

STORIES FROM CHINA'S WARRING STATES

东周列国故事选

Rewritten by Hu Zhihui

中文改写
英文翻译

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出版说明

《东周列国志》是反映我国战国时代辉煌史实的一部长篇小说，数百年来它流传广泛，并以各种戏曲形式频繁演出，这使小说里的主要人物和情节均深入人心，家喻户晓，对我国的语言、文化等各个方面都产生了很大的影响。然而，尽管个别章节（如“赵氏孤儿”）早在十九世纪初曾流传到法国，并曾一度引起很大轰动，这部古典文学名著至今却仍无英译本问世。

为了弘扬祖国的文化艺术，同时也为了使外国读者、海外华人和国内的青年一代能更形像、更深刻地了解我国这段极为重要的历史，著名翻译家胡志挥先生在多年悉心研究的基础上，用英文和白话文把其中主要的人物及情节编写成一篇篇引人入胜的故事。此书的历史背景比较复杂，原封不动地照本翻译，效果不一定很好。因此，他吸取查尔斯·兰姆改写莎翁剧本和林汉达推出《东周列国故事新编》的经验，决定在保持原作精神的前提下采取重新撰写的办法。

本书挑选《东周列国志》里最精彩的故事十篇。为了便于欣赏，所有篇目一律按年代为序进行排列。此外，本书还附有主要人物表、精致的插图、作者简介和由著名翻译家杨宪益先生撰写的序言。

Publisher's Note

Annals of the Eastern Zhou Warring States is a classical novel reflecting the splendid days known as the Warring-States period (770-221 B. C.) in Chinese history. Handed down from generation to generation through folk tales and traditional local operas, the characters and deeds depicted in this work have long been household words throughout the country, exercising a great influence on Chinese life and culture. However, although a few episodes, such as "The Zhao Family Orphan", became popular in the West as soon as they were translated into French as early as in the 18th century, no complete translation, and no English-language version at all, has hitherto appeared.

In order to publicize the cultural heritage of our country and to help foreign friends and our young readers to understand this important period in Chinese history, Mr. Hu Zhihui, the noted translator and writer, has rendered this literary gem into vernacular Chinese and English on the basis of his research over many years. But, as the background of this historical novel is quite complicated, it would be inadequate to translate the novel word for word. Hence, having drawn on the example of *Tales from Shakespeare* by Charles Lamb and *Newly-Compiled Stories from the Warring States* by Lin Handa, Mr. Hu Zhihui decided to represent the original work in English and vernacular Chinese.

Ten of the most interesting stories of *Annals of the Eastern Zhou Warring States* are collected. The stories are arranged in chronological order, with a sketch map of the

Warring States and a list of the main characters and several well-designed illustrations provided in each volume. Besides, with a view to offering our foreign and young readers a better understanding of the historical background of this book and the life of its author, we have also added to the work "About the Author" and "Foreword" by Yang Xianyi, a well-known translator of China.

Publishing House
May 18th, 1997

作者简介

胡志挥，中国作家协会会员，1928年生，浙江省慈溪县人。1949年入上海圣约翰大学，攻读英美文学。1952年毕业后，作为研究生被派往哈尔滨俄专进修俄语，1955年毕业后分配到北京俄语学院教翻译，1960年调至中国科技大学教英语，1962年转入社科院文学研究所工作，曾先后草就《中国文学翻译简史》和《文艺翻译学概论》两书的初稿。

1979年秋，转入外文局《中国文学》英文版工作。1984至1987年，应北京大学的邀请，曾兼课教授汉译英技巧。1988年5月加入中国作家协会。1988年10月至1990年初，应中外文化出版公司的约请，担任特邀译审。这些年来，除编著《中国文学作品英译本索引手册》和中、英文版的《中国现代作家大辞典》外，还先后英译出版过许多古今文学作品，其中篇幅较大的有：《左传》、《中国现代文学史》、《中国军事文学作品选》、《中国现代短篇小说作家自选集》、《中国当代女作家散文选》、《京剧艺术欣赏》和长篇小说《好男好女》、《挚爱在人间》，等等。

About the Author

Hu Zhihui, a well-known translator, writer and professor in China, was born in 1928. Upon graduation in 1952 from the English Department of St. John's University in Shanghai, he taught English at the Beijing Institute of Foreign Languages from 1952-1960 and published many translations from Russian, English and American literature. Eight years later, Professor Hu went to work as an editor at the Institute of Chinese Literature under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, where he published some articles on comparative literature and the theory of translation.

After 1976, he turned to translating and writing in English and published a number of renditions, articles and comments both at home and abroad. Before long, he was transferred to work as a senior translator in the magazine *Chinese Literature*, accomplishing more than 200 titles of English translations from Chinese classical and contemporary works in various genres. In the years 1984 to 1987, he gave lectures on translation at Peking University. During this period, Professor Hu published several monographs, of which the most voluminous are *A Complete Bibliography of the Chinese Literary Works in English*, *A Biographical Dictionary of Modern Chinese Writers*, *An Anthology of Chinese Modern Short Stories* and *History of Modern Chinese Literature*. In October 1988, shortly after becoming a member of the Chinese Writers' Association on account of his great

contributions to the introduction of Chinese literature to the English-speaking world, Professor Hu was invited to work as a part-time language consultant at the Cooperative Publishing Corporation for Chinese and Foreign Culture run by the Association. Through his conscientious efforts the Corporation soon produced many well-received English publications, including *Good Men and Good Women* (a novel by Zhu Xiaoping), *An Anthology of Contemporary Chinese War Fiction*, etc.

Recently, Professor Hu has produced some new works, including *Abiding Love* (a novel by Zhu Lin), *The Stagecraft of Peking Opera* and *Zuo's Commentary*.

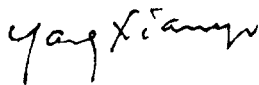
Foreword

China's history began with the Xia dynasty, the Shang dynasty and the Zhou dynasty. This was China's early slave society which started about four thousand years ago and lasted for nearly two thousand years. By the middle of the eighth century B. C. the Zhou dynasty was in decline, and many city states in the Yellow River basin and the Yangtze valley became powerful and independent. These city states waged wars on each other and annexed territories until there were only a few kingdoms left. This epoch in Chinese history is known as the Spring-and-Autumn and Warring States periods (770-221 B. C.). In 221 B. C. the king of Qin conquered all the other states and created a united feudal empire, making himself the first emperor of China; so the Warring States period came to an end. There were many legends and historical anecdotes about the Warring States period handed down through the centuries. They were sung or told by ballad singers and story tellers, and these tales became very popular. During the reign of Emperor Wanli in the Ming dynasty, in the late sixteenth century, a publisher collected these tales told by story-tellers about the Warring States period and published them as a popular novel. It was later revised and re-edited by the scholar Feng Menglong who lived about the same period.

In the eighteenth century it was revised again and published, and this book is the source of these tales. Though in China's long history there are many historical legends, yet

tales from the Warring States period were almost as popular as those from the Three Kingdoms period which were told in an early Chinese novel, *The Romance of Three Kingdoms*. Like the latter, these tales or historical legends of the Warring States period had been dramatised and staged in China since the Yuan and the Ming dynasties. We need only mention one well-known example; In the Yuan dynasty there was a drama called *The Zhao Family Orphan* based on a story of the Warring States period, and this drama is not only still popular in China, it was even translated into French as *L'ophtalin de la Chine* as early as the eighteenth century; so these tales from the Warring States have long aroused great interest in China and abroad.

Mr. Hu Zhihui has worked as a senior translator in the English section of the magazine *Chinese Literature* and been a colleague of mine for many years. Recently, in his spare time, he decided to choose about forty of these Warring States legends and retell them in English. I have seen the rough draft of some dozen of these stories, and I think it well worth presenting them in English. I hope his book will become very popular, so that more readers abroad will be able to enjoy these wonderful legends and learn about our history.



October, 1996

千金一笑

人物表（以在故事中出现先后为序）

宫 涅：宣王死后，成为西周王朝的幽王。

尹吉甫：辅佐太子宫涅的老臣。

召 虎：辅佐太子宫涅的老臣。

申 伯：申后的兄弟。

申 后：幽王之妻，宜臼之母。

姜太后：幽王之母。

虢石父：幽王时代的宰相。

尹 球：幽王时代的大臣。

祭公易：幽王时代的大臣，周军统帅。

赵叔带：正直的大夫。

伯阳父：太史。

褒 珣：正直的大臣，赵叔带的朋友。

褒洪德：褒珣之子。

褒 大：山野村民。

褒 姒：长大成幽王之妻，伯服之母。

宜 臼：幽王和申后的儿子，平定内乱后登基成为周平王。

伯 服：褒姒之子。

吕 章：郑侯大臣。

古里赤：犬戎小将。

索 丁：犬戎将领。

周宣王驾崩后，太子宫涅立即继承王位，成为周幽王（公元前 781 年）。为了永保周朝江山，周宣王早在其病危时，就在病榻前召见尹吉甫和召虎两位大臣，命他们辅佐太子继承大业。

但宫涅自小过惯纨绔子弟的生活，继位不久，就对托孤老臣的劝告置若罔闻。在先王举丧期间，他全无伤悲之心，依然游手好闲，成天和一批酒肉朋友吃吃喝喝，甚至父亲尸骨未寒，他就开始和女人寻欢作乐。

见此情景，申后的哥哥申侯再也忍无可忍，就劝新君要竭尽孝道，但幽王不予理睬。申侯便离开首都镐京，回到自己的封地。不久宫涅的母亲姜太后亦因忧而薨。不久，两位托孤老臣也都相继归天。幽王指派虢石父、尹球和祭公易三位辅佐自己。于是，这帮阿谀奉承的家伙便相互勾结，独霸朝纲。为了满足自己的私欲，他们不择手段迎合新君，陷害忠良。结果朝政败落，到处怨声载道。

有一天，岐山官吏进京禀报，泾、洛及黄河流域同时发生地震。但幽王却微笑说：“区区小事，何必告诉朕。”因此没有采取任何行动。

散朝回家的路上，大夫赵叔带对太史伯阳父说：“君王不问政事，他不但对百姓漠不关心，相反还把国家大事都托付给如虢石父之辈的无耻小人。周朝怕难能长治久安了。”

“是啊，”伯阳父点点头：“长此下去，准会发生大灾大难。”

“我等身为谏官，”赵叔带说，“都得竭尽职责，挺身直言才是。”

但这位老谋深算的太史规劝说：“你的仗义直言后果可畏啊！”

谁知这两位忠臣的对话被一个太监听到了，他立即去向虢石父禀报。虢石父早想把政敌逐个铲除，听到禀报后，便抓住借口，进宫去控告赵叔带和伯阳父散布谣言，中伤君王和朝廷。

幽王说：“朕对他们的批评从不放在心上，真是臭不可闻！”

赵叔带满怀忠义之心，幻想扶助新君，但始终得不到面谏的机会。不久，岐山的官吏再次进京启奏，首都周围的三条大河都已干涸，同时岐山也忽然崩塌，波及无数当地居民的生命财产。

但新君听了依然无动于衷。与此相反，在虢石父的怂恿之下，他还照例命各地官员寻求美色以充后宫。

赵叔带忍无可忍，向新君递奏章说：“高山的崩塌是国家的凶兆，况且岐山是我王朝基石，山崩绝非小事，此时，陛下应多问国事，关心民情，广罗贤能之人，辅佐朝政。只有如此，才能逢凶化吉，国泰民安。但使我不可理解的是陛下不但不广招天下能人，反而在这严峻的时刻，下旨寻觅美色。”

此时，宰相虢石父站出来争辩：“我朝定都丰镐已达数

百年之久，相形之下，岐山犹如所弃的破履。那儿崩塌了，跟我们又有什么关系？”

这时，虢石父的所有追随者，包括大臣尹球和祭公易，都异口同声，硬说国家是史无前例的兴旺昌盛，赵叔带的警告是毫无根据，别有用心。

在亲信的支持下，虢石父继续奏道：“总之，赵叔带久有藐视朝廷之心，他企图以极微之托词来诋毁陛下，恳请君王详察。”

“言之有理，”幽王答道。他面带冷笑，下令将赵叔带革职回乡。

赵叔带步出朝门，对天长叹道：“贤明之人既不进摇摇欲坠的国家，也不应留在毫无法纪的朝廷。”不久，这位被革职的忠臣到了晋国，成为晋国的大臣。

听说赵叔带被贬，一位刚巡视回来的正直的大臣褒珩，急忙上殿恳求国君把放逐的赵叔带召回。他说：“陛下如果一意孤行，社稷一定会因缺少贤臣而面临崩溃的危险。”

幽王闻言大怒，立即下令把褒珩投入天牢。

虽说已从各地征来了大批美女，但幽王仍不满意。他又向全国下达圣旨，如能敬献美女者，一律加封进爵，或偿以重金。清官和平民们看到这张皇榜，无不感到一种无限的愤怒和压抑。

有一天，褒珩的长子褒洪德在去家乡探望老母的路上，路经一座深山中的荒村时，忽然看见一个年轻的姑娘在井旁打水。那少女尽管村束野装，仍婷婷玉立，万分迷

人。他想，父亲入狱已越三载，若得此女奉献天子，定能将功赎罪，使他得到赦免。于是，他打听到了少女的姓名和住址。刚进家门，即告老母。其母闻言大喜，立即命儿前往，不惜重金，要买到这位美貌的少女。褒洪德迅速赶到这座深山小村，只和收养少女的家长简要谈了来意，就以三百匹布帛的代价把少女买回家来。

其实，这个少女原是十四年前一个宫女所生的孤儿。宫中管事的太监不敢隐瞒，便向姜太后作了如实禀报。姜太后认为这女婴是不祥之物，便立即命人偷偷地把她带到城外的荒郊去抛弃。结果这个被丢进芦苇荡的不幸的小生命却浮在水上，随波漂到远处。

次日清晨，有一位年老的樵夫在卖柴的归途中路经京河时，远远望见一群鸟儿叽叽喳喳地在河面打转盘旋。走到河边，他发现一个席包正浮在水面上向岸边漂来。他跑了过去，赶走群鸟，把席包从水中捞起。在松开席包时，忽听哇哇的哭声。打开一瞧，只见一个女婴在刺绣的软缎包裹里啼哭。他立即想到，这个女婴既由群鸟护卫，长大之后定是贵人。又想：“我把她抱回去养育成人，将来也可有个依靠。”于是，他脱下棉衣，把女婴裹在里面，贴在胸口带回家去。

数月后，岐山闹灾，为了换粮充饥，他只得将拾来的女婴向山村的褒大换了一斗小米。褒大的妻子刚死了幼女，见了这个女婴特别高兴。收养下来后，褒大夫妻对她精心抚育。数年后，女孩长大成人，生得十分可爱，起名褒姒。

褒姒十四岁时，身材已经像十六七岁的姑娘。她长得秀目细眉，牙齿洁白如雪，樱嘴红唇，乌亮的秀发，细柔的手指，真是如花似玉，年轻貌美。尽管长得倾城倾国，但因远住深山，她还尚未定亲。

褒洪德把褒姒带回家后，立即命人给她香汤沐浴，穿上绫罗绸缎。此外除了给她香甜可口、营养丰盛的食品，还请人教她宫庭礼仪，唱歌舞蹈。不久，褒洪德把这位美女送到京城。他们又花费了许多金银珠宝贿赂了虢石父，请把以褒姒名义书写的奏章递交给幽王。其文如下：

“褒姒自知罪该万死。但吾儿洪德不忍让我承受这种惩罚，几经寻访，最后终于获得一位名曰褒姒的美女，现敬献君王以期赎罪。万望明主接纳，以赦臣罪。”

幽王闻奏，立即宣召美女上殿。褒姒先向上叩见，然后按宫庭习惯表演了几段舞蹈。幽王目不转睛，不胜倾慕。褒姒确实奇美无比。虽说幽王已见过成千上万的美女，但都不及她万分之一。于是，幽王立即把褒姒悄悄迎入别宫，并不让申后得知。当然，褒姒不仅立即得到赦免，而且还官复原职。但褒姒唯恐再受迫害，就借口身体欠佳，立即随从其子告老还乡。

从此以后，幽王成天和褒姒形影不离，一连十天没有上朝。他还专门为褒姒修了一座名叫琼台的宫殿，并和新纳的妃子寻欢作乐，一连三月从不去光顾申后居住的东宫。

申后怒不可遏。有一天，她携带宫女跨进琼台，这时幽王正和这个年轻貌美的少女联膝而坐。