

# WUHAN

## IN CONSTRUCTION



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*Edited by*

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# I

## HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Wuhan, capital of Hupeh Province, was an ancient metropolis of China. With a population of 2,200,000 and an area of 953 square kilometres it is now being developed as a centre of socialist economic and cultural construction. A succession of new factories, new educational institutions and new residences is mushrooming everywhere.

Wuhan is situated at the confluence of the Yangtse River, China's longest waterway, and its chief tributary, the Han River. It is divided into three parts — Wuchang, Hanyang and Hankow, and has long been known as the Triple City of Wuhan. Wuchang, on the right bank of the Yangtse, was the earliest to develop. During the Chou dynasty (from eleventh to third century B.C.) it was already a well-populated region, and in the period of the Three Kingdoms (220-280 A.D.), Sun Chuan, ruler of the Kingdom of Wu, began to build a city here.

Hanyang and Hankow on the left bank of the Yangtse are separated by the Han River. Hanyang on the right bank of the Han is the older city. Two thousand years ago, Ying Wu Chou (Parrot Island), then in the middle of the Yangtse River instead of being close to the waterfront of Hanyang at present, was already famous as a stopping place for commercial vessels and as excursion grounds. Hankow developed comparatively later, but in history it was well-known by the name of Hsia Kou

or Mien Kou. During the Sung dynasty (960-1279 A.D.) it was known as one of the four greatest commercial centres of the country. Owing to the change in the course of the Han River, from the end of the Ming dynasty (1368-1644 A.D.), Hankow became even more flourishing. Today it is the most densely populated and the most prosperous of the three cities.

A long history has left behind in Wuhan many places of interest. Huang Ho Lou (the Tower of the Yellow Crane), Ku Chin Tai (the Ancient Lute Pavilion) and other places associated with charming legendary tales have attracted visitors throughout the years.

Wuhan is located on Long.  $114^{\circ}8'40''$ - $114^{\circ}28'20''$  E. and Lat.  $30^{\circ}28'40''$ - $30^{\circ}41'40''$  N. The climate is, in general, temperate, and the rainfall abundant. Average annual temperature is  $16.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . January is the coldest month and July the hottest. During the cold period in an average year the temperature may drop to minus  $5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ., and during the summer, it often rises to  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Average annual rainfall is 1,196 millimetres.

The region surrounding Wuhan produces an abundance of agricultural products, including rice, wheat, cotton, tobacco leaf, ramie, sesame and beans, as well as a large variety of fresh-water fish. It also produces goods for export, such as tung-oil, raw lacquer, medicinal herbs, hides, casings, bristles and egg products. To the east and south of Wuhan are the famous Tayeh Iron Mines in the province of Hupeh, the Pinghsiang collieries in the province of Kiangsi and the non-ferrous metals mines in the province of Hunan. These food and industrial raw materials provide favourable conditions for the development of industry and trade in Wuhan.

The Yangtse and Han rivers afford Wuhan excellent facilities for water transport. As for travel by land, Wuhan was from ancient times a junction of postal roads, long being known as the "crossroads of nine provinces." At present it is China's largest inland port. Large and small vessels plying on the Yangtse and Han rivers, or passing to and from the Tungting Lake and other lakes all make stops here. Ocean-going steamships sail by day and night to and from Wuhan. Wuhan is the middle point of the Peking-Canton Railway. It is also connected with all the large cities of the country by a network of highways and airlines. The triple city's favourable geographical position and the convenient river and land transport have long made it the great commercial port of Central China. It is the collecting and distributing centre for agricultural and other local products as well as manufactured articles for the home market.

But favourable as was its geographical position, and rich as it was in natural resources, before liberation Wuhan remained a semi-colonial commercial city, chiefly supplying raw materials to foreign countries and being used as a dumping ground for foreign goods. Hankow was one of the trade ports which the invading Anglo-French Allied Army compelled China to open in 1858. From that year the five Powers—Britain, France, Germany, Japan and tsarist Russia—one after another, established "concessions" occupying the best sites along the Hankow bund. The Russian concession was returned to China after the October Revolution of 1917 by the workers' and peasants' government of Soviet Russia on its own initiative. The British concession was taken back by the Chinese workers and revolutionary people in Wuhan in 1927 during the upsurge of the First Revo-

lutionary Civil War (1925-1927). Although after victory in the Anti-Japanese War (1937-1945) there were no longer foreign "concessions," the Kuomintang reactionary government, backed by United States imperialism, tightened its grip on the people ever more ruthlessly, and thus made the people's life a veritable hell. It was only after liberation in 1949 that the people of Wuhan began to enjoy a new life.

The people of Wuhan, like the rest of the Chinese people, have time and again risen in heroic struggle against feudalism and imperialism, and left many historical monuments as a reminder and inspiration to future generations.

During the Taiping Revolution (1851-1864), the Taiping troops stayed around Wuhan for many years, fighting bravely against the armies of the Ching (Manchu) government. Large numbers of the people of Wuhan and in its vicinity joined the Taiping army and took part in many battles. Not a few of the finest sons and daughters of the people heroically gave their lives during this protracted struggle. The Nine Heroines Monument on the shores of beautiful East Lake, is the eternal resting place of nine of these women fighters.

It was in Wuchang that the Revolution of 1911 broke out. This revolution overthrew China's feudal-dynastic rule which had lasted thousands of years. Many places and buildings in Wuchang stand as reminders and memorials of this uprising. Peng-Liu-Yang Road and the Three Martyrs Pavilion in the southern section of the city commemorate Peng Chu-pan, Liu Fu-chi and Yang Hung-sheng, who died for the cause on the eve of the uprising. In the south-eastern corner of the city are the Uprising Gate, where the revolutionary soldiers of

the Battalion of Engineers assembled fought for the post took place, and Chu Wang Tai (Terrace of the State of Chu), where the revolutionary troops fought for the possession of arms. Yueh Ma Chang (Cavalry Parade Review Square) was the site of the General Headquarters of the Revolutionary Army. The whole area of Sheh Shan (Serpent Hill), which runs through the centre of Wuchang, has been turned into the Uprising Park in commemoration of the Revolution of 1911.

In February 1923 the Trade Union Council of the Peking-Hankow Railway called a general strike of the railway workers. This Trade Union Council was then located at Kiangnan in Hankow. In order to suppress the strike, the warlord Wu Pei-fu perpetrated the terrible massacre at Kiangnan on February 7, 1923. This became known as the "February 7 Massacre." During this massacre the platform of the Kiangnan railway station was covered with the blood of the Chinese working class. Lin Hsiang-chien, Chairman of the Kiangnan Branch of the Railway Trade Union, courageously died here. Shih Yang, legal adviser of the Wuhan Federation of Trade Unions, also gave his life in this struggle. In the vicinity of the Kiangnan station the "February 7" Monument and the "February 7" Memorial Hall have been erected in commemoration of the martyrs of this strike. Martyr Shih Yang's tomb at the western foot of Hung Shan in Wuchang is carefully preserved.

During the First Revolutionary Civil War (1925-1927), the famous "Iron Regiment," the Independent Regiment of the Fourth Army of the National Revolutionary Army, led by the well-known Communist, General Yeh Ting, first attacked Wuchang in the Northern Expedition and occupied Wuhan. The graves of the officers and soldiers



who heroically died during the attack stand near the Wuhan Branch of the Central Institute for Nationalities, at Hung Shan, Wuchang.

After the entrance of the Revolutionary Army, Wuhan became the revolutionary centre of the country at that time. The National Government of the first Kuomintang-Communist co-operation moved from Canton to Wuhan in January 1927. The Nanyang Building, next door to the present Minchung Loyuan (People's Amusement Park) in Hankow, was the location of the National Government at that time.

During 1927 Chairman Mao Tse-tung continued to run the Institute of the Peasant Movement in the northern corner of Wuchang. His famous *Report of an Investigation into the Peasant Movement in Hunan*, in its manuscript stage, was delivered as lectures to the students of the institute. On the former site of the institute now stands the Wuchang Twenty-second Middle School.

The Fifth Congress of the Chinese Communist Party was also held in Wuchang on April 27, 1927, when the revolution was at stake, at the Tufu Dyke, the site of the branch of the present Wuchang Twenty-second Middle School.

During the early period of the Anti-Japanese War, Wuhan was the centre where the Chinese Communist Party led the resistance movement of the Chinese people in the south.

During the last stage of the Third Revolutionary Civil War (1945-1949), when the White terror was at its height, the people of Wuhan, under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, launched a series of resolute struggles against the traitorous Chiang Kai-shek clique, thus effectively supporting the People's Liberation Army in freeing

the people of the whole country from the oppression of imperialism and feudalism. Workers Ting Hai-chuan and Tsai Shao-ni of the Hankow Bedding and Clothing Factory and students Chen Ju-feng, Wang Chih-teh and Huang Ming-kang of Wuhan University were murdered in cold blood by the Kuomintang reactionary clique during the struggle. The "June 1" Memorial Pavilion has been erected near the Wuhan University bus station in memory of the three student martyrs.

## II

### INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE

Wuhan was liberated on May 16, 1949. Since then, the people of this city, under the leadership of the Communist Party, have exerted great effort in restoring and reconstructing the dilapidated and paralyzed city left by the reactionary regime, so that it may be transformed into a socialist, industrial city.

The factories which were silent at the time of liberation have since resumed production and have been almost wholly rebuilt or expanded. They have more workers and more machinery and have increased output and improved the quality of their products.

Simultaneously with the socialist transformation of old enterprises many plants were enlarged. For example, the machine-building industry in Wuhan before liberation consisted mainly of repairing and assembling workshops. Now it can produce whole machines or complete sets of equipment, large and high-grade lathes, power station equipment and mining equipment.

Small and large industrial enterprises, remodelled, enlarged and newly-built during the period of the First Five-Year Plan, totalled 160. Of these, 29 new plants already have gone, completely or partially, into operation. The total value of industrial production in 1957 was 2.68 times that of 1952 and 6 times that of 1949.

The big projects which the state has undertaken in the Wuhan area are Wuhan's major industrial construction projects.

The Wuhan Iron and Steel Company, now under construction around Ching Shan, Wuchang, is an iron and steel base second only to Anshan in north-east China. The first phase of the construction work is to be completed in 1961 and by that time it will be able to produce over 3,000,000 tons of steel yearly. The whole project involves mining, dressing and sintering iron ore, smelting iron, making steel, coke and refractory materials, etc. —in all, 15 main plants and mines and thirty-odd auxiliary workshops.

The building of this huge project provides another example of the glaring contrast between New and old China. Wuhan was originally the cradle of China's iron and steel industry. As far back as 1890, the Hanyang Iron and Steel Works (later called the Han-Yeh-Ping Corporation), China's first of its kind, was erected. In 1900, ten years after it began to be built, it produced only 26,000 tons of pig iron a year. It was not until 1907 that it turned out 8,500 tons of steel a year. The size of the Hanyang Works was, of course, nothing to be compared with the Wuhan Iron and Steel Company. Under imperialist domination and Kuomintang reactionary rule, however, old China's first iron and steel works could not even escape bankruptcy.

Wuhan Heat and Power Plant, with an electric power capacity more than three times that of the Wuhan area at the present time, has been under construction since the end of 1955. The main buildings have already been completed. The first and second aggregators have been

generating electric power since August and December 1957 respectively.

Wuhan Heavy Machine Tool Plant produces a variety of universal heavy machines, such as huge vertical lathes, heavy planing machines, heavy milling machines, horizontal boring machines and thread-milling machines. It can produce also a considerable number of special-duty machines. Its construction was begun in April 1956, and practically completed in July 1958. More than 200 heavy machine tools were produced in the same year.

Wuhan Boiler Plant has been under construction since 1956. A part of workshops has been in operation since the winter of 1957. And the whole construction is now, in the main, completed.

A modern combined meat processing factory, capable of slaughtering 8,000 pigs per day and processing meat products and by-products, has also been completed and gone into production.

The Yangtse Bridge forms one of Wuhan's key projects. It is the first large bridge to span the Yangtse River. The bridge proper is 1,155 metres long (counting the approaches the total length is 1,670 metres). There are eight piers and nine spans, the length of each span being 128 metres. It is a double-decker bridge, the upper deck being a highway 18 metres wide, the lower deck carrying a double-track railway. The height from the deepest pier foundation to the highway surface is about 70 metres. There is enough clearance for large steamships all the year round. From 1953 to the end of 1955, the Han River Railway Bridge and the Han River City Bridge (now named the Kiangnan Bridge), both forming parts of the Yangtse Bridge project, were successively completed. The construction work of the main Yangtse



Bridge itself began in September 1955. In October 1957 the bridge was opened to traffic — two years earlier than scheduled.

In the course of constructing the piers of the Yangtse Bridge a new method of “colonnade foundation” was initiated, which is far superior to the old pneumatic caisson method. It reduced the time of construction considerably, guaranteed the safety of the workers and cut down the cost. The opening of traffic over the bridge has welded the three cities into a single unit.

In the latter half of 1958 construction of some other important plants also began. They included steam turbine, steam turbine generator and large casting and forging factories.

In the construction of a number of big projects, the Soviet Union has extended us invaluable assistance.

The total floor space of the new houses built from 1950 to 1957 amounts to 9,590,000 square metres, which is equivalent to 77 per cent of the city's total floor space of the pre-liberation period. Eighty-nine roads have been either rebuilt or newly built. The total length of high-grade surfaced roads has doubled that in 1949. These roads run parallel or at right angles to the Han or the Yangtse River. They were laid out according to a well-thought-out plan, greatly facilitating local traffic. There are 24 bus lines which connect the industrial, commercial, educational and residential as well as the scenic districts. A trolley-bus system has started its service.

Before liberation the drainage and sewerage system was chaotic, so that on rainy days filthy water often overflowed certain parts of the city. After liberation, the system was improved so sewage would flow into the river and rainwater into the lakes. The total length of

the newly laid sewer pipes are 5.7 times the 1949 figure.

The low-lying triple city of Wuhan has been from time to time subject to inundation. Greatest flood in the last hundred years occurred in 1954 when the water level reached the peak height of 29.73 metres. For a hundred days during the flood period, the people of the whole city fought day and night on the 136-kilometre dykes and were finally victorious over the flood waters, and thus protected Wuhan. Under the Kuomintang regime, in 1931, when the water level rose to 26.94 metres, the neglected dyke system was breached and the whole city inundated. In order to be free from the flood menace, extensive reconstruction of the dykes and embankments has been carried on since 1954. Now there are strong dykes and flood-prevention walls totalling 170 kilometres long, with a standard height of 31 metres, so that the city is now protected against a flood similar to that of 1954.

Between the winter of 1955 and the spring of 1956, when the socialist transformation of the country was at its height, the handicraftsmen in Wuhan organized themselves into handicraft producers' co-operatives. In the outskirts of Wuhan 99 per cent of the peasants joined advanced agricultural co-operatives and all the fishermen organized themselves into fishing co-operatives. The advantages of co-operation were fully demonstrated in the handicraftsmen's co-operatives, as their production has greatly increased. The total value of Wuhan's grain production in 1957 was 217 per cent of that of 1952 and the total value of farm and subsidiary products was 227 per cent. Fish industry has also developed rapidly in the past few years.

During the high tide of socialist transformation, private industrial and commercial enterprises were turned into joint state-private operation and the first year after the change-over proved the superiority of joint management. For instance, in 1956 the total value of production of the joint state-private Hanyang Machinery Works increased 3.3 times over 1955 when it was under private management; that of the Wang Yu-hsia Food-Processing Factory increased 40.14 per cent in 1956 over 1955 and, in addition, new food products were made; the volume of business done by the joint state-private Kwanghua Handicrafts Shop increased 2.6 times and that of Kianghan Silk and Cloth Company increased 57 per cent over 1955.

Having successfully overfulfilled the tasks of the First Five-Year Plan in 1957, Wuhan has embarked with full confidence on the great construction work of the Second Five-Year Plan. The militant call of the people of Wuhan is: "Work hard for two years to change the appearance of the city and build it into a great socialist, industrial base!" Construction has begun for Kuanshan, Wutung, Kotien and Hsuchiapeng industrial districts. When these projects are completed, Wuhan's industry will be able to turn to producing still higher grade articles.

In agriculture, the suburban areas of Wuhan will, during the Second Five-Year Plan period, see the building of an automatic irrigation system for all farmland and achieve mechanization or semi-mechanization of farming and thus bring about a fundamental change in agricultural production. Agriculture in the city's outskirts will serve the powerful socialist industrial base now being built, providing the people with plenty of vegetables, fish, etc., and increasing the supply of pork,