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张蕴 孙晶 张凡 王孝华 编著



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前 言

博大精深,具有五千年积淀的中国文化是人类文明的重要组成部分。随着中国经济的迅速发展和国际影响的不断扩大,中国与世界的跨文化交流日益频繁,学习和传播中国文化的需要不断增加。本书从弘扬中华文化的背景出发,以英汉双语的形式,有选择地介绍了中国文化中最具特色的部分。既涵盖传统文化,也包括民俗风情。每篇短文 500 字左右,配有生词、练习和译文。文章内容翔实丰富,英文表述简单易懂。可以作为课堂教材、课外阅读材料或参考手册,为国内大学生、外国留学生以及对中国文化感兴趣的中外人士提供学习、了解和传播中国文化的素材,从而实现把中国介绍给世界,让世界更多的人了解中国的愿望。

本书作者分别来自黑龙江工程学院、东北林业大学、东北农业大学、黑龙江司法警官职业学院和山东省烟台市高新技术产业园区只楚园管委会。《中国传统文化双语选读》的编写分工如下:张蕴执笔编著的内容为 10 万字,负责制定全书的编写纲要及体例,全书的统稿、修改和审改;孙晶执笔编著的内容为 8 万字,负责英文内容的校对;张凡执笔编著的内容为 8 万字,负责原始素材的搜集和整理;王孝华执笔编著的内容为 8 万字。

在编写过程中,我们得到了诸多关心与支持,参阅了大量文献和著作,篇幅所限,不能一一列举,谨向各位专家、学者和教师同行们致谢!

由于编著者水平有限,错误疏漏之处在所难免,希望使用者和专家学者不吝赐正。

编者
2011 年 12 月

Contents

Chapter One	The Historical Development of the Chinese Culture	(1)
Section 1	The Pre-Qin Period	(1)
Section 2	The Qin and Han Dynasties	(3)
Section 3	The Period of Wei Jin and the Northern and Southern Dynasties	(5)
Section 4	The Sui and Tang Dynasties	(7)
Section 5	The Song, Liao, Xia, Jin and Yuan Dynasties	(9)
Section 6	The Ming and Qing Dynasties	(11)
Section 7	Modern Period	(13)
Section 8	Contemporary Period	(15)
Chapter Two	Ancient Thinkers	(18)
Section 1	Laozi	(18)
Section 2	Kongzi (Confucius)	(20)
Section 3	Sun Wu	(23)
Section 4	Mozi	(25)
Section 5	Mengzi	(27)
Section 6	Zhuangzi	(30)
Section 7	Xunzi	(32)
Section 8	Hanfei	(34)
Section 9	Zhu Xi	(37)
Chapter Three	Ancient Literature Achievements	(40)
Section 1	<i>Shi Jing</i> (<i>The Book of Songs</i>)	(40)
Section 2	Chu Ci (Songs of Chu)	(42)
Section 3	Yuefu Folksongs	(44)
Section 4	Poetry in Tang Dynasty	(46)
Section 5	Ci-Poetry of the Song Dynasty	(48)

Section 6	Mixed Opera of the Yuan Dynasty	(50)
Section 7	Sanqu Songs of Jin and Yuan Dynasties	(52)
Section 8	Novels in the Ming and Qing Dynasties	(54)
Chapter Four	Ancient Scientific Achievement and Its Recordation	(57)
Section 1	Chinese Lunar Calendar	(57)
Section 2	The Sericulture of China	(59)
Section 3	Traditional Chinese Agriculture	(61)
Section 4	The Four Great Inventions (I)	(63)
Section 5	The Four Great Inventions (II)	(65)
Section 6	Documents and Classics (I)	(68)
Section 7	Documents and Classics (II)	(70)
Section 8	Documents and Classics (III)	(73)
Chapter Five	National Arts	(76)
Section 1	Chinese Calligraphy	(76)
Section 2	Chinese Seal	(78)
Section 3	Chinese Painting	(80)
Section 4	Beijing Opera (I)	(83)
Section 5	Beijing Opera (II)	(85)
Section 6	Famous Music	(88)
Chapter Six	Traditional Chinese Medicine	(91)
Section 1	The Classics of Chinese Medicine	(91)
Section 2	Chinese Medical Diagnostics	(93)
Section 3	Traditional Chinese Medicine and Herbs	(96)
Section 4	Chinese Medicated Diet	(98)
Section 5	The Yin-Yang Theory	(100)
Section 6	The Five-Element Theory	(102)

目 录

第一章 中国文化的历史发展	(106)
第一节 先秦时期	(106)
第二节 秦汉时期	(107)
第三节 魏晋南北朝时期	(107)
第四节 隋唐时期	(108)
第五节 宋辽夏金元时期	(109)
第六节 明清时期	(109)
第七节 近代中国	(110)
第八节 现代中国	(111)
第二章 古代思想家	(113)
第一节 老子	(113)
第二节 孔子	(114)
第三节 孙武	(114)
第四节 墨子	(115)
第五节 孟子	(116)
第六节 庄子	(117)
第七节 荀子	(117)
第八节 韩非	(118)
第九节 朱熹	(119)
第三章 古代文学成就	(120)
第一节 《诗经》	(120)
第二节 楚辞	(121)
第三节 乐府诗	(121)
第四节 唐诗	(122)
第五节 宋词	(123)

第六节 元杂剧	(123)
第七节 金元散曲	(124)
第八节 明清小说	(124)
第四章 古代科技成就及其记载	(126)
第一节 中国历法	(126)
第二节 中国养蚕技术	(127)
第三节 中国传统农学	(127)
第四节 四大发明(一)	(128)
第五节 四大发明(二)	(129)
第六节 文献典籍(一)	(130)
第七节 文献典籍(二)	(131)
第八节 文献典籍(三)	(132)
第五章 民族艺术	(133)
第一节 中国书法	(133)
第二节 中国印章	(134)
第三节 中国绘画	(134)
第四节 京剧(一)	(135)
第五节 京剧(二)	(136)
第六节 著名乐曲	(137)
第六章 中医中药	(139)
第一节 中医古典名著	(139)
第二节 中医诊病理论	(140)
第三节 中医与中草药	(140)
第四节 药膳文化	(141)
第五节 阴阳学说	(142)
第六节 五行学说	(143)
练习参考答案	(144)

Chapter One The Historical Development of the Chinese Culture

Section 1 The Pre-Qin Period

The Pre-Qin Period refers to time before the Qin Dynasty. It began from the time when ancient people appeared to 221 B.C. when Emperor Qin Shi Huang united the other six kingdoms.

It is said Emperor Yan and Emperor Huang had a great war in ancient times. Emperor Huang won and established “China”. All the emperors, including three Emperors and Five Sovereigns, adopted the demise from about 5700 B.C. to 2100 B.C., a period that lasted for about 3 600 years. Emperor Yao gave his throne to Shun, Shun to Yu, and Qi — Yu’s son took over the power after Yu’s death — set up the first Xia Dynasty, and put an end to the demise. 400 years later, because the last king of the Xia Dynasty was brutal and immoral, Chengtang ended the Xia Dynasty and established the Shang Dynasty. At that time, the industry of bronzes was well developed and inscriptions on bones or tortoise shells were rather mature. So, the Xia and Shang dynasties were called the Bronze Age. Then about 1046 B.C., Emperor Zhouwu won the decisive victory against the Shang Dynasty. The Shang and Zhou dynasties developed the slave system. In 841 B.C., the citizens rebelled Emperor Zhouli’s power, which was the beginning of China’s exact recorded event. This period was regarded as the transitional period from the slave society to the federal society. With the Zhou Dynasty declined, many nobles fought against each other. There once appeared the seven powerful states of the Warring States Period and the five overlords in the Spring and Autumn Period. This period was called the Spring and Autumn and the Warring Periods. During the Warring Period, the Zhou Dynasty was replaced by the Qin Dynasty.

In Pre-Qin Period, the academic thought was well developed and the culture got flourished, and many thinkers and schools appeared, thinkers including Confucius, Laozi,

Han Feizi, and Mozi; schools including Confucianism, Taoism and Legalism. We now call it “a hundred schools of thought contend”.

In 1 800 years of the Pre-Qin Period, ancient Chinese created splendid history and culture, among which the inscriptions in the Xia and Shang dynasties and the bronzes in the Shang Dynasty are both the historical signs of human's civilization. About 5 000 years ago, people had already mastered the technology to bronze smelting. About 3 000 years ago, people began to use ironware. And there were white earthenware and colorful earthenware. In the Spring and Autumn Period, people had known how to make steel.

The great thinker Confucius and other famous thinkers set a beginning to the first flourishing of China's culture and academy. For example, Sun Wu's *The Art of War* is now widely used in military and economic fields. Qu Yuan was the greatest poet in China's history.

In this period, China changed from being separate to being united. (468)

New words

sovereign	<i>n.</i> 君主
demise	<i>n.</i> 禅让
throne	<i>n.</i> 王位
overlord	<i>n.</i> 领主; 霸主

Exercises

I. Match Column A with Column B.

Column A	Column B
in about 2100—1100 B.C.	the demise
in 475—221 B.C.	the Shang Dynasty established
in 5700—2100 B.C.	the beginning of China's exact recorded event
in 841 B.C.	the seven powerful states of the Warring States Period
in about 1600 B.C.	the Bronze Age

II. Translate the following expressions into Chinese.

1. three Emperors and Five Sovereigns
2. brutal and immoral

3. inscriptions on bones or tortoise shells
4. the seven powerful states of the Warring States Period
5. a hundred schools of thought contend

Section 2 The Qin and Han Dynasties

In 221 B.C., yingzheng, ruler of the State of Qin and a man of great talent and bold vision, ended the 250-odd years of rivalry among the independent principalities during the Warring States Period, and established the first centralized, unified, multi-ethnic feudal state in Chinese history — the Qin Dynasty (221—206 B.C.). He called himself Qin Shi Huang or “First Emperor of Qin”, also the first in Chinese history. Because he was born in the Zhao State he was also called Zhao Zheng.

After Yingzheng unified China, he ordered the highest ruler of the whole country should be called “Emperor”, and he should make all the important decisions. Under him, there were “Three Dukes and Nine High-Rank Officials” (san gong and jiu qing) who together supported the central government and the emperor himself. He standardized the written script (simplify the various styles of Chinese characters into one system), weights and measures, and currencies, and established the system of prefectures and counties. He set up the state system and only he had the right to appoint and remove the officials and officers in all ranks. He also ordered that the width of cart track, the styles of clothing and the calendar should be uniform. The sovereigns of the next 2 000 years followed the feudal governmental structure established by him. He mobilized more than 300 000 people over a period of a dozen years to build the Great Wall, which stretches for 5 000 km in northern China. It linked up the defense walls of the previous Qin, Zhao, and Yan state. Qin Shi Huang had the work on his enormous mausoleum started early in his reign. When they were unearthed in 1974 in Xi'an, the terracotta warriors of the “underground army” of some 8 000 vivid, life-sized pottery figures, horses and chariots guarding the mausoleum at the Qin Shi Huang tomb site amazed the world.

In spite of the achievement, he wanted very much to live all along, so he summoned the necromancers to seek the elixir at an enormous expense. He also went on great constructions, which put heavy taxes on poor people. The cruel rule and poor living conditions finally led to the rebellions. Among them, the most famous and successful one is Liu Bang.

Liu Bang established the powerful Han Dynasty in 206 B.C.. During the Han Dynasty,

agriculture, handicrafts and commerce flourished, and the population reached 50 million. During the most prosperous Period of the Han Dynasty, Emperor Wudi (140—87 B.C.) expanded from the Central Plains to the Western Regions (present-day Xinjiang and Central Asia). Emperor Wudi dispatched Zhang Qian twice as his envoy to the Western Regions, and in the process pioneered the route known as the “Silk Road” from Chang’an (today’s Xi’an, Shaanxi Province), through Xinjiang and Central Asia, and on to the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea. China’s silk goods were traded to the West along the Silk Road. As contacts between the East and West increased, Buddhism spread to China in the first century. In A.D. 105, an official named Cai Lun invented a technique for making fine paper, leading to a revolution in communications and learning. (523)

New words

vision	<i>n.</i> 视野
rivalry	<i>n.</i> 竞争; 对抗
principality	<i>n.</i> 公国; 封邑
multi-ethnic	<i>adj.</i> 涉及不同种族的
prefecture	<i>n.</i> 专区; 县; 府; (法国的) 省
chariot	<i>n.</i> 四轮马车
envoy	<i>n.</i> 使节
elixir	<i>n.</i> 长生不老药; 仙丹
terracotta	<i>n.</i> 兵马俑
the Mediterranean Sea	地中海

Exercises

I. Answer the questions.

1. How much do you know about Yingzheng?
2. What is your idea about Yingzheng?
3. Can you say something about the unified items including all aspects?
4. Please list the major progress in the Han Dynasty.
5. What did Emperor Wudi accomplish?

II. Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the passage.

1. Yingzheng established the first centralized, unified, multi-ethnic _____ state in Chinese

history.

2. The first Emperor of Qin called himself _____.
3. As contacts between the East and West increased, _____ spread to China in the first century.
4. Emperor Wudi dispatched _____ twice as his envoy to the Western Regions.
5. He mobilized more than 300 000 people over a period of a dozen years to build _____.

Section 3 The Period of Wei Jin and the Northern and Southern Dynasties

In later Eastern Han Dynasty, eunuchs and emperors' maternal relatives had a race for power. In A.D.196, Cao Cao controlled the court. In A.D.220, Cao Pi, Cao Cao's oldest son, replaced Emperor Xiandi with the Wei Dynasty. At the same time, Shu State and Wu State came into being, so we have the three kingdoms.

In A.D.265, Wei's powerful official Sima Yan claimed himself emperor, and set up the Jin Dynasty. In A.D.280, the Jin Dynasty united the three kingdoms. In the Jin Dynasty, culture gained development. Because of frequent fights and conflicts, many scholars chose to live in seclusion. Tao Yuanming was a representative then. Calligraphy also developed well.

The Song Dynasty established by Liu Yu and the three successive dynasties of Southern Qi, Liang and Chen are known as the Southern Dynasties. They had the same capital location at Jiankang. Liu Yu, later known as Emperor Wudi, was the most powerful ruler of the South since the Eastern Jin Period. After he ascended the throne in A.D. 424, Emperor Wendi continued Liu Yu's policy and focused on strengthening the court, developed the economy in the Changjiang River valley. It showed relative stability during his 30-year reign.

In the early Song Period, there were five states in the north, the Western Liang, Northern Liang, Northern Yan, Western Qin and Western Xia. In A.D. 386, Tuoba Gui, a member of the Tuoba clan of the Xianbei tribe, set up the state of Northern Wei. In A.D. 399, he proclaimed himself emperor, later known as Dao Wudi. In A.D. 439, Emperor Tai Wudi of the Northern Wei conquered Northern Liang and unified the northern that had been divided and ruled by the Sixteen States.

From the time of Emperor Wendi of Song, many venerable Buddhist monks came to China from the west, and Buddhism of various sects flourished during the Southern and

Northern Dynasties.

During the Sixteen States Period, the Former Liang and the Northern Liang were the Buddhist centers in the north. Buddhist monks in the south lumped Buddhism and Xuan Xue together in their parching. Large numbers of Buddhist monasteries were built in the north, with over 1 300 in Luoyang alone and more than 30 000 throughout the domain of the Northern Wei. Yungang, Longmen and Dunhuang are all world-famous for their engravings. Apparently, Buddhism was gaining ground both in the south and the north.

From A.D. 450 to A.D. 589, there had undergone considerable turmoil in the struggles for power.

The Southern Dynasties laid greater claim to fame in literature and historical studies than did the Northern Dynasties. In literature, poetry enjoyed popularity in the south. Xie Lingyun was famous for his nature poems. Of the literary works of the Northern Dynasties, the best-known is the *Song of Mu Lan*. (462)

New words

eunuch	<i>n.</i> 宦官
seclusion	<i>n.</i> 隐居
calligraphy	<i>n.</i> 书法
clan	<i>n.</i> 氏族
venerable	<i>adj.</i> 受人尊敬的
sect	<i>n.</i> 流派

Exercises

I. Translate the following expressions into Chinese.

1. a race for power
2. Emperors' Maternal Relatives
3. live in seclusion
4. the Southern Dynasties
5. the Sixteen States

II. Match Column A with Column B.

Column A

in A.D. 220
in A.D. 265
in A.D. 280
in A.D. 386
from A.D. 450 to 589

Column B

the Jin Dynasty
the Wei Dynasty
the Jin Dynasty united three kingdoms
considerable turmoil in the struggles for power
the state of Northern Wei

Section 4 The Sui and Tang Dynasties

The Tang Dynasty followed the Sui Dynasty and preceded the Five Dynasties and the Ten Kingdoms Period in China. The dynasty was interrupted by the Second Zhou Dynasty (A.D. 690—705) when Empress Wu Zetian seized the throne.

The Sui Dynasty (A.D. 581—618) was short-lived, but its accomplishments were many. Yang Jian, the Chinese-Tuoba general who established the dynasty, was given the title Wendi. He began administrative reform, modeling much of it on the earlier Han institutions; the civil service was strengthened at the expense of aristocratic privilege; and land reform was undertaken. All of this, along with revisions of the law code, was to serve as the basis for the institutions of the Tang Dynasty that followed fast on the heels of the Sui's collapse. The Sui Dynasty fell in A.D. 617 to domestic rebels led by Li Yuan.

The Tang Dynasty, established by Li Yuan in A.D. 618, with its capital at Chang'an, the most populous city in the world at the time, is regarded by historians as a high point in Chinese civilization — equal, or even superior, to the Han Period. Agriculture, handicrafts and commerce flourished; technologies for textile manufacturing and dyeing, pottery and porcelain production, smelting and shipbuilding were further developed.

Woodblock printings of dictionaries and almanacs and Buddhist scriptures were in circulation. The Grand Canal also helped the flow of merchandise. Chang'an became a cultural and international trade center and — along with Luoyang, Yangzhou, and Guangzhou — a major commercial center. During the Tang Dynasty, cultural relations were established with many countries, including Japan, Korea, India, Persia and Arabia. By the 660s, China's influence had firmly taken root in the Tarim basin and Ili River valley in today's Xinjiang in the West, even extending to many city-states in Central Asia.

Its territory, acquired through the military exploits of its early rulers, was greater than

that of the Han. Stimulated by contact with India and the Middle East, the empire saw a flowering of creativity in many fields. Buddhism, originating in India around the time of Confucius, continued to flourish during the Tang Period and was adopted by the imperial family, becoming thoroughly sinicized and a permanent part of Chinese traditional culture. Block printing made the written word available to vastly greater audiences.

The Tang Period was the golden age of literature and art. A government system supported by a large class of Confucian literati selected through civil service examinations was perfected under Tang rule.

As it turned out, these scholar-officials acquired status in their local communities, and family ties. From Tang times until the closing days of the Qing Empire in 1911, scholar officials functioned often as intermediaries between the grassroots level and the government.

By the middle of the 8th century, Tang power had ebbed. Military defeat in 751 by Arabs marked end of Tang authority in Central Asia. Domestic economic instability and subsequent rebellions of An Lushan and warlordism marked the beginning of five centuries of steady military decline for the Tang Empire. (501)

New words

throne	<i>n.</i> 宝座; 君主
smelting	<i>n.</i> 制炼; 熔化
dye	<i>v.</i> 染
woodblock	<i>n.</i> 木版
almanacs	<i>n.</i> 历书, 年历; 年鉴
scripture	<i>n.</i> 经文
sinicize	<i>v.</i> 使中国化
literati	<i>n.</i> 文学家; 文人学士
ebb	<i>n.</i> 衰落

Exercises

I. Answer the questions.

1. What ended the Tang Dynasty?
2. Why was the Tang Period the golden age of literature and art?
3. What do you think of civil service examination?

4. Which one do you like best? The civil service examination in China or election in the West? Why?
5. What marked end of Tang authority in Central Asia?

II. Decide whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F).

1. The Second Zhou Dynasty (690—705) means “后周”.
2. The Tang Dynasty is regarded inferior to the Han Period.
3. Technologies for textile manufacturing and dyeing, pottery and porcelain production, smelting and shipbuilding were further developed.
4. Chang'an became a cultural and international trade center and — along with Luoyang, Suzhou, and Guangzhou — a major commercial center.
5. Its territory was greater than that of the Han.

Section 5 The Song, Liao, Xia, Jin and Yuan Dynasties

Following the Tang Dynasty came a period of almost continual warfare known as the Five Dynasties and Ten States. In 960, Zhao Kuangyin, a general of the State of Later Zhou, established the Song Dynasty (A.D. 960—1279), known in history as the Northern Song Dynasty. When the Song Dynasty moved its capital to the south, it became known in history as the Southern Song Dynasty. The division was caused by the forced abandonment of north China in 1127 by the Song court, which could not push back the nomadic invaders. China in the Song Dynasty was in the forefront of the world in astronomy, science and technology.

The Liao Dynasty firstly fought with the Northern Song Dynasty, when the two tied. When the Jin Dynasty developed, it made the Liao Dynasty disappeared with the Northern Song Dynasty. Then the Jin Dynasty fought with the Northern Song Dynasty. The warfare continued to its capital Bianjing.

The Song Dynasty is notable for the development of cities not only for administrative purposes but also as centers of trade, industry, and maritime commerce. The landed scholar-officials, sometimes collectively referred to as the gentry, lived in the provincial centers alongside the shopkeepers, artisans, and merchants. A new group of wealthy commoners — the mercantile class — arose as printing and education spread, private trade grew, and a market economy began to link the coastal provinces and the interior. Landholding and government employment were no longer the only means of gaining wealth

and prestige.

Bi Sheng invented movable type printing in the 1040s, ushering in a major revolution in the history of printing.

In 1206, Genghis Khan established the Mongolian Khanate. In 1271, Kublai, a grandson of Genghis Khan, conquered the Central Plains, founded the Yuan Dynasty (1271—1368), and made Dadu (today's Beijing) the capital. Kublai ended the centuries-long situation in which many independent regimes existed side by side by forming a united country that brought Xinjiang, Tibet and Yunnan under its sway. During the Song-Yuan Period, the “four great inventions” in science and technology of the Chinese people in ancient times — papermaking, printing, the compass and gunpowder — were further developed, and spread abroad. By the mid-thirteenth century, the Mongols had subjugated north China, Korea, and the Muslim kingdoms of Central Asia and had twice penetrated Europe.

Although the Mongols sought to govern China through traditional institutions, using Chinese (Han) bureaucrats, they were not up to the task. The Han were discriminated against socially and politically. All important central and regional posts were monopolized by Mongols, who also preferred employing non-Chinese from other parts of the Mongol domain — Central Asia, the Middle East, and even Europe — in those positions for which no Mongol could be found. Chinese were more often employed in non-Chinese regions of the empire. (462)

New words

general	<i>n.</i> 将军
forefront	<i>n.</i> 前沿
usher	<i>n.</i> 带来; 引导, 领引
moat	<i>n.</i> 护城河
nomadic	<i>adj.</i> 游牧的

Exercises

I. Answer the questions.

1. What are the “four great inventions”?
2. How did you think of Genghis Khan?