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房龙地理

[美] 房龙 著 李垚 编译



Von Zoon's Geography

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清华大学出版社

内容简介

《房龙地理》是房龙的成名之作,它是一部关于"人"的地理书,"人文地理"这一概念在本书中得到了生动地诠释。在简要介绍地理的基本知识之后,房龙分别讲述了世界各地的地理环境,着重分析地理对国家或地区的历史演变、民族性格的形成、地缘政治等的影响,阐释地球是人类的共同家园,生活于其中的人们只有合作才能和平而有序。小小的巴尔干总是刀光剑影,而广袤的西伯利亚却宁静祥和;丹麦人喜欢静谧书斋,而西班牙人则热衷于海外探险;国土狭小的瑞士一贯秉承中立,而日本近代疯狂地向外扩张……难道国家性格、民族特性真的与国家地理有关?或许本书会给出一些答案。该书自出版以来,一直畅销至今。

无论作为通俗的人文地理读本,还是作为语言学习的课外读物,本书对当代中国的读者都将产生积极的影响。为了使读者能够了解每章内容概况,进而提高阅读速度和阅读水平,在每段故事的开始部分增加了中文导读。为了读者更好地理解书中内容,在部分章节中加入了插图。

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亨德里克·威廉·房龙 (Hendrik Willem Van Loon, 1882—1944), 荷兰裔美国人, 20 世纪美国著名通俗历史学家、科普作家和文学家, 在历史、文化、文明、科学等方面都有著作, 被誉为"伟大的文化普及者, 传播人类文明的文化骑士"。

1882年1月14日,房龙出生于荷兰鹿特丹。幼年时对历史、地理、 船舶、绘画和音乐感兴趣,这种兴趣伴随着他的一生。从8岁起,房龙进 入著名的寄宿制学校,学习拉丁文、希腊文和英文。10岁时,房龙便立志 要成为历史学家。1902年,房龙进入美国康奈尔大学学习,获学士学位: 之后, 进入德国慕尼黑大学学习, 1911年获博士学位。房龙求学前后, 当 过编辑、记者、播音员, 也先后在美国几所大学任教, 游历过世界上很多 地方。1913年,房龙编著并出版了第一本历史书《荷兰共和国的衰亡》, 虽然销路一般,但受到了书评界的赞扬。1920年圣诞节期间,房龙出版了 他的第二本书《古代的人》,这是一部带插图的通俗历史读本,市场反映 良好。经过知识、阅历、研究成果等方面的积累,房龙于 1921 年出版了 他的第三部历史著作《世界文明简史》(多译作《人类的故事》),并一举 成名,从此房龙迎来了他创作的丰收期。之后,房龙陆续出版了《发明的 故事》《圣经的故事》《美国简史》(多译《美国的故事》)、《房龙地理》(也 译作《人类的家园》)《人类的艺术》《宽容》《与世界伟人谈心》《伦勃朗 传》和《太平洋的故事》等二十多部著作。房龙作品的内容涉及历史、地 理、宗教、文学、政治、艺术、科学和技术等诸多方面。房龙多才多艺, 能用十种语言写作和与人交流,拉得一手优美的小提琴,还能画画,他的 著作中的所有插图全部出自他自己手笔。1944年3月11日,房龙在美国 康涅狄格州去世,美国《星期日快报》刊登讣告时用了这样的标题"历史



成就了他的名声——房龙逝世"。

房龙的作品文笔优美、知识广博,在世界各地广受读者喜爱。其作品内容丰富、资料翔实、知识广博而不乏真知灼见,文字深入浅出、通俗优美、轻松风趣而又发人深省,贯穿着理性、宽容和进步的思想,具有经久不衰的魅力。他的绝大部分著作均是风靡世界的畅销书,历经近一个世纪仍不失魅力,影响了一代又一代的读者。房龙的作品饮誉世界,荷兰、德国、法国、瑞典、丹麦、芬兰、挪威、日本、印度、前苏联、西班牙、意大利、波兰、匈牙利、希腊等国都翻译出版了他的作品。

自 20 世纪 20 年代开始, 房龙的主要作品几乎被同步介绍给中国的读 者。翻译者把这个荷兰名字译为"房龙"。此后,这个名字为我国读者所 熟悉、并流传下来。房龙作品深入浅出的通俗文风和百科全书般的渊博知 识,对与之同时代的中国读者产生了巨大的影响。这是因为,一方面是房 龙的文风正好话合于当时新文化运动所提倡的生活化的白话文, 房龙的书 也为中国求知者提供了关于人类和自然的启蒙知识:另一方面,房龙的写 作技巧也给中国当时的作家以很多启发。据历史学家和著名报人曹聚仁回 忆: 20 世纪 20 年代, 他在候车时偶然买到《人类的故事》中译本,"那天 下午,我发痴似的,车来了,在车上读,到了家中,把晚饭吞下去,就靠 在床上读,一直读到天明,走马观花地总算看完了。这 50 年中,我总是 看了又看,除了《儒林外史》《红楼梦》,没有其他的书这么吸引我了"。 郁达夫曾说:"房龙的笔,有一种魔力……是将文学家的手法,拿来用以 讲述科学……无论大人小孩,读他书的人,都觉得娓娓忘倦了。"20世纪 80年代是中国改革开放的年代,房龙的作品重新被发现,且被逐步引进。 而自 20 世纪 90 年代后期开始,国内兴起"房龙热",房龙的作品再次受 到读者的青睐, 这是因为他的著作特别符合现代中国人的心理: 务实进取 的时代,读书趋向于知识性、趣味性。基于以上原因,我们决定编译房龙 系列著作中的经典,其中包括《世界文明简史》《圣经的故事》《房龙地理》 《发明的故事》《太平洋的故事》《宽容》和《美国简史》,并采用中文导读 英文版的形式出版。同时,为了读者更好地理解书中内容,在部分章节中 加入了插图或照片, 在中文导读中, 我们尽力使其贴近原作的精髓, 也尽 可能保留原作的风格。我们希望能够编出为当代中国读者所喜爱的经典读 本。读者在阅读英文故事之前,可以先阅读中文导读内容,这样有利于了



解故事背景,从而加快阅读速度。我们相信,这些经典著作的引进对加强 当代中国读者,特别是青少年读者的科学素养和人文修养是非常有帮 助的。

房龙始终站在全人类的高度在写作,他摒弃了深奥理论,却拥有自己独立的思想和体系,他的论述主要是围绕人类生存与发展等本质的问题,贯穿其中的精神是科学、宽容和进步,他的目标是向人类的无知与偏执挑战,他采取的方式是普及知识和真理,使它们成为人所皆知的常识。房龙毕生持人文主义立场,在有的问题上不免有与唯物主义者不同的观点;同时,由于他是生活在 20 世纪早期的美国作家,其思想的观点不可避免地会受到时代和历史的局限,比如在他的《房龙地理》一书中错误地将西藏放到"中亚高地"这一章,而不是"中国"这一章来讲述,又比如他以地理环境决定论来解释日本近代侵略行为,希望读者朋友阅读这些著作时能够甄别。

本书是英汉双语版名著系列丛书中的一种,编写本系列丛书的另一个主要目的就是为准备参加英语国家留学考试的学生提供学习素材。对于留学考试,无论是 SSAT、SAT 还是 TOEFL、GRE, 要取得好的成绩,就必须了解西方的社会、历史、文化、生活等方面的背景知识,而阅读西方原版名著是了解这些知识最重要的手段之一。

本书中文导读内容由南开大学李垚编写。参加本书故事素材搜集整理及编译工作的还有纪飞、赵雪、刘乃亚、蔡红昌、陈起永、熊红华、熊建国、程来川、徐平国、龚桂平、付泽新、熊志勇、胡贝贝、李军、宋亭、张灵羚、张玉瑶、付建平等。限于我们的科学、人文素养和英语水平,书中难免会有不当之处,衷心希望读者朋友批评指正。

前面的话

地理是什么?之前我们所学的地理只是名词,缺乏联系。本书将要着 重描述那些真正有趣的国家,他们为什么会在那里,从哪里来,现在正在 做什么,而不会对那些只意味着一些名字的国家给予过多关注,这样才能 使我们更好地记住它们。

Foreword

Ten years ago you sent me a letter and today you get your answer. What you wrote (I am quoting from the original) was this:

"...Yes, but how about geography? No, I don't merely want a new geography. I want a geography of my own, a geography that shall tell me what I want to know and omit everything else and I want you to write it for me. I went to a school where they took the subject very seriously. I learned all about the different countries and how they were bounded and about the cities and how many inhabitants they had and I learned the names of all the mountains and how high they were and how much coal was exported every year, and I forgot all these things just as fast as I had learned them. They failed to connect. They resolved themselves into a jumble of badly digested recollections, like a museum too full of pictures or a concert that has lasted too long. And they were of no earthly value to me, for every time I needed some concrete fact, I had to look it up on maps and in atlases and encyclopedias and blue books. I suppose that many others have suffered in the same way. On behalf of all these poor victims, will you please give us a new geography that will be of some use? Put all the mountains and the cities and the oceans on your maps and then tell us

前面的话



only about the people who live in those, places and why they are there and where they came from and what they are doing—a sort of human interest story applied to geography. And please stress the countries that are really interesting and don't pay quite so much attention to the others that are merely names, for then we will be able to remember all about them, but otherwise..."

And I, eager as always to oblige when I receive a command from your hands, turn around and say, "My dear, here it is!"

HENDRIK WILLEM VAN LOON

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"". From both how about geography? Not I should therefore what geography, I want a properably of my owns a geography that shall tell me what I want to know and omit energing else and I want you to write it for me. I want to be extend where they mob the uniqued very seriously. I learned all about went to a cateal where they mob the uniqued very seriously. I learned all about the officers countries and how they were bounded and about the cities and now means inhabitants they had and I fearned the names of all the mountains and how high they were und have inach could was experted every yest and I begins the three transports for a sentent of had been Tany failed to connect. They failed to connect they resolved downselves on a concent that had been dependent food they were of no carrier to me, for every hime I needed to the countries of a suppose of no maps and in adoses and encyclopedies and blue cooks. I suppose that many others have suffered in the same way. On behalf of all threst poor stations, and the effect and the category find with with a other tell as

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阅读本书之前,告诉你如何使用这本书

本书是为一般读者对自己生活环境有一些了解所著。最好且最方便的学习地理方法是用图片。我已经根据自己的地理构想绘出了一些样品,包括一些平面地图和三维地图。建议读者根据自己对于事情将被如何处理的主意画出你自己的地图。

JUST A MOMENT BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER WHILE I TELL YOU HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book should be read with an atlas. There are a large number of excellent atlases and almost any one will do. For atlases are like dictionaries. Even a bad one is better than none at all.

As you will soon discover, there are quite a number of maps in this volume but these are not meant as a substitute for a regular atlas. I drew them merely to show you the many ways of approach to the subject under discussion and (if I must tell the truth) to get you personally interested in drawing maps according to your own notion of the geographical right and wrong. You see, flat maps, however ingeniously conceived, must be somewhat out of gear. The only approximately correct maps are those pasted on globes but even our globes are not entirely above suspicion for they should really be spheroids. We make them spheres merely for the sake of convenience. The earth, of course, is slightly flattened near the poles but it would take a gigantic globe to show the difference, and so we need not worry about that minor irregularity. Get yourself a globe (I wrote this book with the help of a ten-cent-store globe which was

阅读本书之前,告诉你如何使用这本书。

really a pencil-sharpener) and use it to your heart's content, but remember that it is an "approximation" and not an "established fact". The "established facts" will only enter into your life if you should try to qualify for a master mariner's certificate. But in that case, you would have to spend many years mastering an exceedingly difficult branch of science; and this book was not written for specialists but for the average reader who wants to get some general ideas about the planet upon which he happens to live.

Now let me tell you one thing. The best and most convenient way to learn geography is to revaluate everything into pictures.

Don't copy me or anybody else. Look at my pictures if you care to do so, but regard them merely as a sort of geographical appetizer, as polite suggestions for the meal you intend 'to prepare yourself by and by.

I have tried to give you quite a number of samples according to the geographical notions of the author himself. I have drawn you two-dimensional maps and three-dimensional maps. It will take you some time to get accustomed to these three-dimensional contraptions but, once you see them, you will no longer like the two-dimensional variety. I have given you maps as seen from mountain tops and according to the different angles from which you are able to contemplate a landscape. And I have given you maps as seen from aeroplanes and Zeppelins and the sort of maps we might expect to see if the oceans should run dry. I have given you a few maps which are merely pretty and ornamental and others which resemble geometrical patterns. Take your choice and then draw your own maps according to your own notions of how the thing should be done.

Draw maps...Get yourself a small. globe or a large globe and an atlas. Buy yourself a pencil and a pad of paper and then draw your own pictures.

For there is only one way in which you can learn geography so that you will never forget it ——draw pictures.





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1. 我们生活的世界还生活着其他人

And These Are the People Who Live in the World We Live in



假设每个人都高6英尺(译者注:1英尺=0.3048 米),宽1.5英尺,厚1英尺,就可以将全人类装在 边长为半英里那么大的盒子里。把盒子推入亚利桑 那州的大峡谷,人类将被埋葬在那里。远方的天文 学家不会注意到这些,一个世纪后,只有那里周围 的山和植物见证着人类被埋葬的所在地。

我们只不过是一小撮脆弱而没有什么防范能力的哺乳动物。从人类诞生那天起,我们便被大群的生物团团包围,它们天生有比我们更强壮的生理条件。

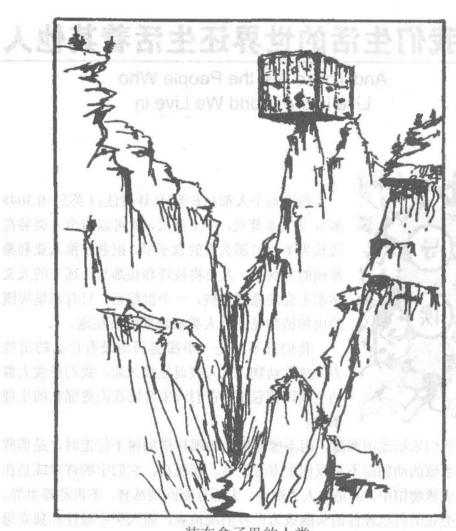
当我们笨拙地用两腿,而不像厚皮动物那样借助树干行走时,是那些陆地和水域的动物而不是我们主宰着世界。而现在,它们中的许多或是在自然历史博物馆中,或是被人类圈养,大部分则回到丛林,不再称霸世界。

人类凭借自己理性的头脑成为世界的统治者,而人类中理性和独立思 考能力更强的一小部分人成为人类的统治者。

地球被具有不同智力和思考能力的人类划分,人类借助自己发达的大脑为自己夺取财富,但是底线是不能超越自然的法则,她要求我们研究并顺从她的命令。过犹不及。

人类对于"创造大法则",即同类之间应该和平友爱的公然违背会使人 类陷入灭绝的困地。其他的物种正在高度警惕,毕竟被它们统治时总是比





装在盒子里的人类

人类的 1 "如此人达到"。中心这些即位该和军友要请公外更有态使人 "也是人举的打造。我他的物象。"于"以军事"。"丰富都是有政治的基础。"

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