

**HIGHLIGHTS
OF CHINA**

经典

中国

孙维新 朱旭 刘川等编著
上海译文出版社



HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA

孙维新 朱旭 刘川等编著

G12
21

经

典

中国

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

经典中国/孙维新,朱旭,刘川等编著. —上海:上海译文出版社,2004. 8

ISBN 7-5327-3468-4

I. 经... II. ①孙...②朱...③刘...

III. 传统文化-中国-通俗读物-英文 IV. G12-49

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2004)第 039971 号

本书中文简体字专有出版权

归本社独家所有,非经本社同意不得连载、摘编或复制

经典中国

孙维新 朱旭 刘川 等编著

上海世纪出版集团

译文出版社出版、发行

上海福建中路193号

易文网:www.ewen.cc

全国新华书店经销

上海商务联西印刷厂印刷

开本 890 × 1240 1/32 印张 10 插页 2 字数 273,000

2004年8月第1版 2004年8月第1次印刷

印数:0,001—5,100册

ISBN 7-5327-3468-4/H·619

定价:30.00元

本书如有缺页、错装或坏损等严重质量问题,请向承印厂联系调换

In order for the foreigners to have a comprehensive knowledge of Chinese culture, and for those who are engaged in foreign affairs and the Chinese students to further understanding of Chinese culture so as to communicate more competently with the foreigners, we compile Highlights of China (with Chinese, English and Japanese edition), which gives a moderate and all-around introduction to the prime of Chinese culture.

It comprises over 15 chapters, with topics including Chinese history, philosophy, literature and art, ancient science, natural scenery, etc.



策 划 人：吴文智

责任编辑：马 胜

封面设计：许 晶

上海译文出版社

网址：www.yiwen.com.cn

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 **Ancient History and Brilliant Civilization**

- | | |
|---|-----|
| I . Ancient History | 001 |
| II . Track of Civilization Development | 008 |
| III . Paragons of Ancient Economy and Culture | 018 |

CHAPTER 2 **Centering on Man, and Stressing the Deeds**

- | | |
|---|-----|
| I . Sparkles of Creative Wisdom of Pre-Qin Philosophers | 031 |
| II . Characteristics of Chinese Philosophy | 036 |
| III . Quintessence of Chinese Philosophy | 038 |

CHAPTER 3 **Miraculous, Mystic and Sacred**

- | | |
|---|-----|
| I . Traditional Religions Influential in China | 044 |
| II . Heaven — A Mystic Concept in Chinese Religions | 053 |

CHAPTER 4 **Ideograph and Pictograph Rich in Senses**

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| I . Square Han Script | 056 |
| II . Chinese Language | 062 |

CHAPTER 5 Mighty Surges in the Flow of Literature

I . Book of Poems	080
II . The Prose in the Pre-Qin Period	084
III . Poetry of the South and "Fu" in the Han Dynasty	086
IV . Radiant Poetry in the Tang Dynasty	090
V . Splendid Song Poems	099
VI . Novels in the Ming and Qing Dynasties	102

CHAPTER 6 Eastern Styles of World Renown

I . Chinese Painting with a Unique Technique	110
II . Calligraphy Elegant in Exterior and Intelligent in Interior	121

CHAPTER 7 Breathtaking Dramas on the Stage

I . From Fermentation to Maturity	130
II . Bewitching Presentation — Separation and Reunion of Spirit and Appearance	136
III . Dream in the Garden — A Modern Annotation of Ancient Dream Drama	143

CHAPTER 8 Music, Singing and Dance

I . Chinese "Qin"	151
II . Singing and Dance at Imperial Courts	155
III . Folk Music of Townspeople	162

CHAPTER 9 Magnificent Architecture

I . Course of Development of Chinese Ancient Architecture	169
--	-----

II . Graceful Garden Architectures	184
III . Lu Ban — the Great Ancient Chinese Artisan	189

CHAPTER 10 Medicine Benefiting Human Beings

I . The Course of Development of Chinese Medicine	193
II . Ancient Chinese Medical Theories	197
III . Chinese Doctors of Lasting Fame	199

**CHAPTER 11 Exercises of Bones, Muscles, Vitality
and Breath**

I . Marrow of Chinese Martial Arts	207
II . Chinese Martial Arts, an Aspect of Chinese Culture	215
III . Breathing Exercises of Chinese Martial Arts	218

CHAPTER 12 Splendid Chinese Cuisine

I . Four Major Groups of Chinese Cuisine	225
II . Tea Culture	228
III . Wine Culture	232

CHAPTER 13 Pragmatic Chinese Inventions

I . Characteristics of Ancient Chinese Science and Technology	238
II . Crystallization of Wisdom	242
III . Four Great Inventions	253

**CHAPTER 14 Splendid Culture and Magnificent
Natural Scenery**

I . Cultural Heritages	260
------------------------	-----

II . Natural Heritages	280
III . Dual Cultural-Natural Heritages	285

CHAPTER 15 Meticulous Craftsmanship

I . Jade Handicraft	293
II . Bronze Casting	297
III . Pottery Craft	300
IV . Stone and Brick Carvings	304
V . Weaving and Embroidery	308
VI . Braiding Craft	311

CHAPTER 1 Ancient History and Brilliant Civilization

——A Synopsis of 5,000-Year Chinese History

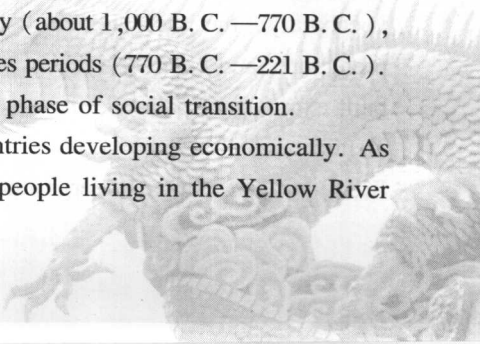
I. Ancient History

With an approximately 4,000 year recorded history this country boasts one of the incipient civilizations of the world, where were unearthed at Yuanmou County of Yunnan Province the fossils of the apemen “Yuanmou Men”, which can be traced back to 1.7 million years ago, and were known as the earliest primitive human species so far. This country is China.

“Peking Men”, who dwelled more than 4 hundred thousand years ago at Zhoukoudian in the vicinity of modern Beijing of China, could walk erectly, chisel and use simple implements, and make use of fire. They possessed the basic human characteristics.

Preceded by a very long primeval period, the Xia Dynasty arose around the end of 2,100 B. C. —the first dynasty in the Chinese history. Following the Xia Dynasty arose the Shang Dynasty (about 1,600 B. C. — 1,000 B. C.), the Western Zhou Dynasty (about 1,000 B. C. —770 B. C.), the Spring-Autumn and the Warring States periods (770 B. C. —221 B. C.). China evolved through an independent phase of social transition.

China was among the earliest countries developing economically. As early as five to six millennia ago the people living in the Yellow River



Valley undertook agriculture as a primary subsistence means and also bred livestock. More than 3,000 years ago, during the Shang Dynasty, the technology of smelting bronze was invented and some iron tools were known to be in use already. The ceramic industry already existed then. There were both unglazed and colored glazed pottery. Silk reeling and weaving was fairly advanced, bringing forth the initiative jacquard weaving technique in the world.

During the Warring States period (475 B. C.—221 B. C.), Li Bing and his sons led the construction of the famous Dujiangyan Dam (near modern Chengdu), a water conservancy project, solving reasonably the interrelated problems of irrigation, flood diversion and sand discharging. This project was a splendid achievement of the water conservancy technology in the olden days, and it still functions now. Philosophy and ideology thrived during the Spring-Autumn and the Warring States periods when exponents of various schools wrote books and founded doctrines asserting their views on politics and sociology. There emerged the phase of “A Hundred Schools Contend” with the advent of representative personages, such as Master Lao, Confucius, Master Mo and Master Sun.

In 221 B. C. Yin Zheng, the highly-gifted, ambitious king of the Qin Kingdom ended the turmoil and chaos among the dukes and kings in the Warring States period, and established the first united, centralized, multi-national feudal monarchy—the Qin, styling himself the “First Emperor” or the “Shih Huangdi”. The “First Emperor” unified the vocabulary, the measurement system and the currency, founded the prefectures and counties system, constructed the famous Great Wall and built extravagant palaces, mausoleums and temporary palaces. Now the architectures above the ground have long been demolished in battles and fires, but the things underground have been preserved. Just take the

instance of the discovery of the terra cotta warriors buried in the proximity of the mausoleum of the "First Emperor". These are reputed as the Eighth World Wonder, the grandeur of which attracts numerous admiring tourists from home and abroad.

Toward the decline of the Qin Dynasty, Liu Bang and Xiang Yu, born of popular and noble backgrounds respectively, overthrew jointly the reign of the Qin and then contended for hegemony. A couple of years later, Liu Bang triumphed over Xiang Yu, and founded the mighty Han Dynasty, during which agriculture, crafts and commerce were immensely developed. Liu Che, Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty (140 B. C. — 87 B. C.), reigned through the most powerful and prosperous period of the dynasty. His troops defeated the Huns, and he commissioned Zhang Qian as his envoy to visit the "West Region" countries, thus opening the route from Chang'an (Xi'an in modern Shaanxi Province) via Xinjiang and the mid-Asia to the eastern coast of the Mediterranean, known as the Silk Route, by which the gorgeous, fine Chinese silk products were incessantly transported westward.

In 33 B. C. Wang Zhaojun, a maid of honor in the imperial court, was sent to be married to the Chanyu (King) of the Huns with a view to strengthening the cordial relations among the nationalities, leaving a touching story of the Han-Hun marriage.

The Han Dynasty survived for 426 years. By 220 A. D. China evolved into the Three Kingdoms period, in tripartite balance of the Wei Kingdom, the Shu Kingdom and the Wu Kingdom (220—280). The three most prominent political personages in this period were Cao Cao, Zhuge Liang and Sun Quan. Cao Cao was the virtual founder of the Wei Kingdom. The Wei Kingdom dominated over the other two Kingdoms by promoting capable and diligent ministers and stationing troops in the frontiers. Zhuge Liang served as the prime minister of the Shu Kingdom

and has long been esteemed as the symbol of ancient Chinese wisdom. His noble moral character summed up in his words, "Sparing no effort in the performance of duty," has inspired the Chinese, over the past hundreds of years. Sun Quan was the founder of the Wu Kingdom. He allied with Liu Bei, the King of the Shu Kingdom, to defeat Cao Cao at "Red Cliff". Afterwards, he defeated Liu Bei in the Battle at Yiling. He appointed officials responsible for farming specially, and stationed troops to open up wasteland, thus spurring the development of the middle and lower reaches of the Changjiang (Yangtze) River. Their deeds were adapted into a classic novel, the "Romance of Three Kingdoms".

Following the Three Kingdoms were consecutively the Jin Dynasty (the Western Jin and the Eastern Jin, 265—420), the Southern-Northern Dynasties (420—589) and the Sui Dynasty (581—618). By 618 the Tang Dynasty was set up by a general named Li Yuan (618—907). Li Shiming (the second son of Li Yuan), Emperor Tai Zong of Tang (626—649), was acclaimed as one of the foremost distinguished emperors in Chinese history. His reign was called the "Peaceful Order in the Zhenguan Reign", during which he promulgated a series of policies for social recuperation and national consolidation, pushing the country onto the pinnacle of prosperity in Chinese feudalist history. The Tang Dynasty saw further advancement in many fields such as farming, handicrafts, commerce, textile, dyeing, ceramics, metallurgy and shipbuilding, while a crisscross network of highways and waterways emerged throughout the empire, and extensive social and cultural relations were established with many countries, such as Japan, Korea, India, Persia and Arabia.

Following the Tang Dynasty came the period of the "Five Dynasties and the Ten Kingdoms" (907—960). In 960 Zhao Kuangyin, a senior general of the Later Zhou Dynasty, launched a rebellion. His lieutenants

clothed him in the yellow imperial gown and asked him to ascend the throne. Thus he established the Song Dynasty (960—1279).

In 1206, Genghis Khan founded the Mongol Empire upon his unification of scattered Mongol tribes. Kublai, a grandson of Genghis Khan, swept southward across Central China in 1271 and founded the Yuan Dynasty (1271—1368) with Dadu (Beijing) assigned as the capital.

During the Song and Yuan Dynasties, industry and commerce, as well as foreign trade, developed greatly, and many advanced, foreign merchants and travellers visited China. Marco Polo, a Venetian merchant, travelled extensively in China. In his travel notes he portrayed vividly in detail the thriving industry and commerce, as well as the immense fortunes in China.

Paper making, printing, compass and gunpowder were the “Four Great Inventions” in ancient Chinese science and technology. During the Song and Yuan Dynasties further new progress in these fields was achieved, contributing greatly to the global civilization.

In 1368 the Ming Dynasty (1368—1644) was instituted by Zhu Yuanzhang, styled Taizu of Ming. After Zhu Li, the fourth son of the Taizu of Ming, succeeded to the throne, he embarked upon large-scale construction projects of the city wall and moat, palaces and temples in Beijing, and later on officially transferred the capital northward to Beijing. The Ming Dynasty witnessed a definite improvement in agriculture and handicrafts, and toward its concluding stage even witnessed a rudiment of capitalism. Meanwhile frequent friendly contacts with the countries in Asia and Africa were made.

During the later period of the Ming Dynasty arose a new military power in the Northeast of China. Led by Nu’erhachi, their chieftain, the Manchu tribesmen on horsebacks struggled with the Ming forces for three

generations at the Great Wall, and finally established the Qing Dynasty (1644—1911) in 1644. The two most renowned Qing emperors were Emperor Kang Xi (1661—1722) and Emperor Qian Long (1735—1796), whose reigns were recognized as the “heyday in Kang-Qian period”.

The Opium War that broke out in 1840 marked a turning point in the Chinese history. Toward the dawn of the 19th century Britain dumped its opium in mammoth quantities into China, causing an unfavorable flow of silver, inflation and financial austerity in China.

In 1839, Lin Zexu, a special envoy of the imperial court stationing in Guangzhou, was responsible for the prohibition of the opium products. For the protection of its opium dumping, Britain waged a war of invasion on China in 1840. At the outset, the Chinese patriots, led by Lin and some generals, launched a gallant resistance against the invaders. But owing to the concessions offered by the corrupt and incompetent Qing imperial court, the Nanjing Treaty, an unequal treaty surrendering China's sovereignty under humiliating terms, was signed in the end. From then onwards, China gradually sank into a semi-feudal and semi-colonial society.

Since the end of the Opium War, the imperialist powers, such as Britain, the United States, France, Russia, Japan, etc., continued to coerce the Qing court to sign various unequal treaties, seizing further concessions and planning to establish “spheres of influence” in China, creating a tide of carving up of China. In order to resist the feudal oppression and the alien invasion, the Chinese people spared no efforts to wage unyielding struggles with a host of outstanding hero and heroines emerging among them. In 1851, Hong Xiuquan led the Revolt of the Tai Ping Tian Guo (Tai Ping Heavenly Kingdom), the biggest peasant revolutionary campaign in the modern history of China. In 1911, the Xin

Hai Revolution—a bourgeois democratic revolution led by Sun Zhongshan (Sun Yat-sen)—succeeded in overthrowing the rule of the Qing Dynasty, terminating the over-two-millennia-old feudal, monarchial system. The temporary government of Republic of China was constituted. However, the triumphant fruit was usurped by Yuan Shikai, a military lord in the north, due to the compromising, yielding attitude of the Chinese bourgeoisie. The populace still lived in miseries and poverty.

Influenced by the October Revolution in Russia, the May 4th Movement, an anti-imperialism and anti-feudalism campaign triggered by patriotic students, broke out in 1919; the proletariat as a social class began to ascend the political stage. This campaign was recognized as a milestone in the modern Chinese history between the old democratic revolution and the new democratic revolution, bringing about the spread of Marxism-Leninism in China and its integration with the Chinese revolutionary practice. Both ideologically and organizationally the campaign served to prepare for the advent of the Communist Party of China.

In 1921, Mao Zedong, Dong Biwu, Chen Tanqiu, He Shuheng, Wang Jingmei, Deng Enming, Li Da etc., representatives of the communist groups in different cities, held the first national assembly in Shanghai, leading to the birth of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

In 1924, positive cooperation was carried out by Sun Yat-sen, pioneer of the Chinese democratic revolution and founder of the Chinese Nationalist Party (Kuomintang or KMT), and the Communist Party of China, for the purpose of jointly mobilizing the masses of industrial workers and peasants for making the northern expedition against the warlords. Shortly after the demise of Sun, the right-wing bloc of the Nationalist Party represented by Jiang Jieshi conducted a reactionary coup d'état and recklessly massacred the communists and other revolutionaries,

aborting the vigorous grand Revolution and setting up the tyrannous government of the Nationalist Party based in Nanjing. Henceforth, the Communist Party of China set out to lead the Chinese people to struggle against the reactionary rule of KMT in a ten-year-long land revolution war.

In July 1937, Japan started a full-scale war of aggression against China. The KMT armies waged an array of operations at the front battlefields, giving a crushing blow to the invaders. The Eighth Route Army and the New Fourth Army under the leadership of CPC opened up the rear-battlefields and launched a series of strenuous resistance against a greater proportion of the Japanese armies and almost all the puppet armies under most arduous conditions, exerting a decisive role in the final victory of the war of Resistance against Japan.

In June 1946, Kuomintang launched an all-round assault to the Liberated Areas under CPC, triggering a civil war on an unprecedented scale. To finally liberate all the Chinese people, the CPC armies and the populace in the Liberated Areas engaged in the nationwide Liberation War. Following the victories in three gigantic battles won by the CPC forces (the Battle in Liaoning-Shenyang, the Battle in the Huai River Valley and the Battle in Tianjin and Beijing), the KMT government was finally overthrown and a historic victory of the new democratic revolution was achieved.

II. Track of Civilization Development

The history of China can be chronicled approximately as follows:

Pre-Qin period (2100 B. C. —221 B. C.)

Qin-Han periods (221 B. C. —220 A. D.)

Three Kingdoms-Jin (Western & Eastern)-Southern & Northern