

高校转型发展系列教材

王艳东 郑永梅 主编

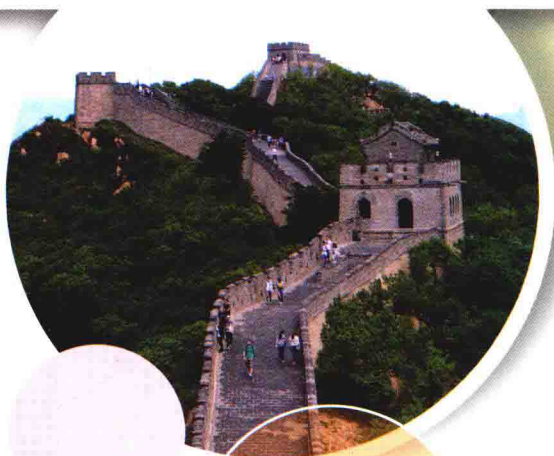
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A Sketch of Chinese Culture

走近中国文化

英文版



清华大学出版社

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北 京

内 容 简 介

《走近中国文化(英文版)》的编写宗旨是既能让读者从宏观上了解中国文化的各个层面,又能让读者从趣味性较强的小文章中体味到中国文化的深邃与美好。本书结构清晰,每个单元由5组文章构成,每组一大两小的文章后面都配有习题。习题的难度由浅入深,兼顾了学习者语言技能的各个方面:有能够增进对文章理解的回答问题、复述以及词语造句,也有能够锻炼学生创造性思维的写作和辩论,还有必不可少的中英文语言转换的翻译练习。选用的所有文章和设计的所有练习都紧紧围绕学习者对中国文化的了解和对英语语言学习的需求。本书既可以作为教辅材料帮助英语专业学生学习中国文化,也可以用于其他专业学生的中国文化通识教育。

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前 言

用英语来了解中国文化是英语学习者的迫切需求，也是外国人了解中国文化的可行途径。《走近中国文化(英文版)》这本教材是在教授英语专业学生以及大学英语后续课程的过程中逐渐形成了基本框架，并在教学中不断完善，经过整理和详细校对而形成的。本书一共分为12章，包括中国概况、哲学与智慧、科技与发明、语言与文学、教育与交流、故事与传说、节日与庆祝活动、饮食与健康、艺术与手工艺、自然与人文景观、文化与历史遗迹以及动植物资源，涉及中国自然与社会的各个层面。本书既关注到了中国传统文化的精髓，也体现了当代的文明发展和社会进步，使阅读者能够从多方面对中国文化有一个全面立体的了解。

本书每章由5组课文构成，每组课文包含一篇大课文和两篇小课文以及练习题。大课文或是着重宏观介绍，或是着重细节描写，学习者能够通过阅读大课文对一段历史或是一个节日有一个较为全面的理解；小课文主要关注趣味性和可读性，从文化的一个点来带动学习者的兴趣。每一组课文后面的习题难度由浅入深，关注学生英语技能发展的各个方面，习题的类型包括回答问题、讨论、复述、造句、翻译、填空、辩论以及作文。学习者能在完成这些习题的过程中深化对中国文化的理解，提升对英语语言的认识，掌握语言的使用方法。除此之外，每章最后还提供了两个参考网站以及“Fun Time”环节，学习者可以通过相关网站进行更为细致的学习，而“Fun Time”是对本章内容的一个趣味性的延伸，是对文化知识和语言知识的拓展。

本教材基本的编写理念是力求语言生动活泼，内容要能受到学习者的普遍欢迎，成为其学习中国文化的参考教材，培养其用英语描述中国文化现象的能力，使其成为传播中国文化的使者。对于其他的语言爱好者以及中国文化的学习者而言，本书也是一本较好的参考教材。

本书编委成员都是一线教师，对学生的学习情况有较为深入的了解，并时刻期待着学习者能够在读书的过程中认真思考，有所收获。在本书编写的过程中参阅了诸多的著作和网站，本书的全体编者在此向所有作者和编辑人员表示衷心的感谢。由于本书编者水平有限，对中国文化的理解也未必深刻，敬请学习者提出宝贵的建议和意见，以便本书在再版时一并更改。联系方式：irene-wyd@163.com。编写本书的全体成员诚挚地希望能与学习者进行交流和沟通，共同推进对英语语言以及中国文化的学习。

王艳东

2017年11月15日于沈阳

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Unit 1 Basic Information of China

Text A

A Panoramic View of China

Since the introduction of economic reforms in 1978, China's economy has been one of the world's fastest-growing. As of 2016, China is the world's second-largest economy by nominal GDP and largest by purchasing power parity. Currently, as the engine of the international economy and the factory of worldwide industry, China is the largest developing country in the world. Covering the third largest territory in the world, she owns more than five-thousand-year history with the population of over 1.3 billion. Her extensive inland offers the rich and colorful culture and customs. She is the home and **cradle**^① of dragon, papermaking, printing, compass, powder, the Great Wall, terra cotta warriors and calligraphy, etc. She is the hometown of Confucianism and Taoism.

China covers an area of 9.6 million square kilometers and 18,000-kilometer continental coastline and owns 34 provincial-level administration zones. Additionally, the natural philosophy also shows her charms in mental depth. China is an elegant country for her traditional **accumulation**^② in culture, politics, economy, diplomacy and lifestyle. To some extent, she is hard to understand in comparison with western world. But with her long history and stories, she is surely different from western world. As one of the cradles of miracles and wonders, China is always the top priority for you if you want to feel the freshness and mysteriousness.



China is one of the four countries with time-honored and **splendid**^③ history and civilization all around the world. Five-thousand-year recorded history offers diverse evidences to show her most-advanced civilization on earth. China's characters are the oldest characters with endless **dynamics**^④ and popularity. They are still being extensively used and welcomed all the time when other old languages die out. Furthermore, they are also quickly popularized and accepted in other countries as the **Confucius Institutes**^⑤ are established in sequence in the world. The movement of learning Chinese has been quickly launched and enlarged. It is the first language spoken by the largest population and one of the five official languages in the UN. Thanks to China's written language, most of the important historical events were recorded: China's culture could be maintained in her characters; the **intangible**^⑥ materials and visible heritages could be succeeded and understood by new generations. China takes a very important position in culture, history, art, architecture and customs. What's more, the **diversity**^⑦ of China's local thought and culture characterizes her overall culture and features.



Notes

① cradle *n.* 摇篮, 发祥地

⑤ Confucius Institute 孔子学院

② accumulation *n.* 累积⑥ intangible *adj.* 无形的③ splendid *adj.* 美好的⑦ diversity *n.* 多样性④ dynamics *n.* 动力

Further Readings

Passage 1

Symbols of China (1) Giant Panda

A Giant Panda is an adorable creature, a kind of animal representing friendship and peace in diplomatic affairs. Panda is considered the conservation reliant endangered species that can only be found in China region, especially in western China like Sichuan and Shannxi provinces. Literally known as a “black and white cat-foot” creature, a giant panda is easily recognized by its large, distinctive black patches around the eyes, over the ears and across its round body. Owing to its special living environment and adorable appearance, it becomes one of China’s national emblems and the symbol of World Wide Fund for Nature.



Passage 2

Symbols of China (2) The Great Wall

The Great Wall is considered the symbol of China and the wisdom of Chinese people. The construction of the Great Wall began in the 5th century BC. It is a series of fortifications made of stone, brick, tamped earth, wood and other materials. As a spectacular defensive structure, it was built to keep intruders from entering the mainland.



The steady stone fortification was inscribed into the list of the World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1987. Badaling, Mutianyu and Simatai sections within Beijing area are the most famous ones.

Exercise 1

I. Questions and Answers

1. In what aspect do you think China has influenced the world most?
2. Which period of Chinese history impresses you most?
3. What similarities does Chinese culture have with the Western culture?

II. Translation

1. 中国有 13 亿多人口，是世界上最大的发展中国家。发展是中国共产党执政兴国的第一要务，是解决中国所有问题的关键。
2. In the long course of history, Chinese people have always striven for better and shared development opportunities, conditions and benefits. In ancient times, China was for long the world leader in agriculture, and contributed to human progress with extraordinary development achievements.

III. Writing

Make sentences by using the following words and expressions.

1. ...to some extent...
2. ...with endless dynamics and popularity...
3. ... extensively used ...

Text B

Chinese Ethnic Groups

China's population is over the other countries in the world, and the efforts of different ethnic groups contribute a lot to her glorious and diverse historic achievements. As a large united multi-national state, China is composed of 56 ethnic groups. Among them Han Chinese accounts for 91.51% of the overall Chinese population and the other 55 make up the remaining 8.49% according to the Sixth National Population **Census**^① of 2010. As the combined population of these other minorities is far fewer than that of the Han people, they form the 55 minorities of China.

These ethnic groups share China's vast land but at the same time many live in their individual communities. The relationships between them have been formed over many years.

Chinese Han People

With a population of 1225.9 million, the Han Chinese can be found in almost every part of China. However, they mainly live in the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River, Yangtze River, the Pearl River and also in the Northeast Plain Region (Songliao Plain). They form the largest ethnic group within China and also the largest in the world. The Han people have their own **distinctive**^② way of life.

Minority ethnic groups

Although they make up only a small **proportion**^③ of the overall Chinese population, the fifty-five minority ethnic groups are distributed extensively throughout different regions of China. The regions where they are most concentrated are Southwest China, Northwest China and Northeast China. No matter whether it is Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Ningxia, Guangxi, Tibet, Yunnan, Guizhou, Gansu, Hubei or other provinces, one can find Chinese minorities. From the areas listed



above, the greatest number of minorities can be found in Yunnan Province where 25 ethnic groups live. Zhuang has more than 16 million people accounting for the largest among the minority ethnic groups.

In order to ensure that the 56 Chinese ethnic groups live together in harmony, the government introduced a series of policies including ones to secure the equality and unity of ethnic groups, give regional **autonomy**^④ to ethnic minorities and promote respect for the faith and customs of ethnic groups. Among these the policy of regional autonomy for minorities is the most fundamental. Under this policy, five autonomous regions, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Guangxi, Ningxia and Tibet, as well as numerous autonomous **prefectures**^⑤, counties, nationality **townships**^⑥ and towns have been set up. With **guidance**^⑦ from the Chinese government, the minorities in areas that have been given regional autonomy are **entitled**^⑧ to deal with their own affairs. Together with the Han people, the Chinese minorities are making great efforts to build a prosperous China.



Notes

① census *n.* 人口普查

② distinctive *adj.* 独特的

③ proportion *n.* 部分, 比例

④ autonomy *n.* 自治

⑤ prefecture *n.* 辖区, 管区

⑥ township *n.* 小镇

⑦ guidance *n.* 指导

⑧ entitle *v.* 给……权利

Further Readings

Passage 1

The Han people

Han people originally ruled and influenced China during the Han Dynasty, beginning in 206 BC. Arts and science flourished during that time, which was often referred to as the Golden Age of China. This period introduced Buddhism, saw the spread of Confucianism and Taoism and further developed the use of Chinese characters in writing. This was also the start of the Silk Road route that established trade between China and many nations far to the west. The Yellow River in China is considered by the Han people as the cradle of their civilization, from where Han culture began and spread outwardly.



Passage 2

Chinese Names

Family Name

Altogether some 22,000 family names have been used in China, but over time some of them have become reserved and only 3,500 are commonly used nowadays. The most popular three are Li, Wang and Zhang, respectively occupying about 7.9%, 7.4% and 7.1% of the whole Chinese population.

Compound Surname

A Chinese compound surname is a Chinese surname using more than one character. Many of these surnames derive from noble and official titles, professions, place names and other areas, to serve for a purpose. Some are originally non-Han, while others were created by joining two one-character family names. Only a few of these names (e.g. Ouyang, Shangguan, Sima, Situ) survive in modern times.



Exercise 2

I. Retell

Read Passage 1 under Text B carefully and retell the story by using the following tips.

1. Han Dynasty
2. Golden Age of China
3. Silk Road route
4. Yellow River

II. Translation

1. Before the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the ethnic groups of Xinjiang suffered oppression from invading foreign forces, the feudal exploiting class and the privileged religious hierarchy.
2. 长期以来, 中央始终高度重视新疆工作, 采取切实有力举措, 发展经济, 改善民生, 增进人民福祉, 促进民族团结进步, 保障各族人民的基本权利。

III. Writing

Choose three out of five from the words given below to complete the passage.

(consistent consequence major majority assimilated)

The degree of variation between ethnic groups is also not (1) _____. Many ethnic groups are described as having unique characteristics from other minority groups and from the dominant Han people, but there are also some that are very similar to the Han (2) _____ group. Most Hui Chinese are indistinguishable from Han Chinese except for the fact that they practice Islam, and most Manchu people are considered mainly (3) _____ into dominant Han society.

Text C

Yangtze River and the Yellow River

Yangtze River

Winding about 3,964 miles, Yangtze River is the largest river in China and the third largest river in the world after the Nile in Africa and the Amazon in South America. Originating from the Tanggula Range in Qinghai Province in western China, it **traverses**^① eleven provinces and cities from west to east, including Qinghai, Tibet, Sichuan, Yunnan, Chongqing, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Anhui, Jiangsu and Shanghai. Finally, it pours into the East China Sea at Shanghai.



As the largest water system in China, Yangtze River is historically, economically and culturally important to the country. It has numerous **tributaries**^② including Min River, Han River, Jialing River, Gan River and Huangpu River. The Three Gorges Dam on the river is the largest dam project and hydropower station in the world.

Generally, people consider the river a dividing line between North China and South China. Areas to the north and the south of the river have many differences in climate, scenery and economy. The Yangtze River is rich in **brehtaking**^③ scenery and diverse culture.

The Yangtze's gorges are the **highlights**^④ on the river's course. Tiger Leaping Gorge, on the Upper Yangtze, is the deepest gorge in the world, with mountains towering 4,000 meters (13,000 ft) above it, and steep cliffs of 2,000 meters (6,600 ft) on its sides. The Three Gorges on the Yangtze's middle reaches are famously beautiful, with relaxing cruises and pretty side gorges to be explored.

The Yellow River

The Yellow River is one of China's major rivers, second only in length and importance to the Yangtze River. The Yellow River begins in West China's Qinghai **Plateau**^⑤ then wanders around northern China until it empties into the Bohai Sea in Shandong Province.

While the river runs through some beautiful scenery, it is not **conducive**^⑥ to the multi-day cruise

that the Yangtze is famous for, though short cruises are always a possibility on major cities along the river's route to the sea. The river runs **turbulently**^⑦ through deep gorges in West China. Along the way, the river picks up the colored **silt**^⑧ that gives it its name as the current becomes smoother as it moves into East China. The silt is hard on boat engines as well as the turbines of hydroelectric plants that span the river.

Before there weren't bridges and motor boats, the Chinese crossed the river on rafts, usually made from specially-treated pig and sheep skins that were inflated and then tied together. About 9 to 12 skins were used on each raft, which usually carried no more than four or five people. Sometimes the skins were lashed to a simple wooden frame to make the raft more floatable.



Notes

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ① traverse <i>v.</i> 横贯, 穿越 | ⑤ plateau <i>n.</i> 高原 |
| ② tributary <i>n.</i> 支流 | ⑥ conducive <i>adj.</i> 有益的, 有助于……的 |
| ③ breathtaking <i>adj.</i> 惊人的, 令人激动的 | ⑦ turbulently <i>adv.</i> 汹涌澎湃地 |
| ④ highlight <i>n.</i> 突出, 强调 | ⑧ silt <i>n.</i> 淤泥 |