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LI SHI WEN HUA WEN KU

汪涛◎著

World Cultural Heritage In China—Education and Communication

中国世界文化遗产： 探究与传播



经济日报出版社



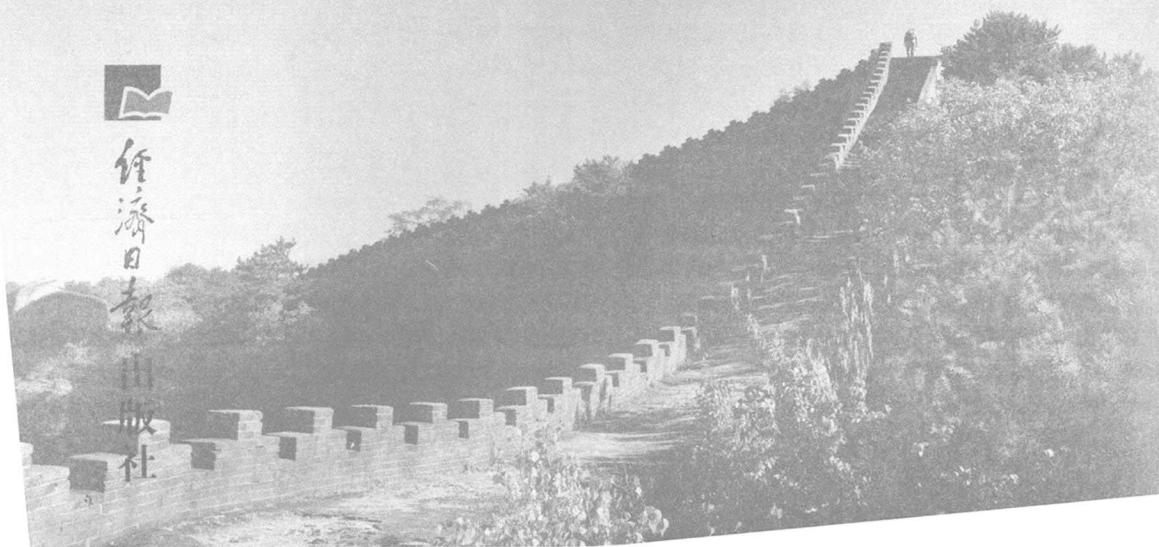
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Preface

I was finishing this book in a hot summer evening in Beijing when the news was reported that the temple of Baalshamin at Syrian ancient ruins of Palmyra, an important world cultural center at the crossroads of several civilisations, was blasted and destroyed.

Are the cultural heritage and the natural heritage increasingly threatened with destruction? What can be the causes? Can the explanation be justified? Do those crimes against civilisation indicate that human will and ability are too weak to protect and safeguard the heritage?

In East Asia, China with a population of over 1.3 billion has made significant achievements as a result of its reform and opening up policy. Its forty-eight properties have been included on the World Heritage List and thirty-eight cultural practices and expressions inscribed on the UNESCO's Intangible Heritage Lists since the year of 1987. However in 2007, at the 31st World Heritage Annual Meeting in New Zealand, six World Heritage sites in China including the Summer Palace, the Forbidden City and the Old Town of Lijiang, were warned about their over-development. Old Town of Lijiang is threatened by excessive tourism and over-development in pursuit of the social and economic benefit. How shall people keep economic interests from damaging our heritage?

Scholars and researchers are confronted with the new situations of the latest three decades while debating how effectively to protect heritage and the settings, to ensure the authenticity and integrity of the property, and to prevent destructive activities. As a reader, where would you place yourself along a heritage literacy continuum that runs from clueless to knowledgeable? What characterises the criteria of the sites election? How much do you know why a site is inscribed on the World Heritage List? How do you understand the universal values of a property? What is your position on the coordination of the social needs with maintaining the rational balance between the protection and development of tourism and urban construction?

"The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage" was adopted by UNESCO in 1972 and the "Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage" was adopted in 2003. The two conventions provide guidelines for heritage protection in the world. For example, if one wants to examine the integrity of the property to prevent destructive activities, one must understand how the integrity is defined as a measure of the wholeness and intactness of heritage as well as its attributes.

"World Cultural Heritage In China—Education and Communication" is a book intended to usher readers into an exploration of the Chinese cultural heritages inscribed on the World Heritage list and Intangible Cultural Heritage list from 1987 to 2015.





"Section I" covers the cultural heritage properties in China within three categories: Cultural Heritage, Mixed Cultural and Natural Heritage, and Cultural Landscapes. Focused on cultural po: and historic value and history, detailed facts and supplementary references, this section guides readers to further explore such topics as how the mountain resorts and outlying temples represent the broad exchange and convergence between Han culture and the ethnic minority cultures; Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism in terms of the general layouts, architectural styles, construction techniques, decoration details and garden landscapes. Over 2, 000 years, the Dujiangyan Irrigation System displays an important interchange of human values on developments of water management and technology. How is the Dujiangyan Irrigation System evaluated today? Representing the ideals of life, the ancient reverence for nature and the wish to return to nature, the classical gardens of Suzhou testify uniquely the wisdom and cultural tradition of ancient Chinese intellectuals. What provided the inspirations for their constructions? In what sense, are these gardens-the carriers of the traditional Chinese ideology and culture integrated with the tradition of ancient Chinese intellectuals?

"Section II" is about Intangible Cultural Heritage within three categories— Elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity from 2008 to 2013; those inscribed on List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding from 2009 to 2011 and those selected as Best Safe Guarding Practices in 2012. According to UNESCO, the Intangible Cultural Heritage means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith. Communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals are also recognised as part of their cultural heritage. For example, the acupuncture pathology was first described 2, 000 years ago before it prevailed in China and spread to the world. The acupuncture and moxibustion is a kind of treatment that cures inner diseases from outside by dredging channels, regulating vigour and sap, balancing Yin and Yang, and harmonising the functions of the viscera based on the theories of channels (of the body) and vital points. Living in a culture with such a long history, how many representative works of the Kunqu Opera can one list ? Why has Kunqu Opera, an elite Chinese opera, suffered the decline since the eighteenth century and is hard to survive against the mass culture and the losing interest amongst the young?

China is now confronted with the challenges of ensuring an appropriate and equitable balance between conservation, sustainability and development. Our heritage and the inheritance can be protected through appropriate activities to promote the social and economic development and the quality of life. The younger generations are encouraged and expected to act as cultural ambassadors and actively preserve the cultural heritage in the local communities. It is also of essential importance for present and future generations of all nations to transcend national boundaries and to safeguard the outstanding cultural heritage sites for all human beings.

As an English learner, knowledge of your national heritage represented on "The World Heritage List" and "The Intangible Cultural Heritage" will be helpful to gain global perspective and involve effectively in international transmission and



conservation of the world cultural heritage. Hopefully, the cultural heritage will also enrich the English teaching practice in China .

I believe education and communication can greatly increase public awareness, involvement and support in promoting World Heritage conservation because laws and regulations may not effectively provide the necessary guarantee for the maximal protection of the legacy from the past, of what we live with today and what we will pass on to future generations. A cultural heritage education, formal or informal, will serve the purpose in the protection and management of our world heritage properties.

In preparing this book, I have had the assistance of many people. I am grateful to my reviewer, Robert Chen, who has been supportive and patient. I am also thankful to my colleagues and my students and friends in Communication University of China for their encouragement and advice. My thanks also go to my family who suffered my detachment and absence as the book was created. I regret for any errors or omissions in any case; and expect an improvement in the future edition.



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Section I Cultural Heritage in China

Chapter 1 Cultural Heritage 1980—1989

UNESCO World Heritage Convention defines the kind of natural or cultural sites that can be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List and sets out the duties of States Parties, which have signed the World Heritage Convention and agree to identify and nominate properties to be considered for inscription on the list, in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them.

UNESCO General Assembly includes all States Parties to the Convention. It meets once every two years during the ordinary session of the General Conference of UNESCO to elect the members of the World Heritage Committee, to examine the statement of accounts of the World Heritage Fund and to decide on major policy issues. World Heritage Committee meets once a year, and consists of representatives from 21 of the States Parties to the Convention elected for terms up to six years.

A nominated property is independently evaluated by two Advisory Bodies mandated by the World Heritage Convention: the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which respectively provide the World Heritage Committee with evaluations of cultural and of natural sites nominated. The third Advisory Body is the International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), an intergovernmental organization founded in 1956 which provides the Committee with expert advice on conservation of cultural sites, as well as on training activities and restoration techniques.

Evaluations of cultural heritage nominations will be carried out by ICOMOS. It is a non-governmental organization founded in 1965 after the adoption of the Charter of Venice, in order to promote the doctrine and the techniques of conservation. ICOMOS provides the World Heritage Committee with evaluations of properties with cultural values proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List, as well as with comparative studies, technical assistance and reports on the





state of conservation of inscribed properties.

The following shall be considered as "cultural heritage" according to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

Monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

Groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

Sites: works of Man or the combined works of nature and of Man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological points of view. (Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage)

The evaluations of natural heritage nominations will be carried out by IUCN. It is an international, non-governmental organization founded in 1948, advises the World Heritage Committee on the inscription of properties with natural values and reports on the state of conservation of World Heritage sites through its worldwide network of specialists.

As for the nominations of cultural properties in the category of 'cultural landscapes', the evaluation will be carried out by ICOMOS in consultation with IUCN. For mixed properties, the evaluation will be carried out jointly by ICOMOS and IUCN.

As requested by the World Heritage Committee or as necessary, ICOMOS and IUCN will carry out thematic studies to evaluate proposed World Heritage properties in their regional, global or thematic context. These studies should be informed by a review of the Tentative Lists submitted by States Parties and by reports of meetings on the harmonization of Tentative Lists, as well as by other technical studies performed by the Advisory Bodies and qualified organizations and individuals.

Until the end of 2004, World Heritage sites were selected on the basis of six cultural and four natural criteria. To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria. These criteria , regularly revised by the Committee to reflect the evolution of the World Heritage concept itself, are explained in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention which, besides the text of the Convention, is the main working tool on World Heritage.





Selection criteria for the cultural heritage sites:

- (i) to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- (ii) to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- (iii) to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- (iv) to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- (v) to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- (vi) to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria); (UNESCO WHC)

The first step a country must take is making an 'inventory' of its important natural and cultural heritage sites, known as the Tentative List, and provides a forecast of the properties that a State Party may decide to submit for inscription in the next five to ten years and which may be updated at any time, so that World Heritage Committee can consider a nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List.

World Heritage Committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, allocates financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund and has the final say on whether a site is inscribed on the World Heritage List. It examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed sites and decides on the inscription or removal of sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger. States Parties have the responsibility to protect the World Heritage values of the sites inscribed and report periodically on their condition.

In 1987, 5 properties in China were included on the World Heritage List as cultural heritage sites. They are Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties (Date of Inscription: 1987, extension 2004), Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor, Mogao Caves, Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian and the Great Wall.