

红海明珠

——厄立特里亚

Eritrea: The Pearl of the Red Sea

云端 编著



世界出版

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前言

厄立特里亚国（在本书中多数地方简称“厄特”）位于非洲东部的红海之滨，这里风景秀美、民风淳朴、文明悠久，民族传统文化丰富多彩。厄特1991年获得事实上独立，1993年5月24日正式建国，是非洲最年轻的民族国家之一。因为厄特是一个年轻的国家，大多数中国读者对它的了解还较少；因为厄特又是一个拥有悠久历史和文明的国度，同时也是一个有着丰富资源和巨大发展潜力的新兴发展中国家，因而值得中国读者深入了解。作者编写本书的目的即是尽可能从多个角度向中国读者全面介绍厄特的情况，尽可能客观、真实、全面地提供厄特的地理、历史、人文、经济社会发展、旅游资源及各方面的实用信息，尽可能给读者呈现一个多元、立体和生动的厄特，从而增进中国民众对厄特国家和人民的了解，增进中厄两国人民的友谊。

中厄两国人民虽然远隔重洋，但自古就开始了友好交往。在《后汉书·和殇帝纪》中有这么一段文字：“永元十二年，冬十一月，西域蒙奇、兜勒二国遣使内附，赐其王金印紫绶。”东汉永元十二年就是公元100年，据认为兜勒就是厄特古王国阿杜利斯。公元751年（唐玄宗天宝十年），唐朝跟大食爆发怛逻斯之战，唐朝战败，杜环成为唐军俘虏的一员。杜环在中亚、西亚及地中海等大食占据的地区停留了十多年。杜环后来写有《经行记》，记载了13个国家。有专家分析认为，书中记载的一个叫作“摩邻国”的就是当今的厄立特里亚。杜环也因其神奇的经历而成为历史上有记载的最早到达非洲的中国人。另据厄特考古学家认为，明朝郑和的船队来到非洲东海岸地区时极有可能到过厄特沿海。专家学者对上述历史考证尚存争议并不奇怪，但如果读者有机会亲自来位于马萨瓦市的厄特北红海省博物馆，就会看到馆中陈列着一个发掘自阿杜利斯克王国的中国酒器，上面赫然有“萬和禪山”四个汉字，这可是中厄两国友好交往源远流长的一个如山

铁证。要知道，阿杜利斯是公元1世纪至7世纪兴盛于厄特沿海的一个古代城邦国家。现在至少可以确定，中国与厄特在汉唐时期就开展了交流。实际上，由于厄特是红海沿岸国家，且拥有靠近曼德海峡的优越地理位置，红海对岸即是阿拉伯半岛，西北连接东地中海地区国家，厄特成为基督教、伊斯兰教最早传入的非洲国家之一，也是非洲大陆与其他文明进行交流的一个重要门户。

再说说当代中厄交往的一件趣事。近半个世纪前的1967年，一位高个子、话不多、有些腼腆的21岁的厄特年轻人来到中国南京军事学院学习。他学习勤奋刻苦，善于思考，学习了解中国建设情况和中国革命史，学习并深得毛泽东思想精髓。这位年轻人后来将他在在中国学到的理论、知识与厄特的实际相结合，和他的战友们一道领导厄特人民经过艰苦卓绝的武装斗争，最终赢得厄特的解放和独立。这位当时的年轻人就是当今的厄特开国总统伊萨亚斯。他的这一段经历为中厄两国人民的友好交往历史又增加了一段佳话。厄特独立当天，中厄两国即建立外交关系，之后中厄两国人民的交往更加频繁。特别是近年来，中厄友好交往的历史不断增添新的篇章：比如2013年厄特高等教育委员会孔子学院成立；2014年中国驻厄特大使馆新馆开工建设，中国成为首个在厄特首都阿斯马拉自建使馆的国家；2015年中厄两国签订互免持外交公务护照人员签证协定；中国“光明行”医疗队不远万里来到厄特为当地白内障患者进行义诊手术；厄特电视台开始播放一系列的中国电视剧；中厄两国在国际场合也相互理解、鼎力支持，两国堪称“铁哥们”。这样的佳话可谓不胜枚举。厄特人对中国革命历史也耳熟能详，与伊萨亚斯一同来中国学习、现担任厄特选举委员会主任的拉马丹先生还能唱起在中国学会的《东方红》。到中国参加培训、进行体育比赛、学习、经商和探亲访友的厄特普通民众也越来越多，不少人还能讲一口流利的中文，他们对当代中国的了解也越来越多。厄特的普通民众，无论是大人还是小孩，无论是否到过中国，对中国和中国人都怀有朴素、友好的感情，每当中国人走在厄特各个城市的大街上，总有厄特小孩友善地喊着“China”或“Nihao”打招呼，有的还主动走上前来击掌握手。

现在来厄特工作、旅游的中国人越来越多了，对厄特感兴趣的中国人也越来越多。中国读者十分需要一本全面介绍厄特的书籍。作者希望本书的出版能够填补这一空白。完成此书并非一日之功，也非一人之力。本书汲取了中国驻厄特使馆馆员多年来对厄特知识的积累，厄特高教委孔子学院教师、中国援厄医疗队队员、中国驻厄特使馆馆员的家属也为本书提供了大量资料和照片。值得一提的



是，本书第四章辑录了曾在厄特工作生活过的中国人的文章。这些文章记述了作者自己在厄特的经历，充满真情实感，内容生动可信，可以让读者产生身临其境般的感受，与本书第一章至第三章的资料性介绍可谓相得益彰。如果有读者愿意来厄特工作或访问，本书可以提供有关厄特饮食住宿交通等的实用信息，使读者做到有备而来。如果读者仅对厄特国情感兴趣，通过阅读本书，相信对了解厄特、开拓视野有帮助。如果读者已经在厄特工作生活，当然更可以读读本书，印证一下书中的介绍和描写与自己亲眼所见是否相符，也可以按图索骥，进一步加深对厄特的了解，体会一下“读万卷书、行万里路”的奇妙。当然，如果真有哪位中国读者不经意间巧遇本书，读了其中的一些章节后，怦然心动，放下书本，打起行囊，决定来一次说走就走的旅行，亲眼来看看这个传说中的红海之国，那就证明这本书的确发挥了促进中厄人员往来的功效，也不枉费作者的一片苦心了！

来吧，厄里特里亚在遥远的东非红海之滨等着您揭开它神秘的面纱呐！

云端^①

于阿斯马拉

2016年2月17日

① “云端”是本书作者的集体笔名，取自厄立特里亚首都阿斯马拉的别称“云端的城市”部分含义。

PREFACE

The State of Eritrea is located in Eastern Africa facing the Red Sea to the north. Eritrea has honest and kind-hearted people with beautiful sceneries, colorful national cultures, traditions and long-lasting civilizations. Eritrea won national independence in 1991. The State of Eritrea was founded on May 24, 1993, and therefore is one of the youngest nation states on the African continent. As Eritrea is a young state, most Chinese readers still don't know much about her. As Eritrea is a new developing country with abundant resources and huge potential for development, and in the meanwhile a country with a long history and civilization dated back to ancient times, this is a country worth knowing and studying in a in-depth way by Chinese readers. The purpose of the author in compiling and writing this book is to present Eritrea from different perspectives to Chinese readers, and provide them with information about Eritrea's geography, history, culture, economic and social development, tourism resources, and practical guidance for Chinese readers in a objective, accurate and comprehensive way to the best of the author's capabilities. And the book tries to present a diversified, multi-dimensional and vivid Eritrea to the readers, thus promoting a deeper understanding of Eritrea and her people, and enhancing the friendship between the Chinese and Eritrean peoples.

Though the Chinese and Eritrean peoples are living far apart and divided by vast seas, the two peoples have had mutual contacts since ancient times. In *Chronicles of Emperor He and Emperor Shang, History of the Later Han Dynasty*, there are records read as follows, "In the winter month of November, the 12th year of Yongyuan Era, two states of Menqi and Doule of the West Regions sent their envoys to the imperial



court to pledge alliance to the Emperor, and the kings of the two states were awarded with golden seals and purple ribbons". The 12th year of Yongyuan Era is 100 A.D.. Some experts thought of Doule as Adulis, the ancient city-state in Eritrea. In 751 A.D. , or the 10th year of Tianbao Era under the reign of Emperor Xuanzong of Tang Dynasty, the Battle of Talas broke out between the Tang Dynasty and Tazi (or Arab) troops. The army of Tang were defeated and a soldier called Du Huan was taken captive by the Tazi troops. Afterwards, Du Huan stayed in regions ruled by Tazi such as Central Asia, Western Asia and Mediterranean rim for more than 10 years. He wrote about 13 countries in the above regions later on in his book *Records of Western Trips*. Some experts thought a state called "Molin" mentioned in the book as Eritrea. Du Huan, because of the above legendary traveling experiences, has become the earliest recorded Chinese who set foot in Africa. According to studies by some Eritrean archaeologists, when the fleet led by Chinese explorer Zheng He of China's Ming Dynasty (1368—1644 A.D.) reached the coastal areas of Eastern Africa, it's highly likely that the fleet came to the shore of Eritrea. Of course, differences in opinions about the authenticity of these records and evidences are bound to occur, however, if readers of this book have the opportunity to visit in person the Northern Red Sea Region Museum in Massawa, one will see a displayed wine vase excavated in the ancient Kingdom of Adulis with the four Chinese characters of "萬和禪山" on it. And this is the hard evidence proving the long history of friendly and mutual exchanges between the Chinese and Eritrean peoples. As is known, Adulis is an ancient port city state thriving from the first to the seventh century A.D. in the coastal areas of Eritrea. By this evidence, we can at least be sure that China has started exchanges with Eritrea at least from the Han Dynasty (206 B.C. to 220 A.D.) and Tang Dynasty (618. to 907 A.D.). The facts are that, as Eritrea is a Red Sea country with an advantageous geographical location of guarding Bab al Mandab, facing the Arabian Peninsula across the Red Sea, linking to its north-west with Eastern Mediterranean countries, Eritrea has become one of the earliest countries in the African continent which introduced Christian and Islam religions and a important gateway for Africa's exchanges with other civilizations.

There is another interesting episode in the contemporary history of China-Eritrea

relations. Almost half a century ago, in 1967, a tall, taciturn, and a bit shy 21 year old young man came to China to study in Nanjing Military Academy. He studied hard, ruminated all things about China's construction, its revolutionary history, studied and grasped the essence of Mao Tsetung Thought. This young man put to practice what he has learnt in China in light of the realities of Eritrea, led the Eritrean people side by side with his comrades in arms through decades of arduous armed struggle, and finally won national liberation and independence. This young man is no one else but the President of the State of Eritrea, Mr. Isaias Afwerki. His studying experiences in China added yet another legend in China-Eritrea friendly exchanges and relations.

Right on the date when the State of Eritrea was founded, China and Eritrea established diplomatic relations, and mutual exchanges between the two peoples have become more frequent. One after another new chapters are being constantly added to these exchanges, say, the Confucius Institute at the Eritrean National Board for Higher Education was established in 2013; the construction of the new compound for the Chinese Embassy in Eritrea started in 2014, China thus becomes the first country to construct its own Embassy premises in Asmara; the two Governments signed an agreement on mutual exemption of visas for holders of diplomatic and service passports in 2015; China's Medical Team called "Brightness Action" came to Eritrea to do free cataract surgeries for local patients; Eri-TV started to show Chinese TV drama series; the two countries understand and support each other in international arena, and can best be described as "iron-clad brothers". The list could go on and on. Many Eritreans are quiet familiar with China's revolutionary history, Mr. Ramadan Nur, who came to China together with Isaias, can still remember the song "East is Red" which he learnt in China. Now more and more Eritreans are going to China to attend training programs, sports competitions, study in China's universities, do businesses, visit family members or friends. Many of them have a good command of Chinese language, and their knowledge about the contemporary China is amazing. Eritreans, adults or children, been to China or not, all cherish friendly feelings towards China and her people. It is a common scene that when a Chinese is walking on streets in Eritrea, some kids will greet him or her with "China" or "Nihao", some may come closer to shake hands!



Now there are more and more Chinese who are coming to Eritrea to work or travel, and they are increasingly interested in learning more about Eritrea. Chinese readers are in urgent need of a comprehensive book about Eritrea. The author hopes to fill this vacuum by publishing this book. This book has neither been done overnight, nor by one writer. This book reflects the knowledge accumulated over the years by staff members of the Chinese Embassy in Eritrea, teachers of the Confucius Institute here, doctors of the Chinese Medical Team, and the spouses of the staff members of the Chinese Embassy have all contributed a large amount of materials and pictures. What is worth mentioning is that Part Four of this book collected articles of some Chinese who once lived and worked in Eritrea. These articles describe the experiences of the authors themselves in Eritrea, reflecting their feelings and emotions, what was written is vivid and reliable. These narrations of personal experiences will make the readers feel as if they were on the scene as well. These articles and those informative descriptions from Part One to Part Three of this book certainly complement each other. If readers of this book intend to work in or visit Eritrea, the book can provide them with practical information about the country's food, lodging and transportation etc., and will make them well prepared before making the travel. If the readers are simply interested in Eritrea, by reading this book, they will be able to get the general knowledge about this country and widen their horizons. If the readers once worked and lived, or are working and living in Eritrea, they can try to find out whether the introductions and descriptions about Eritrea in the book are compatible with what they themselves have seen right on the spot. And of course, they could also follow the guidance in the book, and make further studies and deepen their understanding of Eritrea, and enjoy the wonderful feelings of "reading ten thousand volumes of books, and walking ten thousand Li's walk". What's more, if some Chinese readers happen to get hold of this book, and set their eyes on a few chapters in it, moved, put down the book, packed their luggage, and decided to make a spontaneous trip to Eritrea and to see the legendary Red Sea country through their own eyes, then, this will fully testify that the book does play some role in promoting people to people exchanges between China and Eritrea, and the author's efforts would not have been made in vain.

Do come for a visit. Eritrea, a country in Eastern Africa on the coast of the

Red Sea is right here, waiting for you to unveil her to find out all her mysteries and legends!

Yun Duan^①

In Asmara

January 30, 2016



① Yun Duan (in Chinese“云端”) is the collective pen name of the authors of this book. The Chinese expression “云端” means “above the clouds” and this pen name derives from the nickname for Asmara, that is, “a City above the clouds”.

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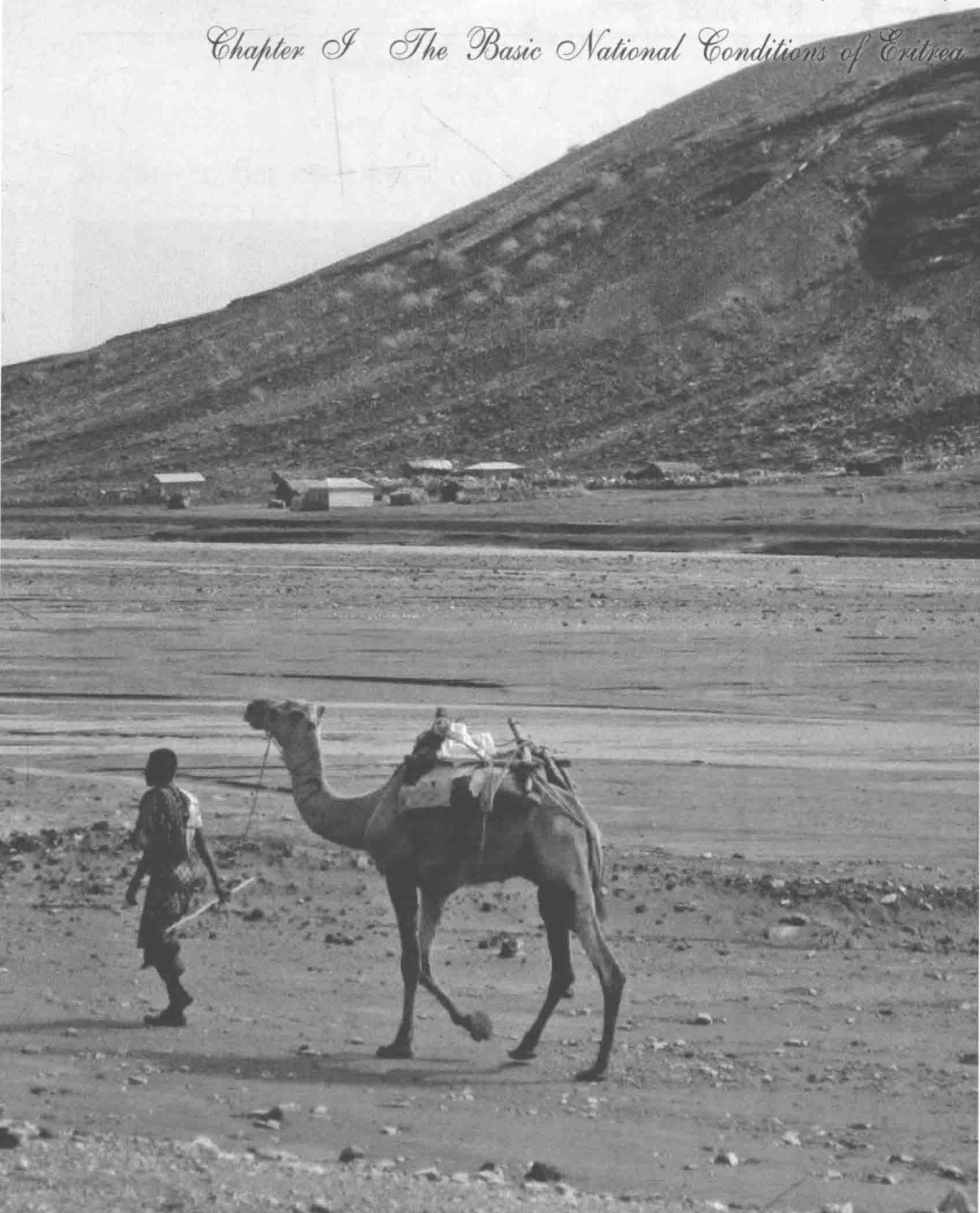


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第1章

厄立特里亚基本国情

Chapter I The Basic National Conditions of Eritrea



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