

● 素质教育英语读物

Welcome
to
Shanxi

走进山西

《走进山西》编委会



高等教育出版社
HIGHER EDUCATION PRESS

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FOREWORD

Shanxi is a landlocked province in North China. It is called “Jin” or “San Jin” (three Jins) for short because during the Spring and Autumn period (770–476 BC) the place was the manor of the State of Jin which was later divided into three smaller states.

Shanxi is situated in the eastern part of the loess plateau. In Chinese, Shanxi means “west of the mountain”. The province is so called because it lies west of the Taihang Mountain.

One of the important birthplaces of the time-honored and brilliant civilization of the Chinese nation, Shanxi boasts of a lot of historic sites and cultural relics. It is also a magical place with the high Taihang Mountain standing in the east and the torrential Yellow River running in the west.

Shanxi abounds with natural resources and its culture was and still remains majestically rich. The people of Shanxi have been performing wonders from ancient times and trying to make their beautiful hometown ever more attractive with their sweat and wisdom. Now, the 30 million hard-working people are going all out to push forward the “historic wheel” from poverty to wealth, encouraged by their forefathers who had pushed forward it from uncivilizedness to civilization.

Welcome to Shanxi is compiled by Shanxi Supervisory Commission of English Education for College students in an attempt to promote the cultural exchanges between Shanxi and other parts of the world, to display Shanxi’s long-standing history and rich culture, abundant resources and advantageous environment for further development, as well as to work out the college students’ fervor to throw themselves into the modernization drive in Shanxi after graduation.

The chief compilers of this book are Fan Qing’an and Zheng Yangcheng. Chapter 1 “Natural Geography” was written by Zhang Yongbo (Shanxi Youth Cadre Management College); Chapter 2 “Long History and Historical Figures” by Nan Hai and Nie Jianzhong (Shanxi University); Chapter 3 “Education” by Li Zhengyi and Zhou Lijun (Shanxi Economy Management College); Chapter 4 “Folk Arts” by Guo Yanling (Shanxi Art Vocational College); Chapter 5 “Tourist Resources” by Zhang Huazhi (Shanxi Architectural Engineering Technology College); Chapter 6 “Shanxi Merchants and Their Culture” by Kang Min (Shanxi Broadcasting Film and Television College); Chapter 7 “Unique Features of Agriculture” by Jiang Ling (Shanxi Bioengineering Vocational Technology College); Chapter 8 “Name-brand Products” by Li Zhengyi (Shanxi Economy Management College); Chapter 9 “Industry” — “Coal Industry” and “Power Industry” by Yang Aihua (Datong Coal Industry College); — “Iron and Steel Industry” and Chapter 10 “Science and Technology” by Zhang Jing (Taiyuan University).

Our thanks are due to the kind help and cordial support from Higher Education Press.

Chief Compilers
September 2003

前 言

山西，简称晋，又名三晋。

山西地处黄土高原东部，因位于太行山以西而得名。三晋之谓是中华历史演进的写照。

山西是一片诱人的土地，她具有厚重的历史文化积淀，是灿烂悠久的中华文明的重要发祥地之一。山西是一个神奇的地方，东有巍巍太行壁立千仞，西有滔滔黄河湍流不息。

山西的资源是富饶的，不论地上地下；三晋的文化是壮美的，不论过去现在。在这片秀美的土地上，生于斯、长于斯、奋斗于斯的华夏儿女曾以她们的聪明才智描绘出了一幅幅瑰丽的历史画卷，谱写出了一曲感人的时代乐章！

如果说先民们曾把历史的车轮由荒蛮推进了文明，那她的后辈们必将把这车轮由贫穷推向富裕！试看，在三晋大地上，三千万勤劳的山西人民正在全面建设小康社会的道路上创造新的辉煌！

走进山西，才能更好地了解山西。为了促进、加强中外文化交流，展现山西厚重的历史文化、丰富的资源优势、良好的发展环境，激发学生投身山西建设的热情，山西省高职高专英语课程教学指导委员会组织编写了英语课程素质教育读本《走进山西》一书。

本书由范庆安、郑仰成同志负责策划主编。第一章：地理与自然资源由张永波（山西省青年干部管理学院）编写，第二章：悠久的历史和历史人物由南海、聂建中（山西大学）编写，第三章：教育由李正义、周丽军（山西省经济干部管理学院）编写，第四章：艺术由郭燕玲（山西艺术职业学院）编写，第五章：旅游资源由张华志（山西建筑工程技术学院）编写，第六章：晋商文化由康珉（山西广播影视学院）编写，第七章：农业特色由蒋玲（山西生物职业技术学院）编写，第八章：名产由李正义（山西经济干部管理学院）编写，第九章工业中的煤电部分由杨爱华（大同煤院）编写，钢铁化工部分和第十章科学技术产业由张静（太原大学）编写。

走进山西，才能全面认识山西。让我们和着《人说山西好风光》的优美旋律去感受山西的秀美吧！

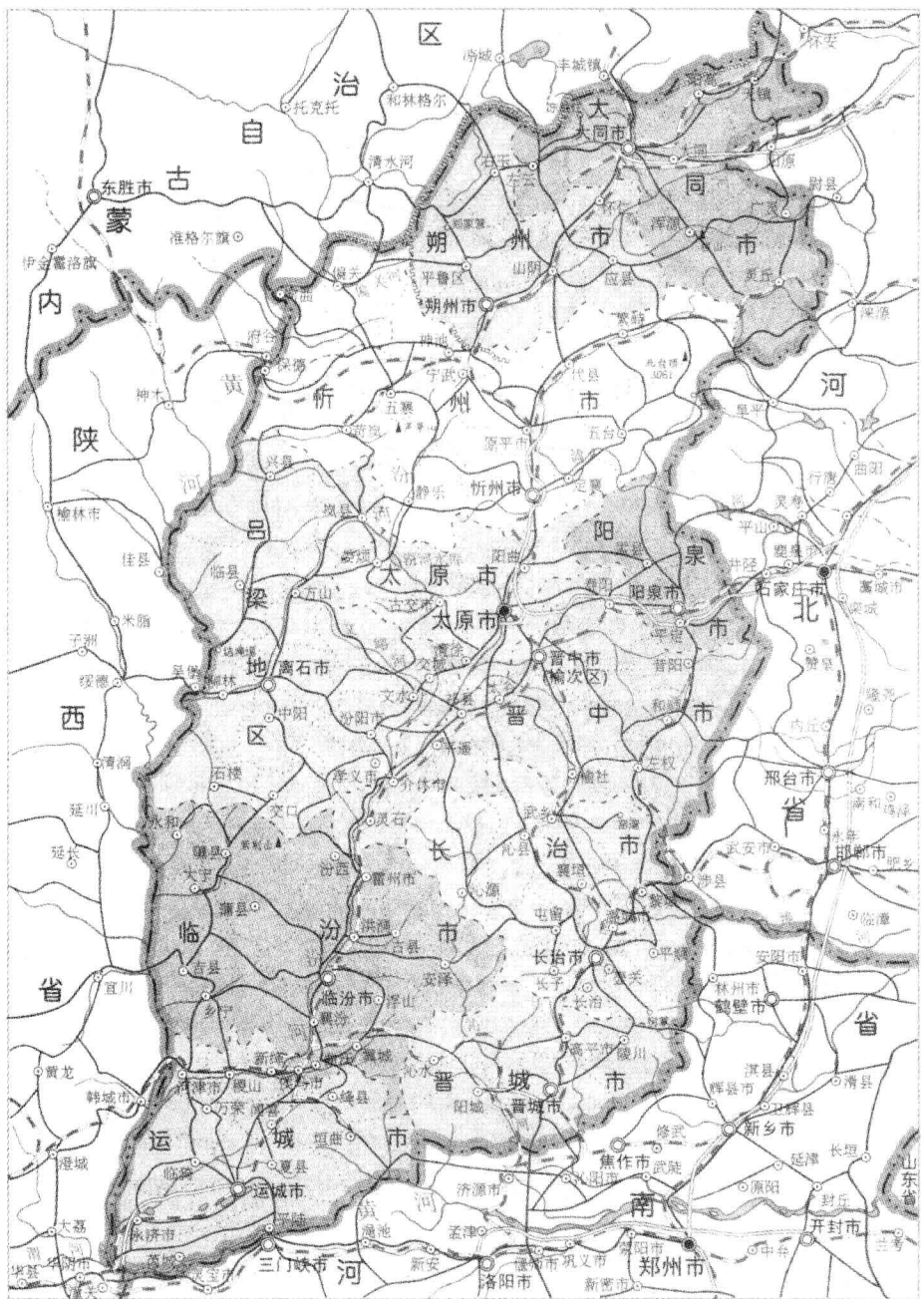
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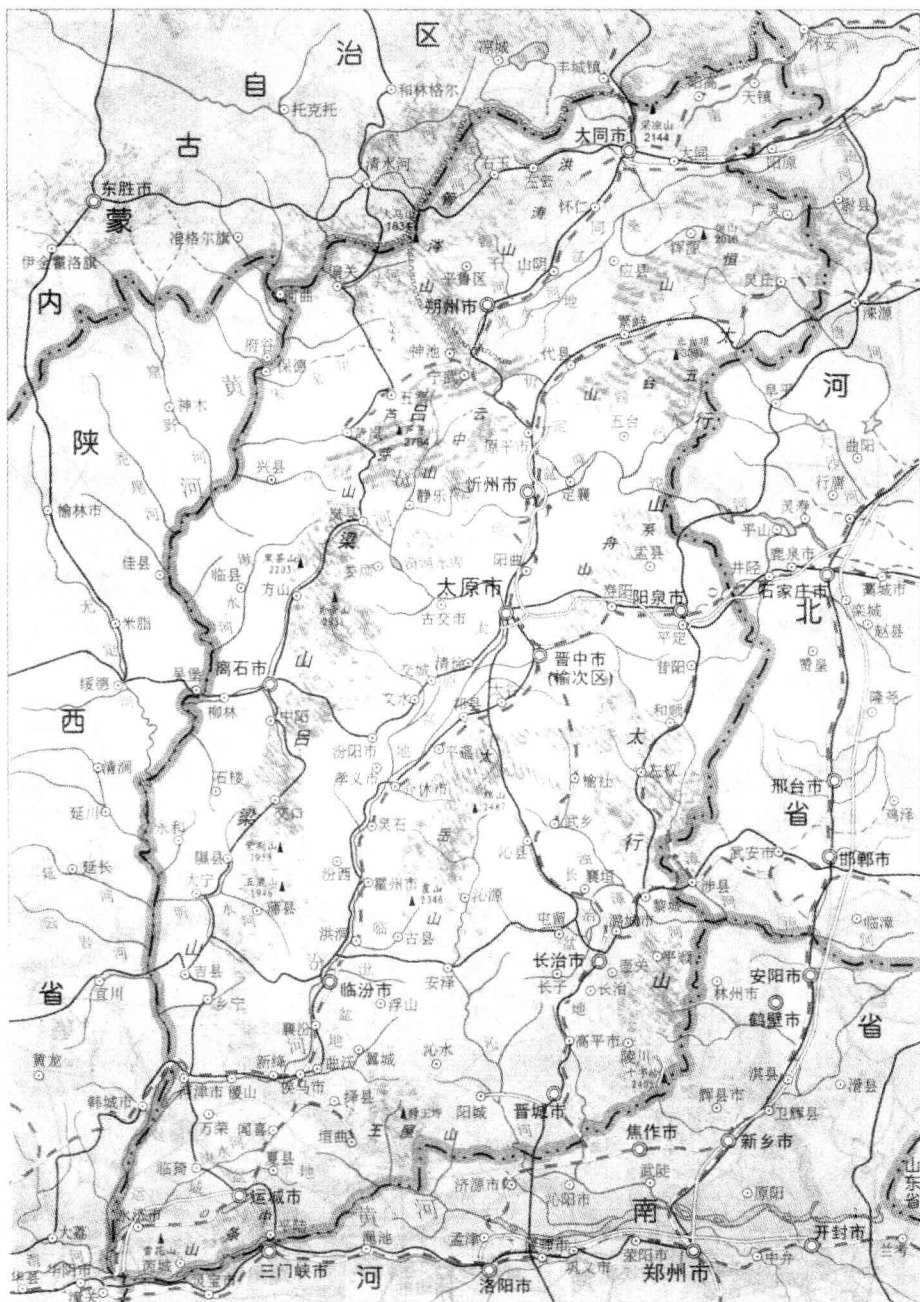
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2003年9月

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Chapter 1

Natural Geography

Section 1 General Topography

I. Geographical location

Shanxi is one of China's inland provinces, situated on the east bank of the Yellow River's extending middle reaches which stretch on the Loess Plateau west of the North China Plain. In Chinese, Shanxi means "a place west of the mountain". The Province is so called because it lies west of Taihang Mountain. The province's location on the east bank of the Yellow River makes it known as Hedong as well ("Hedong" means east of the river). Shanxi is also known as Jin or San Jin ("San" means three) thanks to the historical facts that during the Spring and Autumn period (770–476 BC) the place was governed by the Jin State which was later divided into three smaller states respectively named as Han, Zhao and Wei at the beginning of the Warring States period (475–221 BC).

Surrounded by mountain and rivers, Shanxi has clear-cut borders on its neighboring provinces. It borders Hebei Province on the east with Taihang Mountain between, the Autonomous Region of Inner Mongolia on the north along the Great Wall and Shaanxi Province on the west and Henan province on the south along the Yellow River. Parallelogrammically shaped on the map, the province stretches 682 km from north to south, and 385 km from east to west. At its southern tip is Nanzhangcun Village of Ruicheng County, 34°34' north latitude; at its northern tip Pingyuancun Village of Tianzhen County, 40°44' north latitude; at its eastern tip Nankengcun Village of Guangling County, 114°33' east longitude; and at its western tip lies Changwangcun Village of Yongji County, 110°14' west longitude. Shanxi covers an area of 156 266 square kilometers, accounting for 1.63% of the nation's territory and it has a population of about 30 million, accounting for 2.51% of the nation's total. The province ranks nineteenth among the country's provinces in terms of both expanse and population. As one of the densely populated areas in central China, it has population density of 168 people per square kilometer, higher than the country's average. The 99.75% inhabitants of the Province belong to the Han Nationality and the



rest 70 000 or more to 34 minority nationalities such as the Hui, the Man, Mongolian, Korean, Tibetan and so on, who settle in 58 minority catchments or live scattered in other places within the Province.

II. Landform

The geological structure of Shanxi's landform is ancient and complex. Generally speaking, it is a mountainous highland with ancient mountainous region as its skeleton which experienced overall vigorous protuberance. It is habitually called Shanxi Plateau. Most of the plateau is covered with thick loess, forming one part of China's famous Loess Plateaus. The height of the land lowers from the northeast to the southwest, resulting in many hills with numerous valleys along the mountain veins. There is a variety of landform including mountains, hills, tablelands and basins. The area of mountainous regions is much larger than that of the flat basins, accounting for 80% (i.e. 125 000 square kilometers) of the whole area of the province, as against the much smaller areas of the flat basins and valleys, accounting for only 20% (i.e. 31 000 square kilometers). The elevation of most of the province is above 1 500 meters with Wutai Mountain's Yiedou Summit (3 058 meters above the sea level) intersection being its highest point. Hence the mountain has earned the name of "The Ridge of North China". The lowest point in the province is the intersection of the Haoqing River and the Yellow River with only 150 meters above the sea level. In contrast to the vast eastern North China Plain (whose elevation is only several dozen meters above the sea level), the landform of Shanxi Province is an overall protuberance. In the middle of the plateau is an array of broken filling basins. The plateau is divided into two parts by the central basin, on either side of which stand mountains and highlands. As a result, the section of the landform of the province resembles the Chinese character "凹".

In conclusion, Shanxi's landform exhibits the following features:

1. Shanxi is a typical highland plateau covered with loess, its mountainous regions being more than its flat basins.
2. The land of the province takes the Zhongshan landform as its skeleton with clear mountain veins extending from northeast to southwest.
3. Shanxi landform units are in accordance with its geological structure; mountains in the north, and valleys in the south.
4. Shanxi loess landform is diversified: The accumulation of loess results in loess table, loess terrace etc.; the corrosion of the loess results in loess ridge, loess hill,



loess gorge and loess wall etc.; the gravity of the loess results in slide collapsing and sinking of the loess landform.

5. Distinctively-cut zones are characteristic of Shanxi's landforms: In the central part are a series of separated sinking basins while along the two sides of the province are protuberant mountainous regions and highland.

III. Geographical divisions

From east to west the landform in the province can be divided into three separate areas:

1. Mountainous area in the east: The region consists of a series of mountains running through the eastern and southeastern parts of the province with Yanggao County at the north tip and Ruicheng County at the south tip. In addition to the leading Taihang Mountain range, there are some other important mountains (listed from north to south) such as Liuleng Mountain, Heng Mountain, Wutai Mountain, Jizhou Mountain, Taiyue Mountain (also called Mount Huo), and Zhongtiao Mountain. The general range of the mountains is from northeast to southwest with an elevation of more than 1500 meters. The boundary line between the North China Plain in the east and the basins in the west is very distinct, which is a result of the structural fault during its forming period. The majestic mountains stand high and steep. The continuous cutting of the rivers results in many gorgeous cliffy passes, Niangzi Pass being just one of them in the center. Heng Mountain is one of the five famous mountains in China, which is called "Mount North", the other four mountains being Mount Tai (Mount East) in Shandong Province, Mount Hua (Mount West) in Shanxi Province, Mount Heng (Mount South) in Hunan Province and Mount Song (Mount Central) in Henan Province. Hence they all share one general name of Wuyue (Mounts Five). Since ancient times, the key traffic forts such as Yanmen Pass, Yangfang Kou, Ruyue Kou, and Pingxing Pass located along the Great Wall (southwest of Mount Heng), have been regarded as strategically important. Wutai Mountain gets its name from the five platform summits, known as Mount Cool in the ancient times. The peak of it is Yedou Summit (often called "the Ridge of North China), is not only the highest point in Shanxi Province but highest in North China as well. Wutai Mountain is well known throughout the world as the sacred place of Buddhism. It is one of the four famous Buddhism mountains in China, the other three being Emei Mountain in Sichuan Province, Putuo Mountain in Zhejiang Province and Jiuhua



Mountain in Anhui Province. In the north of Shanxi mountainous region, among the mountains such as Liuleng Mountain, Heng Mountain, and Wutai Mountain, lie the upper reaches of the Hunhe and Hutuo Rivers. In the south of the mountainous region, among the mountains like Jizhuo Mountain, Taihang Mountain, Taiyue Mountain, are some loess hills and basins which resulted from the corrosion and cutting by rivers such as the Qinhe River, Danhe River, Zhuozhang River and in the basins lie the cities like Changzhi, Wuxiang, Xianghuan, Licheng, Gaoping, Jincheng. This area is generally known as the “Northeast Plateau of Shanxi Province” or the “Qinlu Plateau”, which is the major agricultural area of the eastern mountainous region.

2. Basin area in central Shanxi: This region consists of a series of separated basins which were formed by a faulty and sinking land surface, stretching from Tianzheng County in the north to Yongji City in the south. From northeast to southwest the basins are Datong Basin, Xinding Basin, Taiyuan Basin, Linfen Basin and Yuncheng Basin, and among them, the areas of Datong Basin, Taiyuan Basin and Linfen Basin are all well over 5 000 kilometers respectively. The basins are connected with the mountains by the faulty land and are divided by the watersheds; Ningwu Mountain (belonging to Heng Mountain system) stands between Datong Basin and Xinding Basin, Shiling Pass (belonging to Jizhou Mountain system) between Xinding Basin and Taiyuan Basin, Hanhou Ridge (belonging to Taiyue Mountain system) between Taiyuan Basin and Linfen Basin, and Emei tableland between Linfen Basin and Yuncheng Basin. The elevation of the basins lowers gradually from north to south like a series of staircases. Datong Basin in the north is over 1 000 meters above sea level, and Yuncheng Basin in the south about 400 meters. Loess and flood washing land can be extensively seen in the basins, resulting in level land, especially in the middle and southern basins. The land has rich soil, moderate climate, and is easy to irrigate. This area's developed agriculture, along with its densely populated cities, makes it an economically developed area in the province.
3. Plateau area in the west: The plateau in the west of the province is also called the West Mountainous Region. It extends from Zuoyun County in the north to Xiangning County in the south, and is situated to the south of the Great Wall, east of the Yellow River and west of Luliang Mountain, which consists of a series of mountains and plateaus running through the west of the province. It is one of the main parts of the loess plateau in China. With Luliang as its main ridge, it has a series of



mountains that extend from the northeast to the southwest. Arranged from north to south, the mountains are Cailiang Mountain, Qifeng Mountain, Hongtao Mountain, Heituo Mountain, Guancen Mountain, Yunzhong Mountain, Luya Mountain, Guandi Mountain, Zijing Mountain, Longmen Mountain, etc. Most of the mountains are over 1 500 meters high with steep slopes whose eastern parts are connected with the basins in the middle of the province standing 700 to 1 500 meters higher than the adjacent basins. It is the main forest area in the province. The western slopes are gentler, creating a plateau with decreasing height from north to south, slanting from east to west, and largely covered by the loess, hence named “Jinxi Plateau” (plateau in the west of the province). Most rivers on the plateau are short, with the cutting and eroding of the land surface causing serious soil erosion. When storms occur, the torrents rush through the vast loess plateau, causing broken land surface. This plateau region is an economically backward area with poor conditions of agricultural cultivation.

IV. Major mountains

Shanxi is a mountainous province. From north to south, its major mountains are:

1. The Heng Mountain range: Heng Mountain is one of the five famous mountains in China, and is called “Mount North”. It is the watershed of the upper reaches of Sanggan River and Hutuo River, and it also serves as the boundary mountain of Datong Basin and Xinding Basin. The mountain range extends from northeast to southwest. At its southwest end it borders Yunzhong Mountain and Guancen Mountain and at its northeast end it connects with Liuleng Mountain which extends to Hebei Province. Within the boundary of the province Heng Mountain stretches



250 km long and 20 km wide. Its elevation is over 2 000 meters. Faulty lands lie on both sides of the mountain. The north side is steep, with its precipices standing like grand walls, on which the Inner Great Wall wriggles away, offering a magnificent sight. The well-known passes like Yanmen Pass, Yangfang Kou, Ruyue Kou, Pingxing Pass, have always been strategic forts since the ancient times. The south side of the mountain is gentle, decreasing gradually to the Hutuo River valley between Fanshi and Daixian County. Sixty-seven mountains are included in the mountain



- range.
2. The Wutai Mountain range: Wutai Mountain is one of the four Buddhist mountains that are well known both at home and abroad. It is located between Wutai County, Fanshi County and Daixian County. It is so named for its five platform summits. To the north, is the Hutuo River valley; to the southeast, it links Jizhou Mountain, and to the east, it joins the Taihang Mountain. Wutai Mountain extends from northeast to southwest, with a length of 130 km. Yedou Peak on Wutai's North Summit, is the highest point not only in the province but also in north China with an elevation of 3 058 meters. Wutai Mountain is surrounded by an array of mountains. Its north sides are steep, while its southern sides are gentler with faulty basins scattering. Fifty-seven mountains belong to the Wutai Mountain range.
 3. Taihang Mountain range: Taihang Mountain is the backbone of Shanxi's eastern mountainous region. It joins Wutai Mountain to the north, and extends to the southern end of Jincheng in the south. It stretches 350 km long, and is as wide as 40 to 50 km. It has an elevation between 1 500 to 1 800 meters, the highest part being over 2 000 meters. To the east of the ridge tower the upright precipices; to the west of the ridge, crawl the low hills. Taihang Mountain serves both as the bordering mountain of the three provinces of Shanxi, Hebei and Henan, and as the natural dividing line of the North China Plain and the Loess Plateau. Two hundred and thirty-two mountains belong to the Taihang Mountain range.
 4. Taiyue Mountain range: Taiyue Mountain, also called Huo Mountain, is located to the west of Taihang Mountain. It begins at Jiexiu City in the north and ends at Hengling Pass in Jiangxian County and then joins Zhongtiao Mountain. It stretches about 200 km long and serves as the watershed of Fen River and the Qinhe River. Taiyuan Mountain's west side links Taiyuan Basin and Linfen Basin by the faulty slopes of Huo Mountain. The mountain range is precipitous. The summit of Huo Mountain is 2 348 meters high. Dense forests grow in the mountain range, which has become one of the major forest areas in the province. One hundred and five mountains belong to this mountain range.
 5. Zhongtiao Mountain range: Zhongtiao Mountain is located in the southwest of the province. It starts from Hengling Pass in Jiangxian County in the northeast and stretches southwest to the bank of the Yellow River. It is about 150 km long and about 10 to 20 km wide. Its elevation is between 1 200 to 2 000 meters. The eastern part is broader; the top of it is flat. Shunwangping is the highest peak in



the east with an elevation of 2 321 meters. The western part is narrower with steep cliffs and stands between Yuncheng Basin and Yellow River valley. The highest peak in this western area is Mount Xuecang with an elevation of 1 825 meters. The whole range is precipitous in the northern side and gentle in the southern side. It is a typical forest mountain. Forty-five mountains belong to this mountain range.

6. Luliang Mountain range: Luliang Mountain is located in the western part of Shanxi's plateau. From north to south, it consists of mountains such as Guancen Mountain, Luya Mountain, Yunzhong Mountain, Guandi Mountain, Zijing Mountain, and Longmen Mountain, extending 400 km long 30 to 100 km wide. The northern part is both high and steep with an elevation of 2 000 to 2 500 meters, and is divided into two parts: Yunzhong Mountain to the east and Guncen Mountain and Luya Mountain to the west with the Jingle Basin wing between them. In the middle stands Guandi Mountain, which is the highest part of the Luliang Mountain range. Numerous summits stand here, the highest being Guandi Mountain with an elevation of 2 830 meters. The southern part of the mountain range is relatively low with an elevation of about 1 500 meters. The northern and middle parts of Luliang Mountain are covered by thick forests, which form the main forest area and summer pasture of the province. At the end of the Luliang Mountain range is Longmen Mountain, its east-to-west range cut off by the Yellow River, resulting in a grand valley and the over 10 meter-high Hukou Waterfall. Luliang mountain range embraces 316 mountains altogether.

V. Major rivers

Rivers in Shanxi Province originate from the mountains or the plateau in the east or west of the province. The rivers running to west or south belong to the Yellow River system, and the rivers running to the east belong to the Haihe River system. There are about 1 000 rivers in the province with 250 rivers drainage areas totaling more than 100 square meters. About 142 rivers belong to the Yellow River system, including the Fen River, the Qinhe River, the Sushui River, Sanchuan River, etc., whose drainage areas account for 62% of the total land of the province. About 81 rivers belong to the Haihe River system, including the Sanggan River, the Hutuo River, the Zhanghe River, etc., whose drainage areas account for 38% of the total land of the province.

1. The Yellow River: The Yellow River flows around the west and south borders of the province. The part that snakes in the valley between the two provinces of Shanxi



and Shaanxi runs through the entire west border of Shanxi Province with torrent currents. Then it turns east. The amount of the water that flows along the west border of the province is three times as much as that of the whole province. The high riverbed and the rapid currents make the Yellow River difficult to be used for shipping and irrigation. However the Yellow River is a goldmine of hydroelectric resources, which can be developed in the future by the province. In addition to the Tianqiao Hydroelectric Station in Baode County, the magnificent key project of drawing the water of the Yellow River into Wanjiashai in Pianguan County has been completed recently.



2. Fen River: The Fen River is the biggest river in Shanxi Province and the second largest branch of the Yellow River. It originates near the Leiming Temple of Guancen Mountain in Ningwu County, flows 695 km through Taiyuan Basin and Linfen Basin in the middle of the province and finally joins the Yellow River at Yumenkou in the city of Hejin. Its drainage area is 39 500 square kilometers, which makes up the major agricultural area of the province. The main branches of the Fen river include the Lanhe river, the Xiaohe River, the Wenyuhe River, the Changyuan River, the Hong'anjian River, the Huihe River and so on.
3. Qinhe River: the Qinhe River is the second largest river in the province. It originates from Taiyue Mountain northwest of Qinyuan County. It flows through such counties as Qinyuan, Anze, Qinshui and Yangcheng, and then runs through Taihang Mountain to Henan Province to eventually join the Yellow River. The entire length of this river is 456 km, with 363 kilometers being found in Shanxi Province with a drainage area of 18 600 square kilometers. The main branches of it include the Danhe River, the Yangcheng River, the Duanshi River and so on. The Qinhe River is rich in its water quantity. It's water quality is also exceptional as it is the clearest river in the province.
4. Sushui River: The Sushui River is in the south of the province. It originates from Hengling Pass in Jiangxian County, running through the counties of Jiangxian, Wenxi, Xiaxian, Yuncheng, Linyi and Yongji, and then joining the Yellow River. It has a length



of 193 kilometers and a drainage area of 5 565 square kilometers. Dry riverbeds frequently appear as a result of high temperature, little precipitation and strong evaporation in the area, thus the lower reaches have been cultivated into farmland. Near the south of the Sushui River lies a noncontributing area measuring 700 square kilometers which displays a number of lakes like Salt Pond, Niter Pond, Duck Pond, Tangli Beach and Lake Wu whose water surface totals 170 square kilometers. The lakes abound in such minerals as salt, niter, sodium, magnesium and vitriol.

5. Sanggan River: The Sanggan River lies in the northeast of the province. It originates from Tianchi (the Sky Lake) in the Guancen Mountain of Ningwu County. The upper reach is called Huihe River. When joining the Yuanzi River near the city of Shuozhou, it gets the name of Sanggan River, which runs through the Datong Basin. It flows out of Shanxi Province's Yanggao County and then joins the Yongding River, a branch of the Haihe River. The river flows 252 km through Shanxi Province with a drainage area of 15 500 square kilometers. Its major branches are the Huangshui River, the Hunhe River and the Yuhe River.
6. Hutuo River: The Hutuo River runs in the east of the province, originating from Taixi Mountain in Fanshi County. It flows around the north and west of Wutai Mountain, across Xinding Basin, through Taihang Mountain into Hebei Province, and then joins the Ziya River, one of the branches of the Haihe River. It flows 330 km through Shanxi Province with a drainage area of 4 282 square kilometers. Its major branches are the Yangwu River, the Yunzhong River, the Muma River, the Yongxing River, and the Qingshui River.
7. Zhanghe River: The Zhanghe River is divided into two branches, the Qingzhang River and Zhuozhang River. Qingzhang River originates from two different sources: Its eastern source from Xiyang County, and its western source from Heshun County. These two sources meet in Zuoquan County, and finally rush out of the province when passing from Licheng County to Hebei Province. The whole length of the Zhanghe river is 146 km with a drainage area of 4 159 square kilometers. The Zhuozhang River originates from three different sources: The southern one from Zhangzi County, the northern one from Yushe County, the western one from Qinyuan County. The three then join into one river in Xianghuan County and flow through Changzhi Basin and then pour into Pingshun County of Henan Province. The whole length of the river is 237 km with a drainage area of 11 700 square kilometers. The Qingzhang River and the Zhuozhang River meet at the town of Jiaozhang in Shexian County of Hebei

