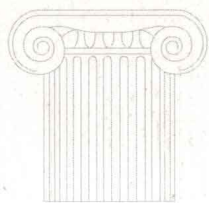


# Roots of Western Culture



## 西方文化源流

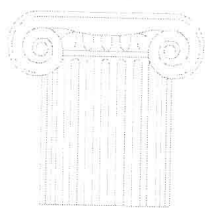
*Roots of Western Culture*

主 编 周 平 傅洁莹



上海大学出版社

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Here Greek and Roman find themselves  
Alive along these crowded shelves;  
And Shakespeare treads again his stage,  
And Chaucer paints anew his age.

*John Greenleaf Whittier*

# 前言

如果没有地理学家、天文学家和历史学家们的干涉，在圆形的地球上确定东方西方实在是件难事，最难不过的是将东方和西方的文化一分为二。但无论如何，东西方文化的区别尽管难以严格界定，但的确被分为各具特色的两种文化。即使没有专家学者们的再三论证，我们也明明白白地感受到这个概念的存在。著名的学者和革命家李大钊先生曾从地理历史学的角度对东西方文明的形成有过如下的描述：

人类生活的开幕，实以欧罗细亚为演奏的舞台。欧罗细亚就是欧、亚两大大陆的总称。在欧罗细亚的中央有一凸地，叫做 Tableland。此地的山脉不是南北纵延的，乃是东西横亘的。因为有东西横亘的山脉，南北交通遂以阻隔，人类的文明遂分为南道文明——东洋文明——和北道文明——西洋文明——两大系统。<sup>①</sup>

然而发展到 21 世纪这样一个文化冲击和文化交融空前迅速、空前普及的时代，卫星通讯、国际互联网等高科技信息技术已经使空间的概念有了天翻地覆的改变。当今世界，开放、交流、交融已成为势不可挡的潮流。但

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<sup>①</sup> 《中国哲学名著选读(下卷)》，第 366 页。

文化毕竟是一种根深蒂固的东西。就中西文化而言,尽管我们有着可与埃菲尔铁塔媲美的长城,有着与苏格拉底、柏拉图、亚里士多德几乎同时代并且同样伟大的思想家孔子,有着与莎士比亚戏剧同样深入人心的《红楼梦》,但正是这些同为世界文化经典,展示人类文明和智慧的里程碑将中西文化的差异表现得淋漓尽致。孔子在中国这片几千年来以农业经济为本的土壤上成为“万世师表”<sup>①</sup>,成为中国一切风俗、礼教、政法制度的根基。儒教以牺牲个性、保全家庭及社会稳定为根本的纲常伦理与西方古典时期所提倡的理性和个性发展形成了鲜明对比。而《红楼梦》则将最具中国特色的封建大家族制度刻画得入木三分。

于此,我们不得不承认,东西方文化确实有着极大的差别。尽管我们已经向世界敞开大门,东西方也有了相互对话的条件和工具,但客观地说,中国几千年的文化封闭状况使我们对西方的认识还是存在意识和知识两方面的障碍。可喜的是,世界的进步和发展已经不以人们的意志为转移,短短几十年间,中国的西学研究在停滞了几乎半个世纪以后又达到了一个前所未有的高潮。在学术界和科技界,我们对西方的认识也已远远超越了工具性和实用性,发展到了更深层次的探索和研究。其间最令人欣慰的一点就是我们的学者开始成为真正意义上的“学习者”和“思想者”,不再是“半部论语治天下”的文化本位主义者,也不再是高呼“全盘西化”,主张彻底抛弃老祖宗、照搬照抄西方的简单的文化惰性者。学习和研究西方文化不是为了将中国变成西方,或是将西方改造成中国,而是为了人与人之间的相互理解和尊重,为了世界和人类和谐进步、共同发展的需要。

大概就为了自己想成为或者为了我们的青年一代成为成熟的“学习者”和“思想者”,我在许多年前就开始了对外方文化源流的追踪,并萌发了编写这样一本书的想法。我先是对外方文化源流的一个方面——圣经文化研究入手,先后编写了《圣经文学词典》(英文版,四川人民出版社 1992 年版;中文版,四川人民出版社 1997 年

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① 清康熙帝(玄烨)题孔子庙大成殿额,用此四字。

版),出版了文学专著《走出伊甸园——圣经人学研究》(四川人民出版社 1999 年版),发表了一系列相关论文,并为宁波大学英语专业本科生开设了“圣经文学”和“欧洲文化传统”两门选修课,受到学生的热爱和好评。在此研究和教学期间,我对西方文化源流研究产生了极大的兴趣。与此同时也深切地感受到学生和研究者对此方面知识的欠缺和相关资料的匮乏。因此,从 2002 年初开始,我与挚友和同事傅洁莹老师一起,开始了编写这本著作的艰苦历程。2003 年 1 月,我有幸获得英国雷丁大学古典学专业的全额奖学金,师从世界闻名的古典学大师 Tessa Rajak 教授,开始了长达四年半的希腊化时期圣经文学研究,此书的编写进度因此拖延,直到 2006 年底才完成全书的初稿编写工作。

完成博士论文后来到上海大学工作,我想做的第一件事就是完成《西方文化源流》这本书。多年对希腊罗马及圣经文化的潜心研究使我对完成这项工作充满了信心和热情。洁莹在这些年里不但完成了英国的学业和研究课题,她所担任的“西方文化传统”这门课也成了宁波大学无可争议的精品课程。五年来,选修这门课的英语专业高年级学生达五六百人。这本书能最终完成,与傅洁莹老师的锲而不舍、勤奋努力是分不开的。经过一年多的不懈努力,我们学习参考了新的研究成果,对全书各章节进行了全面修订,到今年九月初,《欧洲文化源流》一书终于全部编写完毕。

《西方文化源流》集中介绍了对西方文化影响最大的两大文化源流:古希腊罗马文化和基督教圣经文化。在对西方文化三个方面的论述中,我们没有采取对每一个部分面面俱到,按历史进程平铺直叙的方式,而是凸现每一阶段最具特色的文明进展。古希腊人以求真善美为动力,在哲学、文学、建筑、雕刻等方面取得了辉煌成就。希腊文化对西方理性主义、民主思想和崇尚科学风气的形成和发展奠定了坚实的基础。所以,写到希腊文化时,我们对希腊的民主进程、哲学思想、悲剧艺术等作了较为详细的讨论。而曾使古罗马帝国一度所向披靡,并为以后西方世界的法制建设、物质文明以及崇尚扩张主义等奠定理论基础的,是其强大的政治学、军事学、法学和工程学。

因此,对于罗马时期,我们着重阐述了罗马的政体变革、军事成就、管理体制和法律条文等。从西方文化传统的角度看,基督教文化与希腊罗马文化一样,同为西方文化源流的重要组成部分。当侵略性极强的希腊罗马文化与发自底层、饱受迫害但仍如星火燎原般发展壮大的基督教文化碰撞融合,西方文化才得以源远流长。国内的相关著作由于种种原因,对这方面的介绍和讨论相对较少而且缺乏系统性。针对这种现状,我们不仅对基督教的起源和发展进行了综述,并且以通俗易懂的语言,介绍了基督教最重要的文化文学经典著作《圣经》及其精神实质和其对西方文化的影响。此外,谈到西方文化源流,人们必然关切它与其他文明的关系。因此在第一部分中,我们对与希腊罗马文化有着直接影响的美索不达米亚文化、古埃及文化和古希伯来文化作了简要的叙述。

为了帮助读者进一步理解各个时期思想文化的精髓,我们还在各章节后编写了“作品精选”并做了详细注释。其中包括希腊罗马神话、荷马史诗、希腊戏剧、希腊-罗马哲学和政治著作以及圣经文献等作品的节选。本书还对书中中国读者较为陌生的概念、专用名词、典故及其他背景知识作了详尽的注释。全书注释近 150 条,全部采用脚注的形式,以便学习者及时解惑。为了给希望更多了解西方文化传统和古典思想的读者提供帮助,全书末尾的《附录》提供了近 240 个相关知识词条的解释,以供读者参考。

《西方文化源流》一书吸收了中外学者在古希腊罗马研究和圣经文化研究方面的许多优秀成果,在此我代表所有编著人员向这些专家和学者表示深深的谢意!

在此书的编写过程中,本人负责确定全书的编写思想,设计全书的框架结构,编写第四部分“基督教文化和圣经”以及“作品精选”注释并进行全书的统稿工作。傅洁莹老师负责第一部分“西方文化的摇篮”、第二部分“希腊文化”和第三部分“罗马文化”的编写、全书插图和格式的选用编排,并负责全书文字的校读工作。除此以外,上海大学三位充满热情和求知欲的研究生何琛、冯晓娟和章俊也参与了此书的编写工作,主要负责编写附录“词语汇编”部分。在整书的编

写中,我们还得到了我们的朋友、华东师范大学外语学院教授张吉生老师的热情鼓励和无私帮助。张老师花费了大量的时间和精力,认真通读了全稿,提出了许多建设性意见并负责了全书格式统一和编排工作,在此我向他表示衷心的感谢。另外,此书的出版获上海大学重点课程建设项目资助,亦表感谢。

由于西方文化的博大精深和我们的才疏学浅,书中难免有失误和偏颇之处,诚望读者指教。

上海大学 周平

2008 年 10 月

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# Part One:

## The Cradle of Western Civilization

The Lord God of Heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my birth, and made an oath to me, saying, "To your seed I will give this land: he will send his angel before you and give you a wife for my son in that land.

And if the woman will not come with you, then you are free from this oath; only do not take my son back there.

And the servant put his hand under Abraham's leg, and gave him his oath about this thing.

And the servant took ten of his master's camels, and all sorts of good things of his master's, and went to Mesopotamia, to the town of Nahor."

*From The Bible: Genesis 24: 7 - 24: 10*

## 1.1 Overview

The roots of western culture may be found in the experience and culture of the Greeks, but the Greek culture itself owed a great deal to the magnificent civilizations of the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and the valley of the Nile in Egypt. The societies of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Israel provided the Western world with the concepts of organized government, writing, law, complex religious ideas and ethnical values, all of which are regarded the cornerstone of modern society.

## 1.2 Mesopotamian Civilization

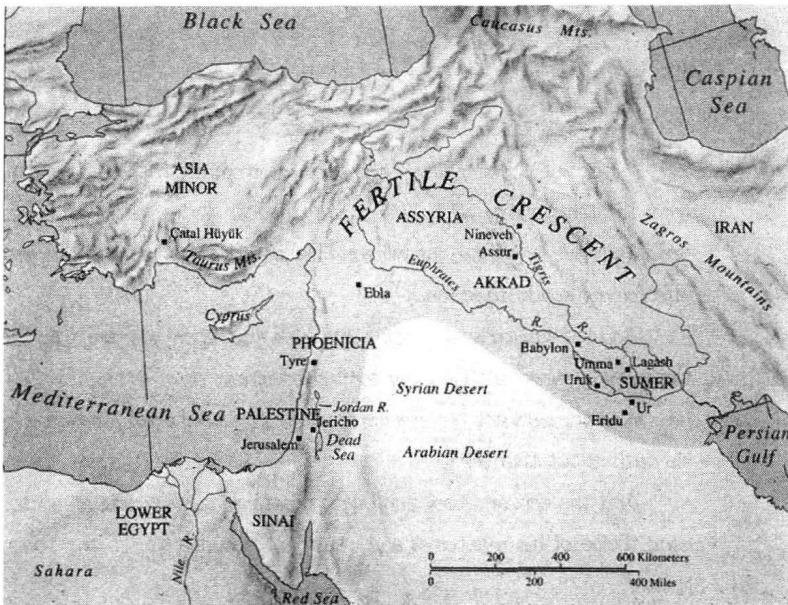


Figure 1.1: Map of ancient Mesopotamia.

(Source: <http://www.utexas.edu/courses/classicalarch/images2/mapane.jpg>)

### 1. 2. 1 History and Society

Many historians believe that the beginning of Western civilization began in the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, in Mesopotamia, which means between the rivers. Mesopotamian civilization, which made a big impression on the historical tradition, is among the earliest civilizations in human history. Mesopotamian or the Sumerian civilization is, alongside ancient Egypt, the most ancient of the known civilizations. It began around 5000 BC and really blossomed around 3000 BC.

Mesopotamia is a Greek word for the country we now call Iraq (though some parts of Mesopotamia are in Iran). The Mesopotamian plain was called the Fertile Crescent<sup>①</sup>. This region, the birthplace of the varied civilizations that moved us from pre-history to history, is known as the Cradle of Civilization.

Its founder seems to have been a people called Sumerians. The Sumerian culture was an advanced civilization flourishing in this region in about 4000 BC, long before that of Egypt, Greece, and Rome. The ancient Sumerian, living on the fertile land and the abundant water supply of the area, developed sophisticated irrigation systems and created what was the early cereal agriculture, as well as the earliest writing; cuneiform — a way of arranging impression stamped onto wet clay by the wedge-like section of chopped-off reed stylus. Through writing, the Sumerians were able to pass on complex agricultural techniques to successive generations; this led to marked improvements in agricultural production.

---

① A region of the Middle East arching across the northern part of the Syrian Desert and extending from the Nile Valley to the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The civilizations of Egypt, Phoenicia, Assyria, and Babylonia developed in this area, which was also the site of numerous migrations and invasions.



Figure 1.2: Sumerian word for king, the first symbol pictures ‘gal’ or ‘great’, and the second pictures ‘lu’, or ‘man’.

(Source: <http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/GLOSSARY/CUNEL.HTM>)

The Sumerians developed a math system based on the numeral 60, which is the basis of time in the modern world. Sumerian society was “Matriarchal” and women had a highly respected place in society. Banking originated in Mesopotamia (Babylonia) out of the activities of temples and palaces, which provided safe places for the storage of valuables. Initially deposits of grain were accepted and later other goods including cattle, agricultural implements and precious metals. Another important Sumerian legacy was the recording of literature. Poetry and epic literature were produced. The most famous Sumerian epic and the one that has survived in the most nearly complete form is the epic of *Gilgamesh*<sup>①</sup>. The story of Gilgamesh, who actually was king of the city-state of Uruk<sup>②</sup> in approximately 2700 BC, is a moving story of the ruler’s deep sorrow at the death of his friend Enkidu and of his consequent search for immortality. Other central themes of the story are a devastating flood and the tenuous nature of man’s existence, and ended by meeting a wise and ancient man who had survived a great flood by building an ark (thinking of the

---

① The semi-divine king of Erech, a city of southern Babylonia, and hero of an epic collection of mythic tales, one of which tells of a flood that covered the earth.

② Ancient Sumerian city of Mesopotamia, on the Euphrates and Northwest of Ur (in present-day S Iraq). It is the modern Tall al Warka.

Biblical story of flood in Genesis).

Land was cultivated for the first time, early calendars were used and the first written alphabet was invented here. Its bountiful land, fresh waters, and varying climate contributed to the creation of deep-rooted civilization that had fostered humanity from its affluent fountain since thousand of years ago.

The Sumerians, however, did not have the lengthy periods of peace that characterized the Egyptian civilization. Mesopotamia was open to attack from all sides, especially by the nomads from the north and west. In that way the territory was over-run in about 2300 BC by Sargon<sup>①</sup>, a Semite from the north, who conquered Sumer and built an Akkadian empire stretching over most of the Sumerian city-states and extending as far away as Lebanon. Sargon based his empire in the city of Akkad, which became the basis of the name of his people.

But Sargon's ambitious empire lasted for only a blink of an eye in the long time spans of Mesopotamian history. In 2125 BC, the Sumerian city of Ur in southern Mesopotamia rose up in revolt, and the Akkadian empire fell.

With the fall of Sargon's unified Sumerian state, political dominance passed farther to the north, to the middle region of Mesopotamia. By 1750 BC the city of Babylon exerted its influence over all the city-states between the rivers. The greatest ruler of Old Babylonia was Hammurabi, who established his control over the region from about 1800 to 1750 BC, made Babylon the chief Mesopotamian kingdom and codified the laws of Mesopotamia and Sumeria — the Hammurabi Code (around 1792 –

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① King of Akkad in Mesopotamia (reigned c. 2340 – c. 2305 BC). By conquest he established a great empire that included the whole of Mesopotamia and extended over Syria and Elam, and he controlled territories W to the Mediterranean and N to the Black Sea.