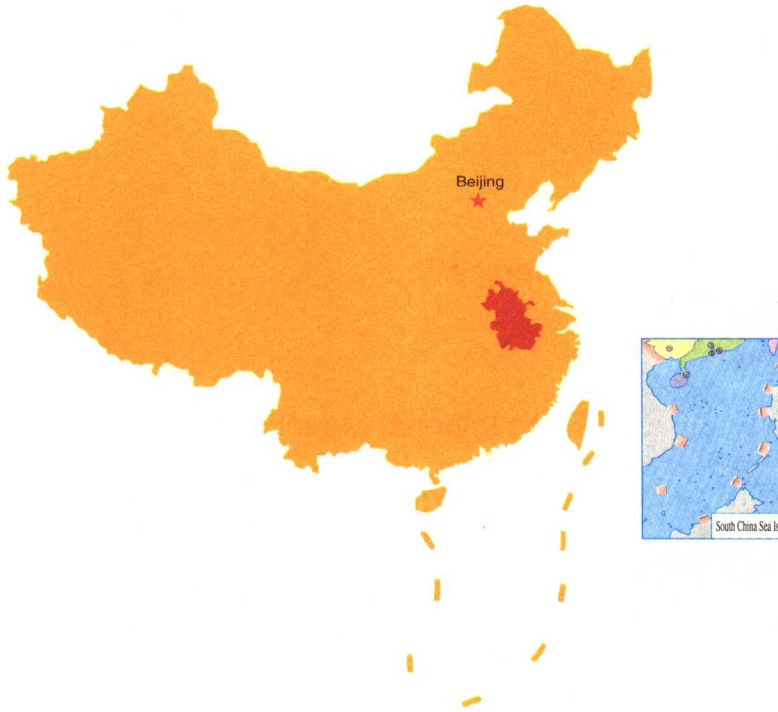
painted pottery, jade ware, bronze ware, large and ornate tombs and foundations of historical buildings, and many more as yet undiscovered. The museums of China's various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions house thousands of cultural relics and works of art, among which are treasures rare 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 plays, 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 a 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 Anhui Province within China



## Administrative Divisions of Anhui Province





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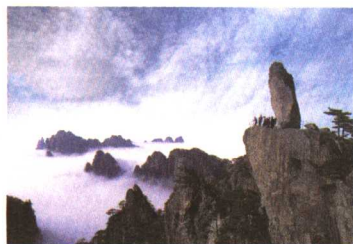
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# Preface

Anhui Province in the north end of eastern China is called Wan for short, because it is the seat of ancient Wan Kingdom, Wan Mountain and the Wan River. It has a territory of 139,600 square kilometers and a population of 64.5 million. The capital city is Hefei. The Yangtze and Huaihe rivers, two of the largest in China, run across it from west to east, partitioning it into three regions: north of the Huaihe River are fertile plains, between the Huaihe and Yangtze rivers are hilly lands abundant in rivers, lakes and terrace fields, and the part south of the Yangtze River features high and scenic mountains, with the best known being Mount Huangshan and Mount Jiu Hua. The province is studded with lakes of the Yangtze water system, such as the Chao hu, Longgan and Nanyi lakes. The 800-square-kilometer Chao hu Lake is one of the larg-

Sunrise on Mount Huangshan





est freshwater lakes in China.

Anhui is located in the transitional region between the warm temperate zone and subtropical zone. The region north of the Huaihe River is dominated by a semi-moist monsoon climate of warm temperate zone. And that south of the river has a moist monsoon climate of subtropical zone. The average temperature of the province varies between 14-17°C, annual sunshine hours total 1,800 to 2,500, frost-free days mount to 200 to 250, and yearly rainfall is 800 to 1,800 mm.

Anhui boasts a long and brilliant history besides its magnificent landscapes. It is home to Lao Zi and Zhuang Zi, founders of Taoism, which and Confucianism are the two major resources of traditional Chinese culture. The Hui Culture, originating in southern Anhui, has its particular schools and genres in the aspects such as philosophy, literature, poetry, drama, painting, medicine and

Hefei City





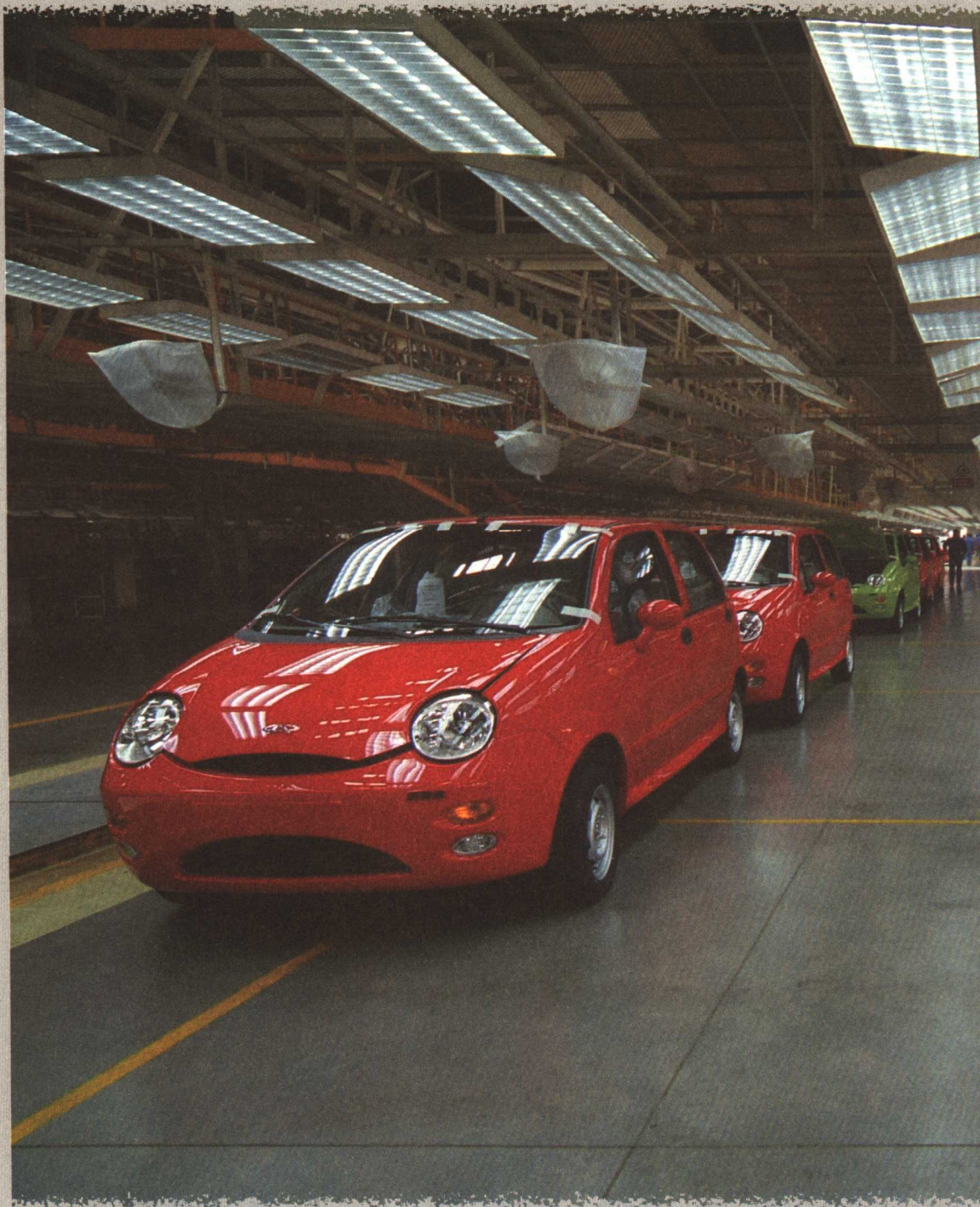
architecture. It is believed by scholars to be a splendid regional culture only comparable to those of Dunhuang and Tibet. And it has significant influence on the history of China.

Located in the Yangtze River Delta, the economic engine of China, Anhui is adjacent to several economic developed regions, including Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces and Shanghai, and is connected with the coastal areas by the Yangtze River. In the past years it has built a complete transportation system. Its railway coverage is the densest in eastern China, and highway coverage is among the highest in central China.

Affluent mineral resources have facilitated high industrial growth in Anhui. Abounding in coal, iron and copper, it is a key energy and raw material base of China. It is also a major producer of agricultural products, such as grain, oil, cotton and tea. Developed transportation and advantaged location make it a

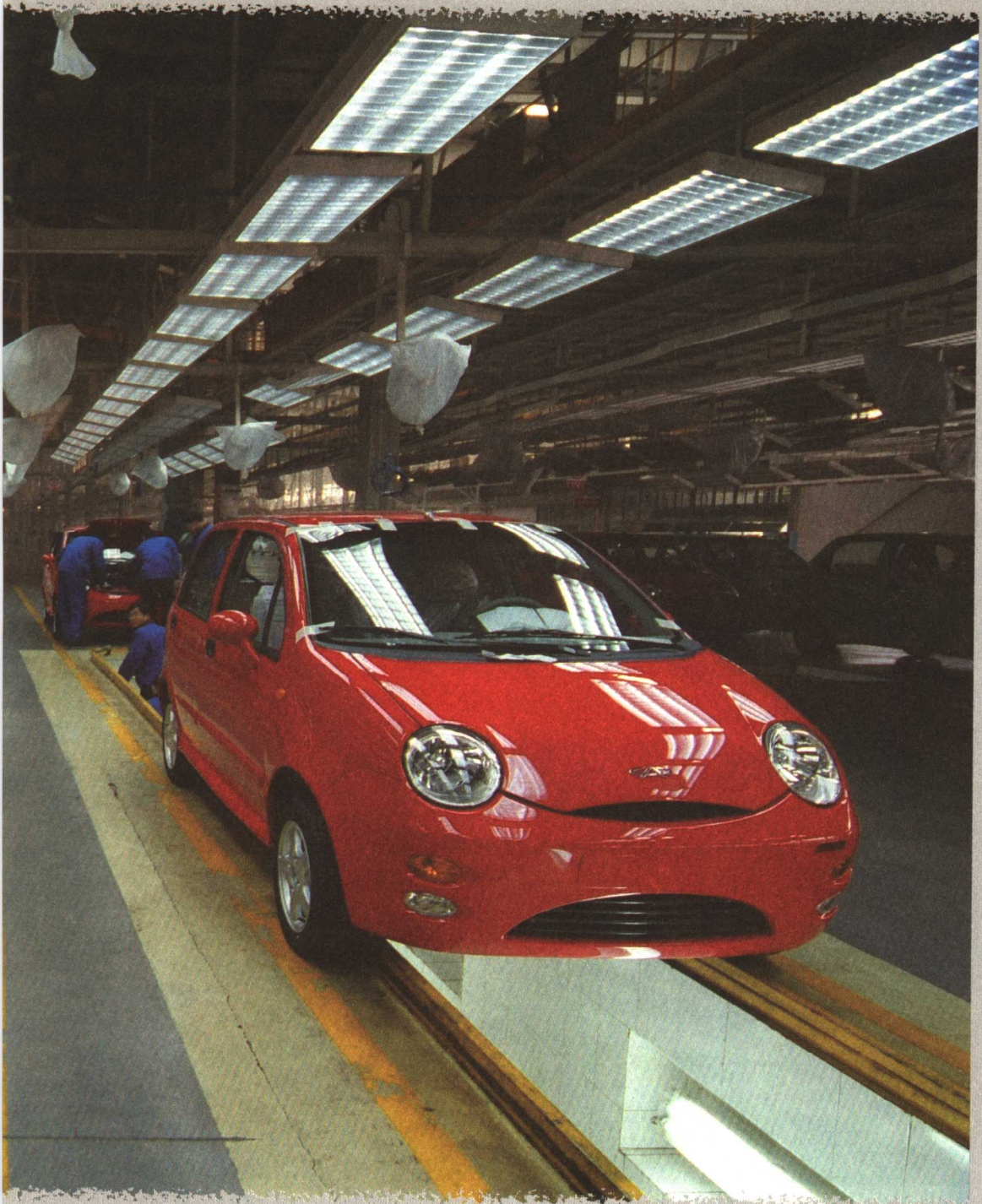






Production line of sedan QQ









Production line of cold rolling plate at the Ma'anshan Iron and Steel Company



Lianyungang-Huorke Expressway





Tiantai Temple at Jiu Hua Mountain

bridge between the economically prosperous east and the comparatively backward west, and an outpost in the nation's strategy to transfer some industries from the east to the west. The province has significantly improved its comprehensive economic strength, with the major industries being energy, raw material, chemistry, auto making, machinery, household electric appliances and processing of agricultural produce and sideline products.

Anhui boasts the best of sceneries in China. Mount Huangshan is a world cultural heritage, world natural heritage and a world geopark. Ancient villages Xidi and Hongcun in southern Anhui are world cultural heritage sites. Mount Jiu Hua is among the top four Buddhist mountains in China, and Qiyun Mountain is a famous Taoist shrine. The magnificent landscapes and the Hui Culture are appealing to tourists around the world.

Anhui is open to the world, and reveals tremendous vigor and potentials. At a time when the nation is putting particular efforts in developing its central regions, Anhui people work strenuously to build their home richer, stronger and more harmonious.

This book is intended to introduce various aspects of Anhui, and serve as a window on the province.