

The Grand Canal

大运河

吴顺鸣 © 编著





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京杭大运河是世界上最长的一条人工河道，它的开凿最早可以追溯到公元前5世纪春秋战国时代吴国的邗沟，到了一千多年前的隋代首次实现了南北贯通。京杭大运河北起北京，南达杭州，流经北京、河北、天津、山东、江苏、浙江6个省市，沟通了海河、黄河、淮河、长江、钱塘江五大水系，在中华民族的历史上，为南北方的交流与沟通作出了巨大的贡献。



The Grand Canal is the longest man-made canal of the world. The first establishment of the canal can be traced back to the Hangou Canal excavated by the State of Wu in the 5th century B.C. during the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods. By the Sui Dynasty over 1000 years ago, the canal had connected the northern and southern China, and stretched from Beijing in the north to Hangzhou in the south. Flowing through 6 provinces and municipalities including Beijing, Hebei, Tianjin, Shandong, Jiangsu and Zhejiang, and uniting the 5 major water systems of the Haihe River, Yellow River, Huaihe River, Yangtze River and Qiantang River, the Grand Canal made enormous contribution to the communication between the north and south in Chinese history. This man-made river had not only provided transportation convenience for

正是这条人工长河，不仅为华夏民族提供了舟楫之利，而且在其流经之地，人们靠运河之水灌溉排涝，使万顷碱滩成为沃野。运河还造就了两岸无数的城镇，使这些地区成为商贾云集、物阜民丰的繁盛之地。

本书通过追溯大运河开凿的历史，讲述大运河在千年间的繁荣与发展，介绍运河沿岸的名城，以及当地的民风民俗，旨在向读者展现一条包容、开放、魅力无穷的大运河。

the Chinese nation, but also fertilized the extensive saline-alkali soil into fertile lands. Further more, the canal brought up countless cities, making them the lands of prosperity.

By reviewing the excavation history of the Grand Canal, this book represents the prosperity and development of the Grand Canal in thousands' years, introduces the major cities and folk customs in the canal basin, aiming to unfold a comprehensive, patulous and charming Grand Canal to the readers.





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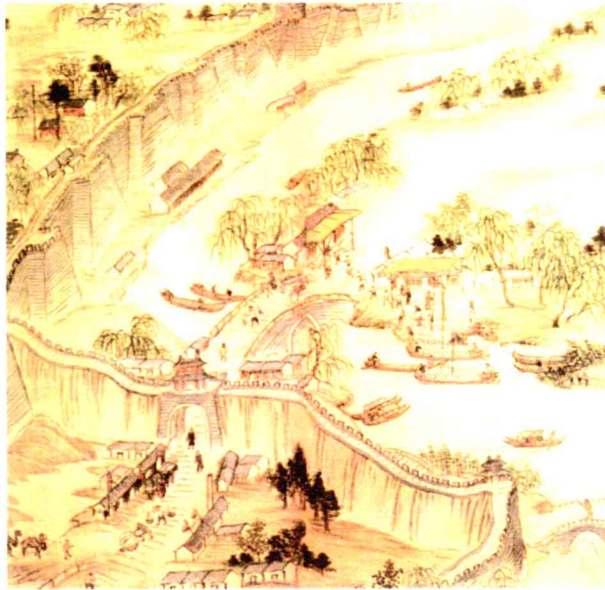


中国早期的运河

Primitive Canals of China

在中国古代，人们很早就开始人工开凿运河。在远古传说中就有关于运河的最早记载。从春秋战国开始，中国人在这项改造自然的伟大工程中留下不少光辉的业绩。

Since ancient times of China, people had started to excavate man-made canals, which were firstly mentioned in the legends. By the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods, the Chinese nation had already made outstanding achievement in the great project of nature transforming.





> 最早的运河

相传在4000多年前，中原地区洪水泛滥。当时的君王舜帝命禹治理洪水。禹带领人们开凿了“乃”、“冢”两条渠作为疏导洪水的渠道，将西北部奔涌而下的大洪水引向北方，减缓了洪水的流速，降低了洪水对下游的冲击力。之后禹又疏浚了九条大河，最终将



• 青铜耒（商）

耒是古代用来翻土的工具。

Bronze Lei (Shang Dynasty)

Lei was an instrument used for cultivating in ancient time.

> Earliest Canal

According to the legend, the flooding was epidemic on the Central Plain in over 4000 years ago. Shun, the king of that time, dispatched Yu to control the flood. Yu excavated the Naiqu Canal and Zhongqu Canal for the channelizing of the flood. The two canals directed the great flood rushing down the northwest region to the north, slowed down the flow rate, and reduced the impact force of the flood against the lower reaches. After then Yu successfully tamed the flood by dredging nine major rivers and eventually led the flood into the sea. Some people take the two canals as the beginning of China's canal history.

In the late Shang Dynasty in the 12th century B.C., the Zhou tribal leader King Tai of Zhou had three sons, the eldest son Taibo, the second son Zhongyong and the youngest son Jili. Understanding that the



• 浙江绍兴大禹陵

Yu Mausoleum in Shaoxing, Zhejiang Province

洪水引入大海，成功地驯服了洪水。有人认为，这是中国人开凿运河的开始。

公元前12世纪的商朝末年，周部落的首领周太王有三个儿子，分别是长子泰伯、次子仲雍和三子季历。泰伯和仲雍兄弟二人看到父亲偏爱季历，为了将王位让给季历，于是便相继远赴南方蛮荒之地。泰伯就在今天江苏无锡的梅里地区

third son Jili was most favored by their father and in order to abdicate the throne to Jili, the brothers Taibo and Zhongyong successively left for the wild unsettled lands in the south. Taibo established the ancient kingdom of Gou Wu, which subsequently developed to the State of Wu, in today's Meili region in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province. For the controlling of the flooding, Taibo led the local ancestors to excavate the channel with nine

建立了勾吴古国，也就是后来的吴国。为了治理水患，泰伯带领当地先民在梅里一带开凿了西通太湖、东入漕湖的渠道，并挖掘了九条支流，既可抗旱涝灾害，又便利航运。这就是江南历史上第一条人工运河，人称“泰伯渎”，就是今天的伯渎港。

tributaries connecting the Taihu Lake in the west and Caohu Lake in the east. The channel was not only resistant to flood and drought disasters, but also convenient for shipping. People named the “Taibo Canal”, which is today’s Bodu Port. It’s the first man-made canal in the history of the River South Region.



• 无锡古运河上的清名桥 (图片提供: 摄图)

清名桥原叫“清宁桥”，位于江苏无锡南门外的古运河与伯渎港交汇处，桥南侧是伯渎河，流经梅村至常熟。

Qingming Bridge Crossing over the Ancient Canal in Wuxi

The Qingming Bridge locates in the junction area of the ancient canal and the Bodu Port outside the South Gate of Wuxi in Jiangsu Province, and was used to be called the “Qingning Bridge”. The Bodu Canal on the south of the bridge flows through Mei County to Changshu.



> 春秋战国时期的运河

春秋时期，运河的开凿逐渐增多，有的为陈、蔡两国所开，在今淮水上游；有的为楚国所开，在今湖北、安徽境内；还有吴国所开的运河，位于在太湖流域和长江、淮河、黄河之间。尤其是吴国开凿的几条运河，无论对当时及后代都有深远的影响。

春秋末年，在阖闾、夫差父子两代吴王的统治下，太湖流域有了初步开发，再加上有伍子胥、孙武等武将贤臣的襄助，国力渐强。为了取得霸权，吴王阖闾首先对越国、楚国两个邻国发动了战争。为了便于运兵运粮，公元前6世纪末至公元前5世纪初，吴国在天然河道的基础上，在太湖流域陆续凿成三条运河：一条叫胥浦，北起太

> Canals of the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Periods

In the Spring and Autumn Period, the canal numbers increased. Some of the canals were dug by the states of Chen and Cai in today's upper reaches areas of the Huaihe River; some were dug by the State of Chu within the territory of today's Hubei and Anhui provinces; and some were excavated by the State of Wu in the Taihu Lake Basin surrounded by the Yangtze River, Huaihe River and Yellow River. Especially the several canals created by the State of Wu had exerted a far-reaching influence on that time and the future generations.

In the late Spring and Autumn Period, under the rule of the King of Wu, Helü and his son Fuchai, the Taihu Lake basin where the State of Wu located was firstly developed. Meanwhile with the



• 青铜吴王夫差盃（春秋）

这件铜盃高27.8厘米，腹径24.9厘米，肩上一周铭文，大意是说吴王夫差用诸侯献给他的青铜，为一位女子铸了这件盃。盃的提梁设计成中空龙形，龙身由无数纠缠的小龙组成，花纹有发丝般纤细，堪称鬼斧神工。

Bronze Wu King Fuchai He (Spring and Autumn Period)

This bronze *he* is 27.8 centimeters tall and the diameter of the belly is 24.9 centimeters. A circle of inscription on the vessel shoulder mentions that this *he* was made in bronze offered by the vassals and was a gift from the King Fuchai of Wu to a lady. The handle design of the wine vessel is a hollow dragon composing of innumerable tangled small dragons with slender patterns fine as hair, presenting the uncanny workmanship.

湖东面，南到杭州湾；一条叫胥溪，位于太湖西面，沟通了太湖和长江；还有一条由吴北上，到今江阴西部与长江会合。这些运河的开凿，不仅促进了区域性的

supporting of some loyal ministers like Wu Zixu and Sun Wu, etc, the national power of the State of Wu was enhanced. In order to chase the supremacy, the King Helü of Wu firstly started the war against the states of Yue and Chu. From the end of the 6th century B.C. to the beginning of the 5th century B.C., for the convenience of replenishment, the State of Wu continuously excavated three canals on the basis of the natural rivers in the Taihu Lake Basin. Which were the Xupu Canal, starting from the eastern Taihu Lake in the north to the Hangzhou Bay in the south; the Xuxi Canal, locating to the west of Taihu Lake and connecting the Taihu Lake and the Yangtze River; and the third canal flowing north and entering into the Yangtze River in today's western Jiangyin. The excavation of these canals not only promoted the regional unifying, but also laid the preliminary foundation of the subsequent River South canals.

In 506 B.C. and 494 B.C., the army of Wu successively defeated the states of Chu and Yue. The King Fu Chai of Wu considered himself of already the master of the Yangtze River basin and decided to assault the north in order to further dominate the Central Plains. In



统一，而且为后来的江南运河奠定了初步基础。

公元前506年和前494年，吴军先后大败楚、越两国，吴王夫差认为自己在长江流域的霸主地位已经确立，决定向北方用兵，以进一步称霸中原。公元前486年，吴王下令建筑邗城，就是今天江苏扬州的前身，城址在今扬州市西北郊一带。接下来，吴国又从邗城西南引长江水，开凿了通往淮河的运河——邗

486 B.C., the King of Wu gave orders to build Hancheng, the predecessor of today's Yangzhou in Jiangsu Province, in today's northwest suburbs of Yangzhou. After then, the State of Wu brought in the water of the Yangtze River from the southwest of Hancheng and excavated the Hangou Canal connecting the Huaihe River. The canal was 150 kilometers long and is the first large man-made canal of China and the world with precise record of excavation time. With a history of



• 江苏扬州的古邗沟遗址 (图片提供: FOTOE)

Ancient Hangou Relic in Yangzhou, Jiangsu Province



• 太湖风光
Taihu Lake Scenery

沟。这是中国乃至世界上有确切开凿时间的第一条大型人工运河，长约150公里。邗沟首次将中国东部的两条水系长江和淮河贯通起来，是后世大运河的重要基础，距今已有2400多年历史。后世的两汉、隋、唐等朝代全用这条水道展开漕运，将江南的粮食输往京师。

邗沟凿通后，吴王夫差率领吴

over 2400 years, the Hangou Canal firstly linked the Yangtze River and Huaihe River, the two major water systems in east China, and laid a solid foundation for the excavation of the Grand Canal. In the later ages of the Han, Sui and Tang dynasties, this canal was used for grain transportation from the River South Region to the capitals.

After the finishing of the Hangou



卧薪尝胆

春秋后期，长江下游的吴国和越国相继强盛起来。两国为了扩张势力、逐鹿中原，进行了多年的争霸战争。公元前494年，吴王夫差进攻越国，将越王勾践围困于会稽（今浙江绍兴），迫使越国屈服。勾践投降后，被带到吴国侍奉吴王，三年后才被放回越国。回国后，勾践立志报仇雪耻。为了防止眼前的安逸生活消磨了志气，他在每顿饭前先尝一尝苦胆，还把睡觉垫的席子撤去，躺在柴草上面来锻炼自己的意志，这就是后来被人传诵的“卧薪尝胆”。为了复兴越国，勾践重用贤臣范蠡和文种，并亲自参加耕种，救济贫苦的百姓。越国上下一心，经过十几年的努力，国力逐渐转弱为强。公元前473年，勾践调集精兵进攻吴国，大获全胜，最终灭掉了吴国。直至今日，中国人还经常用“卧薪尝胆”这个成语来形容人为了实现目标而刻苦自励、发愤图强的精神。



• 卧薪尝胆
Sleeping on Firewood and
Tasting Gall