

# Along the Yellow River

### Contents

Chairman Mao Inspecting the Yellow River	1
The Lungmen (Dragon Gate) Gorge on the Yellow River	2
Yenan	4
Work on the Yellow River Must Be Done Well	6
The Source of the Yellow River	8
Changes in the Yellow River-Huangshui River Valley	25
Beneath the Kaolan Mountain	40
Ningsia — Where the Yellow River Rivals the Yangtze	48
Beneath the Yinshan Mountains	58
Water and Soil Conservation on the Loess Plateau	66
Pearls on the Yellow River	82
New Life in the Old Flood Region	95
Three Noted Yellow River Cities	104
"Great Wall Along the River"	116
The Yellow River Runs Down to the Sea	126
Sketch Map of the Yellow River Valley	140

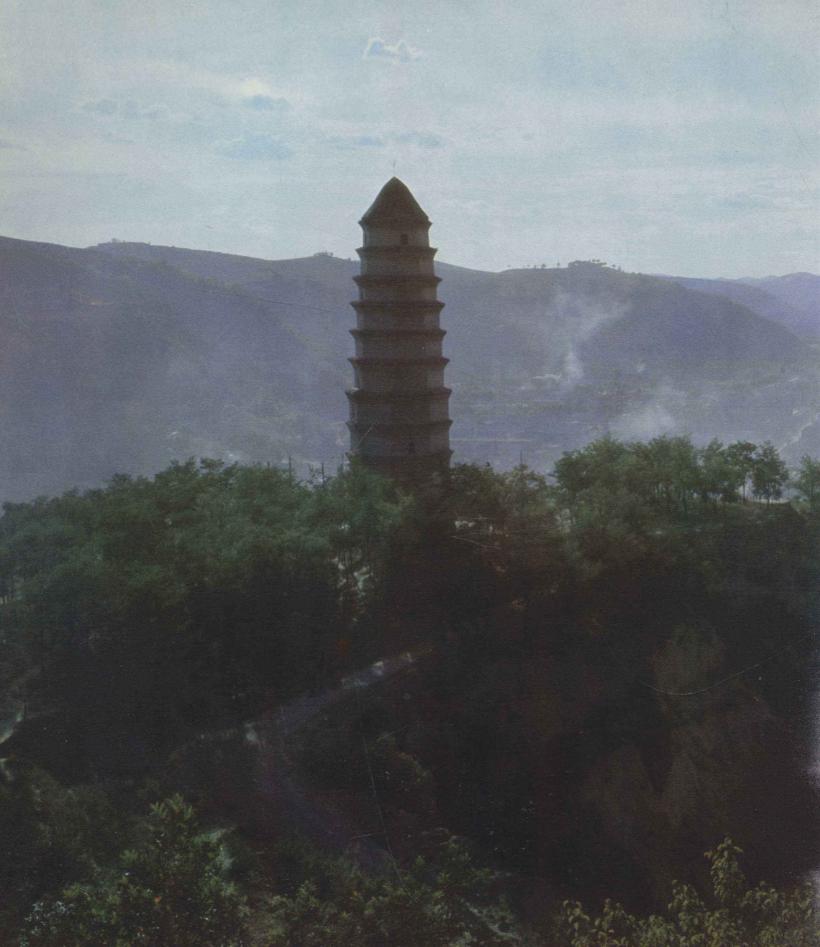


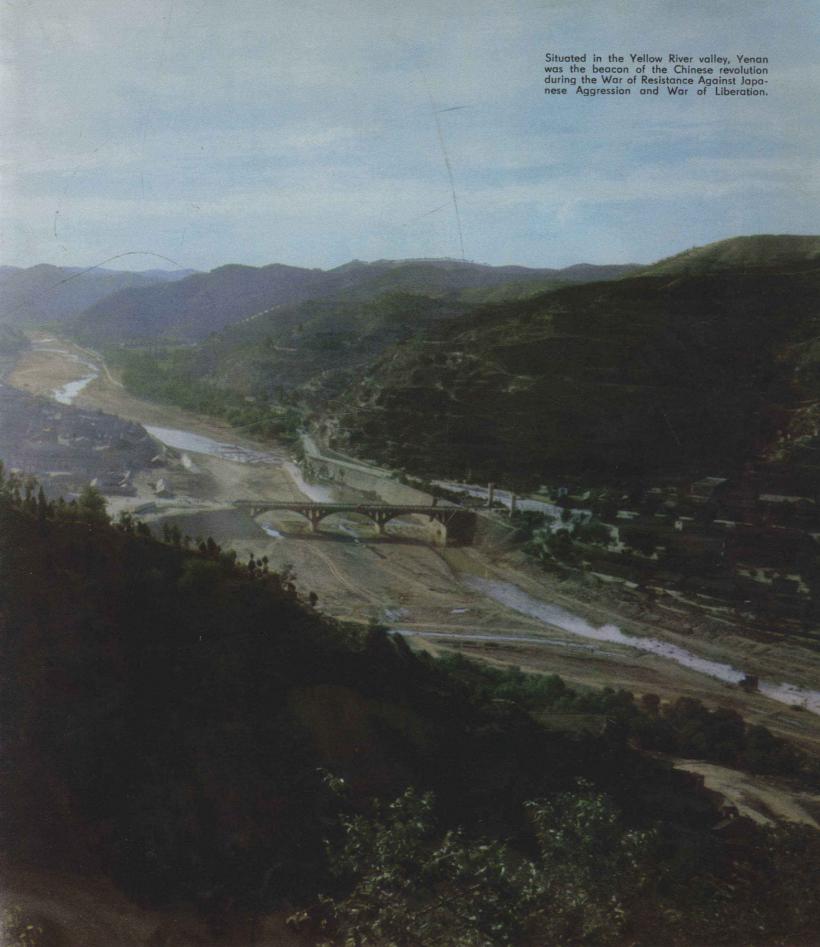
Chairman Mao inspecting the Yellow River in 1952.

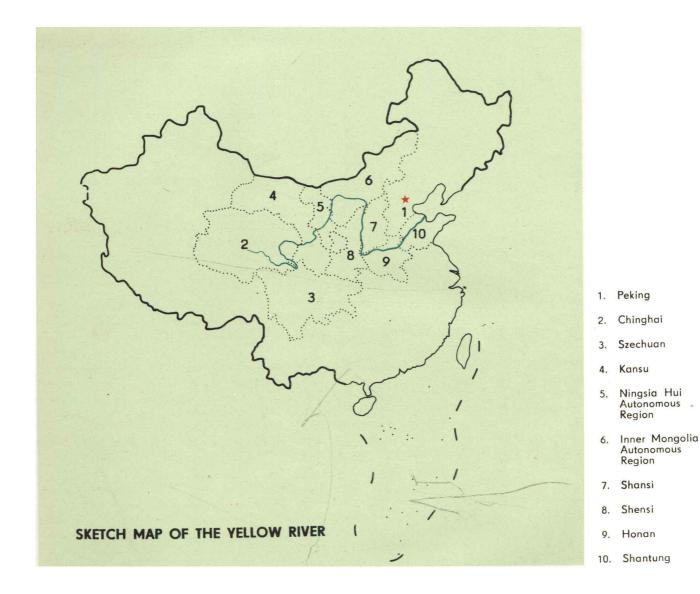


The Lungmen (Dragon Gate) Gorge on the Yellow River, northwest of Hetsin County, Shansi, on the Shansi-Shensi border. Hemmed in by mountains, the river here is a swift torrent, but becomes open and broad further on.









### Work on the Yellow River Must Be Done Well

THE Yellow River is China's second longest river.

Rising in Yokutsunglieh in the northern foothills of the Bayan Kara Range in Chinghai Province, the Yellow River flows east across mountains and grasslands, winds its way through a towering range of mountains in Chinghai, Szechuan and Kansu provinces, past Lanchow, an industrial city in China's northwest, and then loops abruptly north, forming a huge bend known as the Ordos which embraces part of the deserts and plains of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and the Ningsia Hui Autonomous Region. From there it turns south, tumbling its way through deep gorges in the loess highlands of Shensi and Shansi. From near Tungkuan it courses eastwards over the vast plains of Honan and Shantung, eventually emptying into the Pohai Sea in Kenli County, Shantung Province. Its total length is 5,464 kms.

Beginning as a mere trickle, the Yellow River collects on its way the waters of 35 main tributaries and over a thousand lesser streams to form a torrential river with an average annual flow of 48,000 million cubic metres. In its catchment area of 752,443 square kms. there are more than 20 million hectares of farm land and a population of over 100 million.

The Yellow River valley is the cradle of ancient Chinese culture. Five or six hundred thousand years ago the ancestors of today's Chinese had already made their mark there. For centuries, it was the political, economic and cultural centre of China.

When the Red Army led by Chairman Mao arrived in northern Shensi in 1935 after the Long March, Yenan became the beacon of the Chinese revolution. During the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the War of Liberation, one revolutionary base after another was established in the Yellow River valley. To resist the Japanese aggressors and liberate the whole of China, the army and the people, led by the Chinese Communist Party, fought fiercely on both sides of the Yellow River.

The inhabitants of the Yellow River valley have long made use of the Yellow River. As early as the 3rd century B.C., the people of what are now Ningsia and Shensi dug irrigation canals and fertilized the soil with silt. However, floods remained a constant threat to the lower reaches, and tremendous efforts had to be expended on flood-control.

But successful control of the Yellow River was impossible in the centuries of reactionary rule under the feudal dynasties and the Kuomintang. Soil erosion was serious in the upper and middle reaches of the river, while frequent floods troubled the lower reaches. Yet drought was also common throughout the basin. Terrible sufferings resulted from this inability to control the river. Twenty-six major changes of course and more than 1,500 dyke breaches in the lower reaches occurred between the first record which dates from 602 B.C., and liberation in 1949. Floods affected an area of 250,000 square kms., extending to Tientsin in the north and Kiangsu and Anhwei Provinces in the south. People said that the Yellow River dykes were breached two years out of three.

The Yellow River carries more silt than any other waterway. The annual average silt content is 37.6 kilos per cubic metre of water according to the Tungkuan Hydrological Station. Its upper and middle reaches drain the world's biggest area of loess highland — 430,000 square kms., all of which are subject to soil erosion. After a rainstorm topsoil is carried away through gullies into tributaries and then into the Yellow River. The weight of this soil comes to 1,600 million tons a year. The river bed is thus built up, and the river flows three or four, and exceptionally as much as ten, metres above the ground.

Chairman Mao and the Party Central Committee have always been concerned to harness the Yellow River. Chairman Mao has often inspected parts of it. In 1952 he issued the call, "Work on the Yellow River must be done well." In the 25 years since liberation, hundreds of thousands of those living in the Yellow River valley have accomplished a lot by turning out every year to work on national projects to tame the river.

In the upper and middle reaches, water and soil conservation is being carried out on a massive scale, while further down a 1,800-km.-dyke, known as the "Great Wall along the river," has been built to restrict the river's torrents. Reservoirs, culverts, sluice gates and power stations punctuate the river and its tributaries, facilitating irrigation, power generation and the comprehensive utilization of silt and water in the service of industry and agriculture. The old demoniac Yellow River is gradually becoming benign, and the days when it overflowed its banks two years out of three are gone for ever.

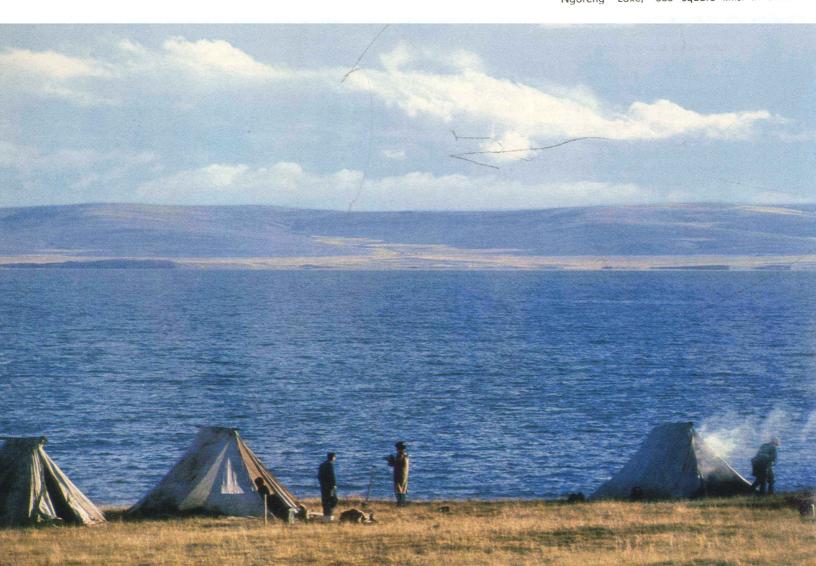
For over twenty years there was a struggle between the two lines in the work of harnessing the Yellow River. Every victory which has been won is due to the fact that we carried out Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and resisted the interference of the revisionist line. During the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and the current movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius, the masses of the people repudiated the counter-revolutionary revisionist line represented by Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao, and this has brought new life to the work of harnessing the Yellow River. The Chinese people, encouraged by Chairman Mao's great call, "Work on the Yellow River must be done well," will continue to tame the Yellow River and make it serve socialism better.

## The Source Of the Yellow River



The spring which forms the Yellow River's source.

Ngoreng Lake, 533 square kms. in area.



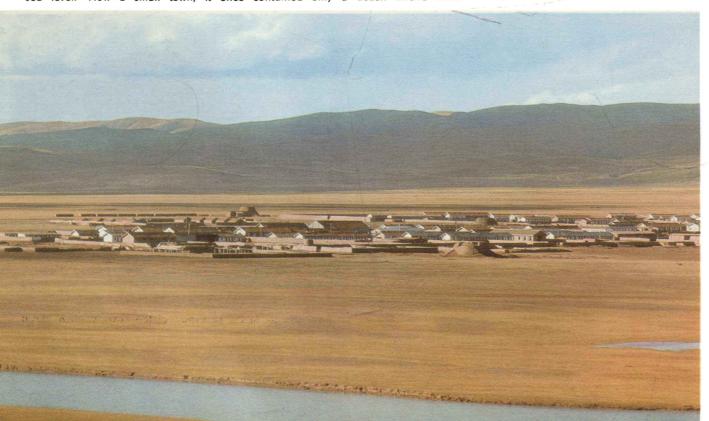


The Yellow River source, in the southwest of the Yokutsunglieh Basin.



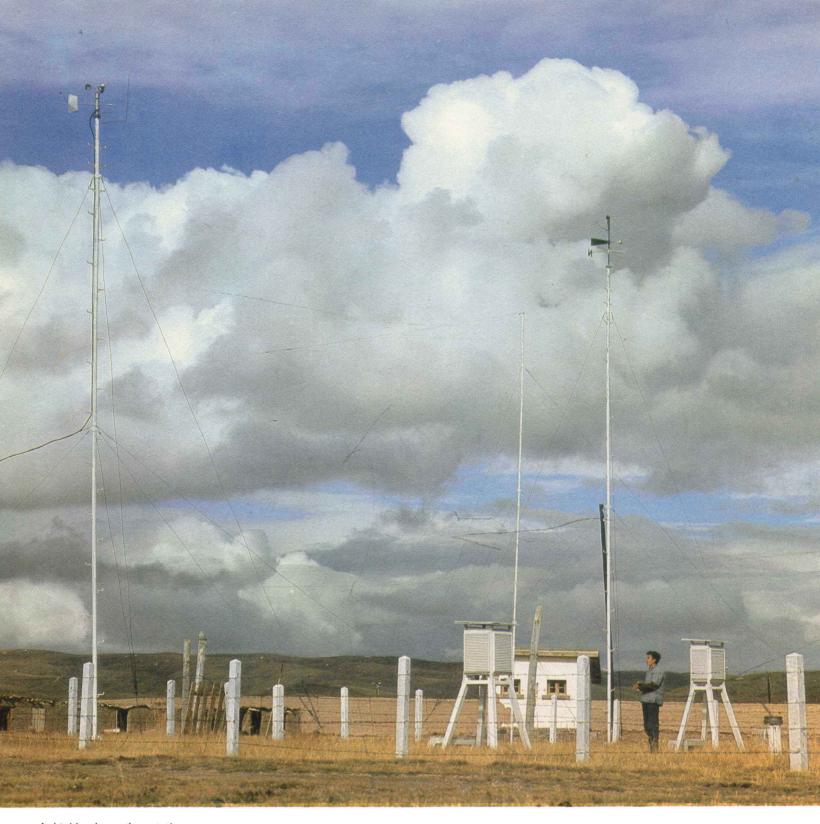
A bridge built by Kyareng Lake Commune, Matod County. This is the first bridge in the upper reaches of the Yellow River.

Matod county town on the Chinghai-Tibet Plateau, more than 4,000 metres above sea level. Now a small town, it once contained only a dozen adobe huts.

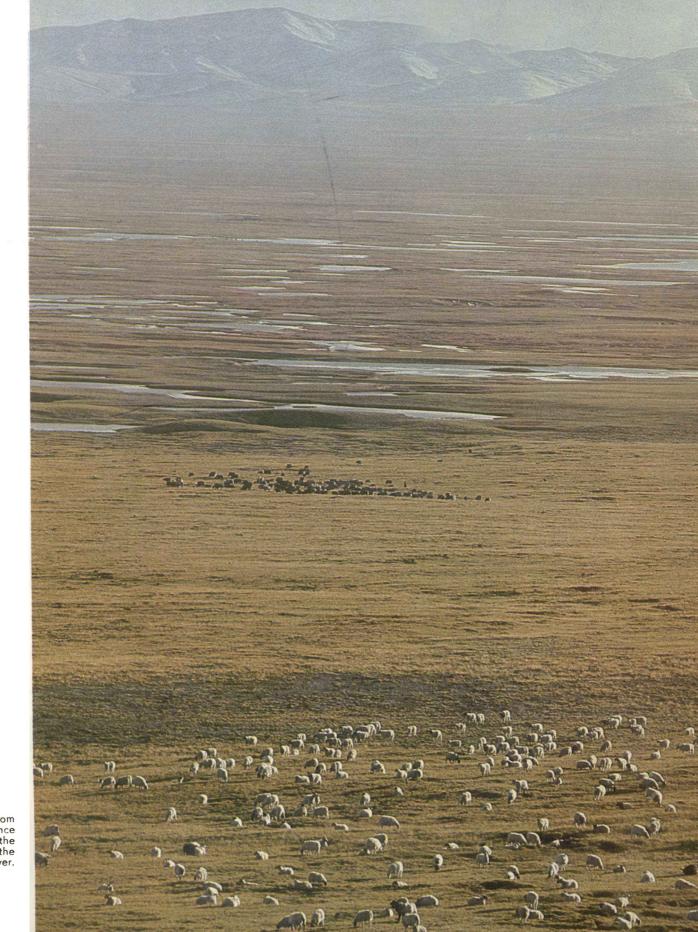




Kyareng Lake, the biggest lake in the source region of the Yellow River, 888 square kms. in area.



A highland weather station.



The Sea of Stars from afar. It was once believed to be the source of the Yellow River.



A hothouse in Matod Commune for experimental vegetable-planting.

#### Wild animals and plants:

Thylacospermum, a cushion plant.



Rhodiola.



The succulent bract of ephedra.

