

100 Events of Hebei That Have a Great Impact on China



*Compiled by international publicity Bureau of CPC Hebei Provincial Committee
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Hebei Fine Arts Publishing House*

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Authored by Qin Jincai and Song Yanpeng

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翻 译：夏文义 任潇潇

改 译：武 竞

审 译：Jim Hill

特邀校译：李 奇 明 艳

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Preface

Hebei lies in the north of China. It borders the Inner Mongolia Plateau in the north, the Taihang mountain range in the west and the Bohai Sea to the east. Just like the topography of the whole country, it is high in its northwest and low in southeast. It is the only province that has all kinds of topographical forms, such as highlands, mountains, lakes, plains, swamps, sea, etc. This leads to diversified environmental conditions and varied ways of living and production. Because of the differences in ways of living and production, beginning from the Warring States Period 2,500 years ago to the later dynasties of Qin, Han and Ming, wars and conflicts between the nomadic tribes living the north and the agricultural people living in the south were very often. The agricultural people wanted to defend its border in the north while the nomadic tribes wanted to go to the agricultural areas in the south, so the Great Wall was built in between. During the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties, capitals were built in Beijing, and Hebei became an important place surrounding the political and cultural center of the nation. To link the south regions with the national capital, the Grand Canal from Hangzhou to Beijing was dug, and it went through Hebei. Owing to the unique geographical and cultural conditions, all the mountains, rivers, and constructions here witnessed many historical changes. And in this land, the people of Hebei, being energetic and daring, made countless exploits and created splendid culture. A great number of events occurred in Hebei were closely related to the security of the nation, and many had a great impact on China. In other words, Hebei affected China in many aspects.

In the aspect of political reforms. Human society advances through political reforms and political reforms have long lasting influence in history. Famous political reforms launched in Hebei or by people from Hebei include: King Wuling of the state of Zhao called upon his people to learn from the Hu people, Empress Dowager Feng made reforms to promote the sinicization, Emperor Shizong of the Later Zhou Dynasty made reforms to pave the way to eventual unification, and Zhang Zhidong promoted the modernization movement in Hubei Province. All these reforms pushed the advancement of China.

In the aspect of military fighting. Military fighting is of vital importance to a country and wars sometimes help the spread of culture. Such wars and fighting occurred in the land

of Hebei include: The battles at Banquan and Zhuolu laid the foundation for the Chinese civilization, the battle of Jvlu led to the collapse of the Qin Empire, Liu Xiu rose to power after long and fierce fighting in Hebei, the Yellow Turban rebels led by Zhang Jiao sounded the death knell of the Eastern Han Dynasty, the battle of Shanhaiguan in 1644 decided the rise of the Qing Empire and the rebellion at Luanzhou accelerated the decline of the Qing, the guerilla wars in the Jin-Cha-Ji Border Area gave a heavy blow on the Japanese invaders, the fighting in the Jin-Ji-Lu-Yu Border Area ushered in a new era, the Three Military Campaigns planned and commanded at Xibaipo ended the rule of China by the Kuomintang clique. Since ancient times, military passes and fortress built in Hebei have played an important role in safeguarding China.

In the aspect of economy and social productions. People are the basis of a nation and food is the primary need of the people. Economic production is the original force of social development. The discovery of carbonized millet in Cishan ruins that was dated to 7,000 years ago is the proof that Hebei was the original place of agricultural civilization. The pottery spindle found in Nanyangzhuang ruins that dates back to 5,000 years ago, shows that Hebei was one of the birthplaces of China's silk-making industry. The ironmoulds, the crucible for iron smelting, the beautiful utensils from the tomb of the king of Zhongshan and the Changxin Palace Lamp found at a tomb in Mancheng are the evidences that handicrafts had reached a high level. The silver-like and snow-like Xing porcelains, and the thin, white and sounding Ding porcelains were symbols of the porcelain-making industry in the Tang and Song Dynasties. The Changlu salt-works and the Kaiping coal mine were the emblem of the social development in the Qing Dynasty. They are still in operation today. Hebei's social economy, having a long history and growing with the time, affected China's economic development greatly.

In the aspect of science and technologies. Science and technologies push the advancement of human society and the evolution of history. Bian Que summarized the four-way diagnostic approach and brought benefit to all patients, Zu Chongzhi led the world in the calculation of Pi (π), medical scientists established the Hejian and Yishui schools of thought, Li Ye made unparalleled achievement in algebra for polynomial equations, Guo Shoujing made the first Time Service Calendar, Wang Qingren corrected mistakes in ancient medical books, etc. All these inventions and achievements made by ancient Hebei talents benefited all the Chinese people and promoted the development of science and technologies of the world.

In the aspect of new thoughts and views. Men never stop thinking and exploring. They want to know the mystery of the world. New thoughts and views were the achievements made by great thinkers. Thinkers from Hebei have left great influence on the Chinese society. The theory of Xunzi contributed a great deal to Confucius, Dong Zhongshu adopted other theories and formed an ideology system to meet the needs of society, Liu Shao's theory detailed how to judge, test and use people, Zhu Daosheng's doctrine of Sudden Enlightenment opened the door for a revolution in Buddhist theories, Huineng integrated different Buddhist schools and made it easier for the common people, the Linji School of Zen created the stick hitting method of self-believing, the Zhaozhou style of Zen-Buddhism accommodated

the advantages of different schools of thought and became an independent branch, Sun Qifeng incorporated strong points of different schools and constituted his own school of thought, the Yan Li school of thought upheld practical application, Cui Shu was a pioneer of Discrimination in Ancient Chinese History, and Li Dazhao was the first Chinese to spread Marxism-Leninism in China. As the time flew, their new thoughts and views have become the wisdom of the Chinese nation and crystallized into classic books.

In the aspect of literature and arts. During the Warring States Period, Prince Dan of the state of Yan, saw Jing Ke off at the Yishui River. Jing Ke sang loudly: "The wind blows and sighs, and the water of the Yishui River is chilly. Once the man leaves, you'll see him no more." This song was thought to be the earliest example of Hebei people's bravery and enthusiasm. As a custom handed down from past generations, the spirit of being brave and enthusiastic became the mainstream of Hebei culture. Mao Heng and Mao Chang passed on the Book of Classic Poetry, Jian'an Literature explored the upright aspects of enthusiasm and indignation, Li Daoyuan compiled A Commentary on the Waterways Classic, Gao Shi's frontier poems were wild and direct and contained a strong sense of sacrifice, Guan Hanqing wrote many deeply moving drama plays, Cao Xueqin wrote the best classic novel A Dream of Red Mansion, Zhang Hanhui composed a sad melody On the Songhuajiang River, etc. The Hebei culture, with its unique feature of enthusiasm and indignation, constitutes an important part of the Chinese culture.

In the aspect of material civilizations. In the past, the intelligent and hardworking Hebei people had created rich material civilization. The Great Wall goes from the east to the west, the Grand Canal zigzags from south to north, the Eastern and Western Royal Tombs are the best oriental style constructions, and the Mountain Resort in Chengde is the best royal garden. All these historical sites and scenery spots are symbols of the wisdom of the Chinese people, prides of the Chinese nation, and treasures of the world as well.

Of all events of Hebei that affected China, some gave push to the social development, some affected the political evolution, some led the advancement of science and technology, some contributed a great deal to spiritual civilization, and some promoted the growth of social economy. In short, they affected the historical movement of China as well as that of the world. So far, some of them have turned into spiritual treasures, some symbols of material civilization, some long lasting memory, and some precious cultural resources. They are historical exploits made by our forefathers and they are precious heritage left to us. So we selected 100 of them, wrote them into short stories and compiled this book 100 Events of Hebei That Have a Great Impact on China. We hope you would like to read it.





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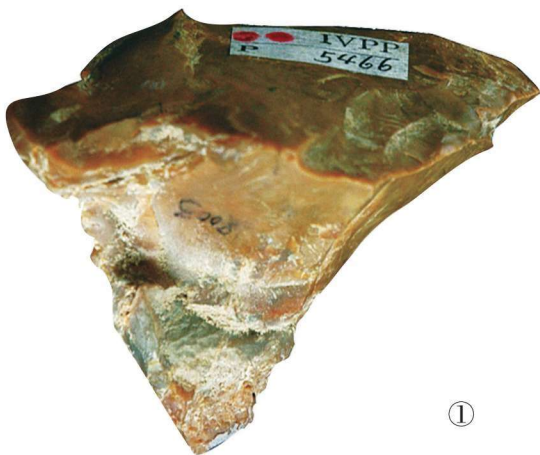
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The Chapter for the Prehistoric Period

1 Nihewan, Home of the Oriental Race

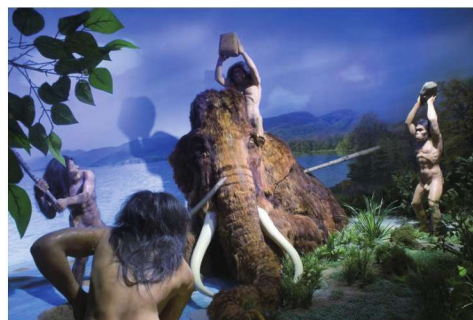


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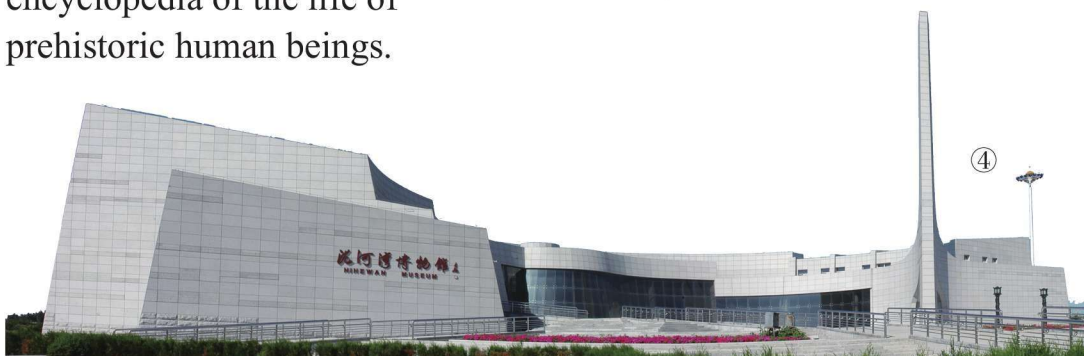


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A cluster of Nihewan ruins in Yangyuan County, Hebei Province has gained international attention from the unearthing of quaternary stratum, mammal fossils and Old Stone Age relics. It is regarded as a museum of nature, one of the birthplaces of the oriental race and an encyclopedia of the life of prehistoric human beings.



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① The stonecutter unearthed in the Nihewan ruins

② The stone spearhead unearthed in the Nihewan ruins

③ The picture shows the ancient human hunting the elephant

④ The Nihewan Museum

2 Discoveries of the Prehistoric Culture in Hebei



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The prehistoric culture ruins at Beifudi, Cishan and Nanyangzhuang are exemplary of the many archaeological finds in Hebei. The Beifudi ruins are famous for unearthing ancient pottery masks, Cishan is famous for unearthing carbonized millet and walnuts, and Nanyangzhuang for unearthing pottery silkworm chrysalis. The findings serve as proof that prehistoric Hebei was a birthplace of many human creations subsequently adapted by later generations.

① A carved pottery mask, unearthed in the Beifudi Ruins

② Pottery pots and supporters unearthed in the Cishan Cultural Ruins

③ The carbonized walnuts unearthed in the Cishan Cultural Ruins

③ The bones of domesticated chickens unearthed in the Cishan Cultural Ruins

④ The clay pottery pot unearthed in the Nanyangzhuang Ruins

3 Battles of Banquan and Zhuolu Lay the Foundation for Chinese Civilization



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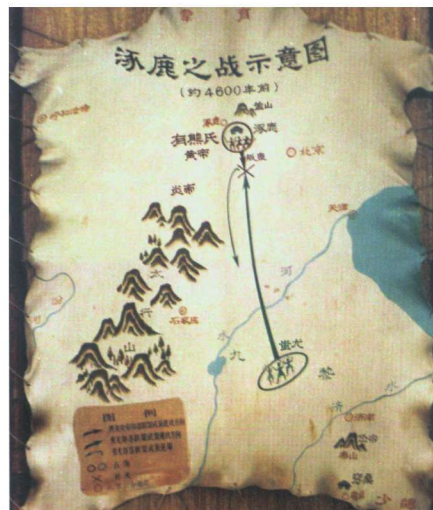
Disputes between the tribes of Yandi and Huangdi led to a series of conflicts. Banquan battle was decisive in its outcome and helped to form a solid tribal alliance between Yandi and Huangdi. Zhuolu battle took place between the tribes of Yandi and Chiyao. The two battles integrated various tribes and laid the foundation for the Chinese Nation.



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- ① The portraits of Yandi, Huangdi, and Chiyao (from left to right)
- ② The story about the battles at Banquan and Zhuolu in "Historical Records"

- ③ The jade Pig-Dragon unearthed in Yangyuan County of Hebei
- ④ The sketch map of the Battle of Zhuolu

The Chapter for the Shang and Zhou Dynasties

