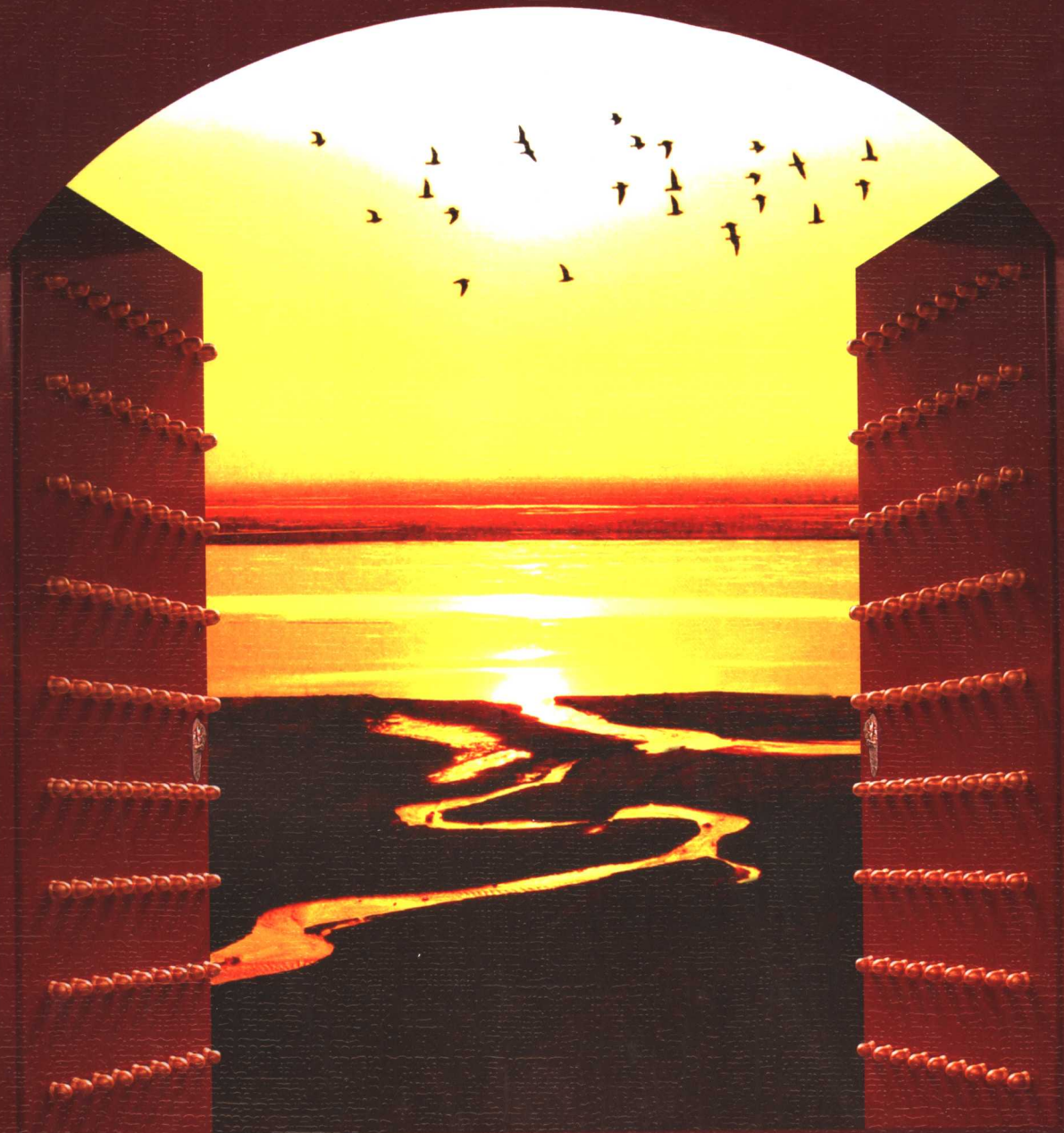


PANORAMIC CHINA

NINGXIA

A Land Blessed by the Yellow River



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS

PANORAMIC CHINA

Ningxia

A Land Blessed by the Yellow River



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

宁夏: 天下黄河富宁夏 / 韦黎明等著

北京: 外文出版社, 2006 (全景中国)

ISBN 7-119-04298-X

I. 宁… II. 韦… III. 宁夏—概况—英文 IV. K924.3

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2005) 第 122177 号

全景中国—宁夏: 天下黄河富宁夏

主 编: 王宗礼

副 主 编: 马晓军

撰 稿: 刘长宗 韦黎明 董宏征

图片提供: 杨宏峰 徐胜凯 王正明 董宏征 聂泉声 王守祝 吴建新

胡宪国 李书彬 高雪霞 马俊杰 徐蕊 穆荣 段旻

段源东 李书学 徐毅仁 王建波 田春林 韩胜利 杨沂龙

苏宁 陈孟华 崔智华 海洋等人

中文审定: 萧师铃

责任编辑: 崔黎丽

助理编辑: 薛 芊

翻 译: 纪 华 高文星

英文审定: May Yee 邵海明

封面设计: 蔡 荣

内文设计: 天下智慧

印刷监制: 韩少乙

© 2006 外文出版社

出版发行:

外文出版社 (中国北京百万庄大街 24 号)

邮政编码 100037 <http://www.flp.com.cn>

制 版:

外文出版社照排中心

印 制:

北京京都六环印刷厂

开本: 980mm × 710mm 1/16 (平装) 印张: 18

2006 年第 1 版第 1 次印刷

(英)

ISBN 7-119-04298-X

定价: 98.00 元

85-E-605P

版权所有 侵权必究

First Edition 2006

ISBN 7-119-04298-X

© Foreign Languages Press, Beijing, China, 2006

Published by Foreign Languages Press

24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing 100037, China

Website: <http://www.flp.com.cn>

Email Address: Info@flp.com.cn

Sales@flp.com.cn

Distributed by China International Book Trading Corporation

35 Chegongzhuang Xilu, Beijing 100044, China

P. O. Box 399, Beijing, China

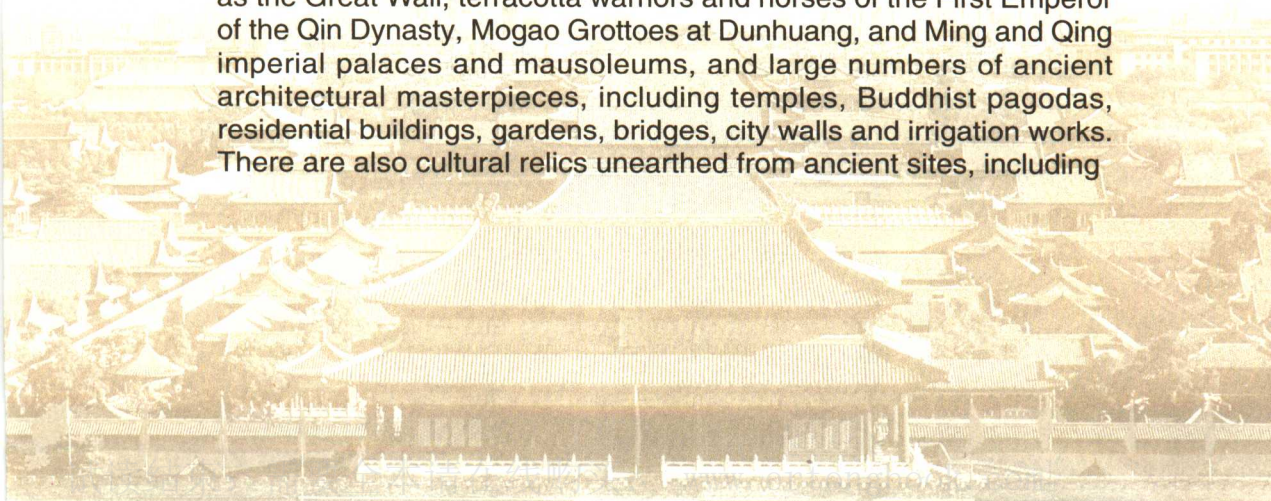
Printed in the People's Republic of China

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.

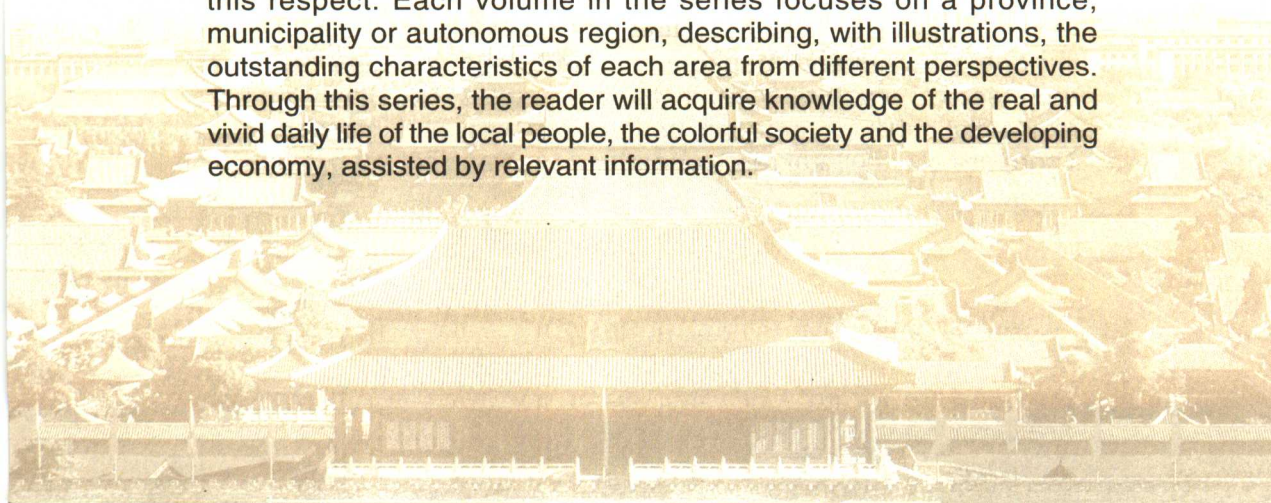
China boasts 5,000 years of recorded civilization and a brilliant culture. The country is home to such world-renowned cultural treasures as the Great Wall, terracotta warriors and horses of the First Emperor of the Qin Dynasty, Mogao Grottoes at Dunhuang, and Ming and Qing imperial palaces and mausoleums,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





Beijing

Location of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region



South China Sea Is.



Map of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region

INTRODUCTION

Ningxia is one of five provincial-level autonomous regions in China. Its full name is the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. It has a population of 5.87 million, including 2.025 million people of the Hui ethnic minority, or 35 percent of the total. Situated in the upper and middle reaches of the Yellow River, it covers a land area of 66,400 square km. Its capital is Yinchuan.

Ningxia abounds in natural resources that are easily accessible and promise huge potential.

It has unique conditions for the development of agriculture. The Yellow River runs across nearly 400 km in the region, supplying 4 billion cubic meters of water annually for irrigation. The terrain is even, with more than 800,000 hectares of cultivated land producing wheat, rice, corn, beans, sugar beet, melons, and other vegetables and fruits. The region is one of the 12 major commercial grain bases in China. Ningxia, reputed for its riches endowed by the Yellow River, is often compared to "the areas south of the Yangtze River".

Ningxia is abundant in coal resources, with estimated reserves hitting 202.7 billion tons. The rich coal reserves combined with abundant hydropower resources from the Yellow River give the region its advantages in both hydroelectric- and thermo-power.

The region is also rich in mineral resources, with more than 50 kinds verified and 115 deposits cited above the D grade. Relying on the advantages of its energy and mineral resources, Ningxia is developing into a major high-energy consumption, raw-material industrial base in northwest China. It has already established a high-energy consumption industrial setup composed of electrolyte aluminum, rare-metal metallurgy, silicon carbonates and metallic magnesium. Its average annual productive capacity and output of metallic sodium, lime nitrogen and dicyandiamide rank first in Asia. In addition, Ningxia is one of the three major production bases in the world for tantalum and niobium products.

The tourism resources in Ningxia are unique and diversified, including the folklore of the Hui ethnic minority, beautiful water-scapes reminiscent of south China, the vast desert, the Yellow River civilization and the mysterious Western Xia culture. The desert and lake tourism zone, blending desert scenery with southern-like landscapes, excels itself in eco-tourism. Shapotou is where the desert and the Yellow River meet. This locale, noted worldwide for its achievements in controlling sandstorms, offers a variety of desert tourism sites. The Liupan Mountain tourism zone, situated on the ancient Silk Road, with momentous magnificent mountains covered by dense forests, is reputed as a "Green Island" on the Oasis Highlands. At the eastern foothills of the Helan Mountains lie the mausoleums of the kings of Western Xia, which,

recording the historical evolution of the kingdom, are likened to mysterious "pyramids of the Orient" abroad. The cliff paintings of Helan Mountains, the Shuidonggou historical ruins, the ancient Great Wall and other historical sights and places of interest are all laden with historical cultural artifacts, magnets attracting domestic and overseas tourists.

In recent years, Ningxia has strengthened infrastructure construction, and conditions for investment have improved markedly, thanks to reforms in various fields. By the end of 2004, the region's total length of expressways open to traffic had reached 549 km. The Baotou-Lanzhou Railway runs through the middle and northern parts of Ningxia. The electrified railway that links Baoji with Zhongwei runs through the middle and southern parts of the region, constituting a major feeder line of the Euro-Asian Continental Bridge. Air transport has developed rapidly, with air routes linking up 25 large and medium-sized cities. A telecom network featuring optic cable transmission, supplemented by microwave and satellite transmission, has taken shape.

Thanks to the powerful support from the central government, fixed-assets investment in Ningxia has increased considerably. Key construction projects in energy, transportation, water conservancy, telecommunications and urban infrastructure have been progressing smoothly. The Yinchuan-Qingdao expressway and the Ningxia section of the Dandong-Beijing-Lhasa expressway have been completed, so has the Shapotou hydropower project, with four generating units installed. Work has started on the Ningdong energy, heavy industry and chemical base. Thus far, Ningxia has developed economic and technological cooperation with more than 70 countries worldwide.

Seizing the opportunity presented by the large-scale development of China's western region launched by the state, Ningxia has started a project to plant grass on 1 million *mu* (one-fifteenth of a ha. — *ed.*) of land in its southern mountainous areas, as part of an effort to return farmland to forests and return pastureland to grass. Emphasis has been put on the development of animal husbandry and specialty agriculture, and on the improvement of the basic production and living conditions in mountainous areas. All this has helped enhance these areas' capacity to resist natural disasters and seek self-development, and considerably reduce the poor population in the region.

Ningxia's GDP has been higher than the national average for seven successive years. The region has quickened the process of agricultural industrialization, increasing the proportion of specialty products with higher economic returns. The industrial sector has advanced steadily during structural readjustment, boosting the development of green food, specialty medicines, new materials, natural gas, chemicals and other advantageous products. The statistics spotlight a place brimming with hope, a land of promise. In the future, Ningxia will continue to open up wider to the outside world, strengthen economic exchange and trade with other countries and regions, and consolidate and expand the international markets that help spur its own development. Ningxia is following the principles and common practices in international trade to optimize its investment environment, and to carry out multi-level international trade and economic exchange. Businesspeople from all over the world are welcome to visit Ningxia for sightseeing, investment and business development.



■ Liupan Mountains, spanning the borders of Ningxia, Gansu and Shaanxi, extend more than 200 km at an elevation of nearly 3,000 meters, known as a “green island” in northwest China.

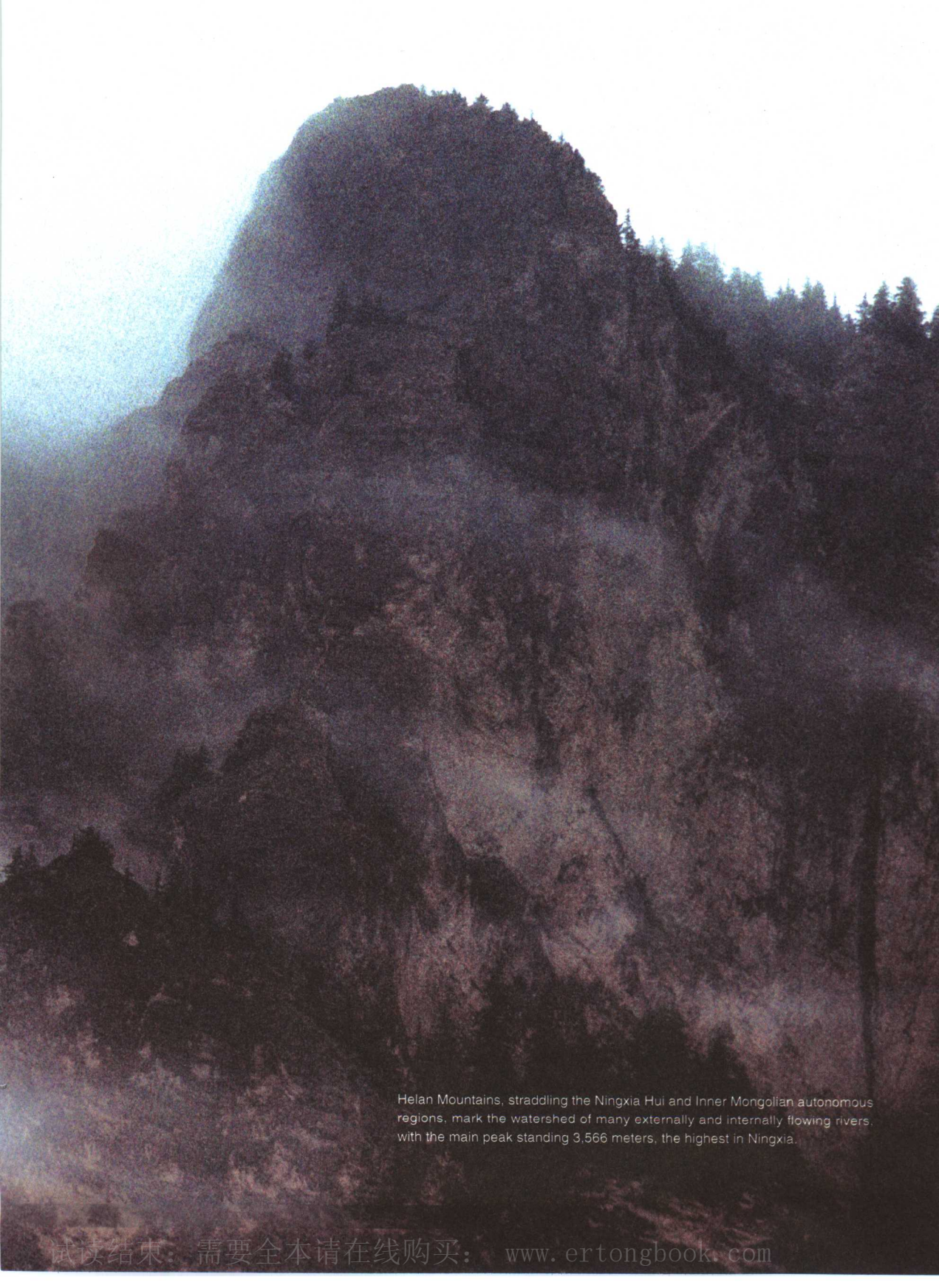




■ Ningxia is most blessed by the Yellow River.







Helan Mountains, straddling the Ningxia Hui and Inner Mongolian autonomous regions, mark the watershed of many externally and internally flowing rivers, with the main peak standing 3,566 meters, the highest in Ningxia.