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前言

《中国文化常识》、《中国历史常识》和《中国地理常识》是由中华人民共和国国务院侨务办公室组织北京华文学院、南京师范大学和安徽师范大学编写的一套汉语教学辅助读物，供海外华裔青少年通过课堂学习或自学的方式了解中国文化、历史、地理常识，同时供家长引导孩子学习使用，在海外反响很好。

近年来，随着中国经济社会的迅速发展和国际影响的不断扩大，海外学习汉语的人数，尤其是非华裔汉语学习者人数大幅度增加。为了进一步适应广大海外汉语学习者了解中国文化的需要，促进中外文化交流，中华人民共和国国务院侨务办公室授权中国国家汉语国际推广领导小组办公室对《中国文化常识》、《中国历史常识》和《中国地理常识》进行改编。

《中国文化常识》、《中国历史常识》和《中国地理常识》改编本是一套面向世界各国汉语学习者的普及型、口语化的文化辅助读物，适用于海外对中国文化和汉语感兴趣的各类人员。在中华人民共和国国务院侨务办公室编写的中英文对照版基础上，此次改编增加了中文与德、法、日、韩、俄、泰、西班牙语、阿拉伯语的对照版本。

中国国家汉语国际推广领导小组办公室委托高等教育出版社对《中国文化常识》、《中国历史常识》和《中国地理常识》进行改编，高等教育出版社对原书的部分内容进行了增删，修订了部分数据，重新遴选和修改了插图，并翻译出版英、德、泰语版本；外语教学与研究出版社翻译出版法、日、韩语版本；华语教学出版社翻译出版俄、西班牙、阿拉伯语版本。此次改编力求在原书强调科学性、思想性和实用性的基础上做进一步创新。希望本系列读物成为您了解中国的窗口，成为您通向汉语世界的桥梁。

此次改编得到了海内外诸多专家、学者和教师的关心与支持，他们提出了许多中肯的建议，在此向他们表示诚挚的谢意。

由于时间所限，书中不免会有疏漏和不当之处，希望使用者和专家学者不吝赐正，以供今后修订时改正。

中国国家汉语国际推广领导小组办公室

2006年11月



Preface

Common Knowledge About Chinese Culture, Common Knowledge About Chinese History and *Common Knowledge About Chinese Geography* are a series of readers initiated by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. The readers were jointly developed by Beijing Chinese Language College, Nanjing Normal University and Anhui Normal University. Serving as teaching aids for learners of Chinese, these readers make the general knowledge of Chinese culture, history and geography accessible to the young generation of overseas Chinese by means of either classroom delivery or self-study. These books are also for parents to help their children with the study. The previous versions of these readers were well received.



In recent years, with the rapid economic and social development in China and the rising of her international status, the world witnesses a phenomenal increase in learners of the Chinese language outside China, especially from non-Chinese ethnic groups. To meet the demand from overseas Chinese learners to better their knowledge about Chinese culture, and to foster cultural exchanges between China and the world, a revision of the above-mentioned readers has been decided by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. They assigned the Office of Chinese Language Council International to work out the new edition of *Common Knowledge About Chinese Culture, Common Knowledge About Chinese History* and *Common Knowledge About Chinese Geography*.

The revised version of *Common Knowledge About Chinese Culture, Common Knowledge About Chinese History* and *Common Knowledge About Chinese Geography* is intended to be a popular edition of learning aid for Chinese culture in a conversational style. These readers make Chinese culture, history and geography more accessible to all people. Based on the original Chinese-English version edited by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, the newly-revised version has kept its bilingual format, only broadening the foreign language coverage to German, French, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Thai, Spanish and Arabic.

The Office of Chinese Language Council International delegates the revision of *Common Knowledge About Chinese Culture, Common Knowledge About Chinese History* and *Common Knowledge About Chinese Geography* to Higher Education Press, who adds and subtracts parts of the original Chinese version with amendments to some data and illustrations. The bilingual versions of Chinese-English, Chinese-German and Chinese-Thai are developed by Higher Education Press. The versions of Chinese-French, Chinese-Japanese and Chinese-Korean are developed by Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press. The Chinese-Russian, Chinese-Spanish and Chinese-Arabic versions are done by Sinolingua. All revisions are meant to be innovative while maintaining the original focus of being accurate, instructive and practical. It is our sincere hope that this series of readers become windows for you to know more about China, and bridges leading you to the world of Chinese.

We would especially like to express our sincere appreciation to many experts, scholars and Chinese teachers both at home and abroad for their pertinent suggestions.

Developed under a tight schedule, the new editions might be blotted with oversights and inappropriateness. We sincerely welcome readers, especially those better versed in the relevant fields to contribute ideas for the correction and future revision of these books.

The Office of Chinese Language Council International
November, 2006

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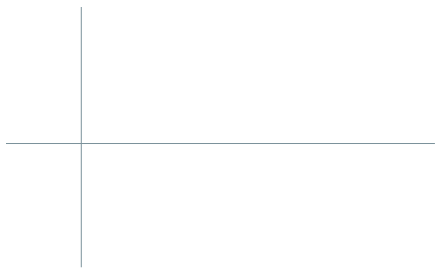
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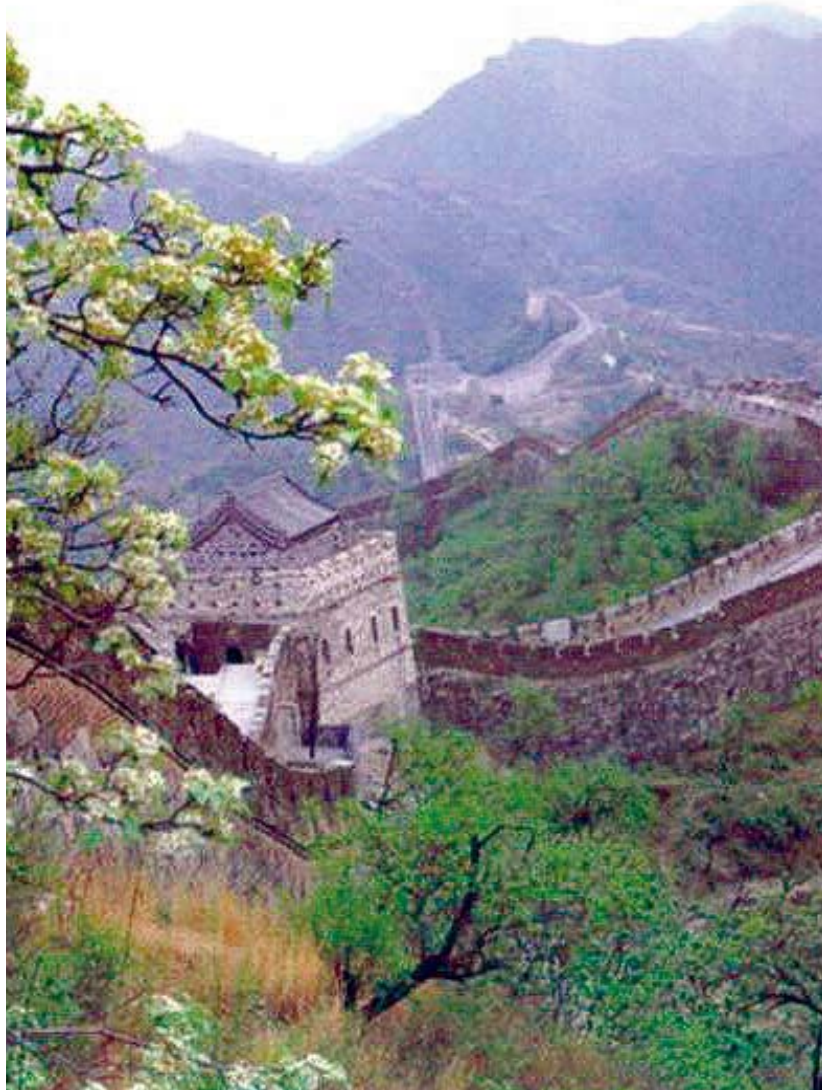
中国古代史

PERIOD BEFORE THE
OPIUM WAR OF 1840



中国历史的开篇—— 先秦

The Dawn of Chinese History —
The Pre-Qin Period



概述

Introduction



“先秦”指的是中国历史上秦始皇统一中国以前的漫长的历史时期。

大约在170万年以前，中国人的祖先就生活在云南的元谋县境内，我们把这作为原始社会的开端。约公元前2070年，中国第一个王朝夏朝建立，其统治时间长达400多年。

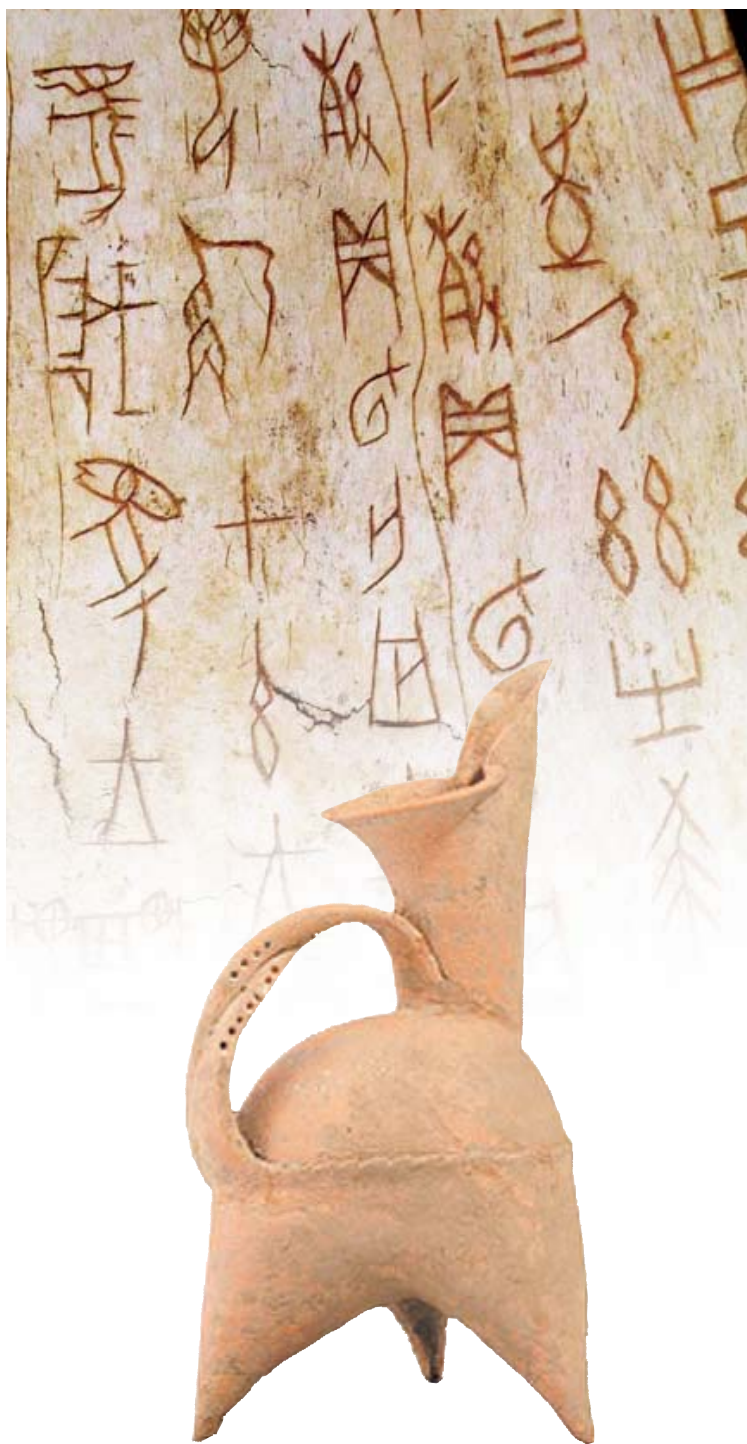
第二个王朝是商朝，也叫殷（Yīn）朝（因为商朝



初年，多次迁都，最后迁到殷——今河南安阳，并在那里统治了300多年）。商朝是当时世界上的一个大国，统治时间长达500多年，留下了甲骨文、青铜器等许多极其珍贵的史料和文物。

第三个统一的王朝是西周，都城在今天的西安。后来西周的都城被少数民族攻占，周王室被迫迁都到今天的洛阳，历史上叫做东周，西周与东周的时间共约800年。东周分为春秋和战国两个时期。春秋时期，国家分裂成许多小国；到了战国时期，形成了7个力量强大的国家，这些国家通过改革进入了封建社会，并为后来秦国的统一打下了基础。

与世界历史对照，当古埃及、古巴比伦、古印度文明发展进步之时，中国正经历文明勃兴的夏、商、西周王朝。当欧洲希腊、罗马城邦国家繁荣之时，正是中国春秋战国思想文化昌盛的时代。东西方文明交相辉映，地中海地区和中国，逐渐形成世界两大文明的中心。



The Dawn of Chinese History — The Pre-Qin Period

Introduction



The pre-Qin period refers to the long period before Emperor Qinshihuang's unification of ancient China.

About 1 700 000 years ago, the ancestors of the Chinese people lived in present-day Yuanmou County, Yunnan Province. This period is now generally considered the beginning of primitive society in China. About 2070 BC, the Xia Dynasty came into being. This was China's first dynasty and it lasted for more than 400 years.

Succeeding the Xia was the Shang Dynasty (also called the Yin Dynasty for changing its capital several times and finally in Yin, today's Anyang city, Henan Province). The Shang Dynasty was a great power in the world which lasted over 500 years. This dynasty bestowed to its posterity a great heritage of artifacts such as extremely precious inscriptions on bones, tortoise shells and bronze wares.

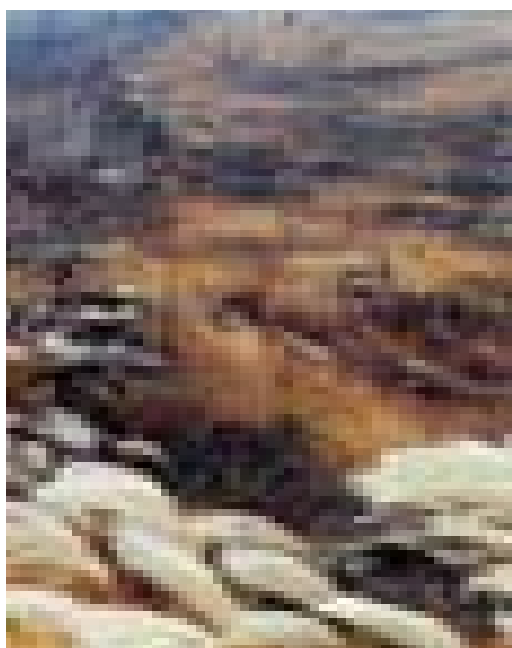




The third kingdom was the Western Zhou Dynasty, with Hao as its capital (today's Xi'an city, Shaanxi Province). Later as its capital fell into the hands of the minority invaders, the Western Zhou had to move its capital eastward to today's Luoyang city, Henan Province, hence called the Eastern Zhou Dynasty. From the Western Zhou to the Eastern Zhou Dynasties, they altogether existed about 800 years. The Eastern Zhou was later divided by historians into distinct periods: the Spring and Autumn Period (770—476 BC) and the Warring States Period (475—221 BC). During the Spring and Autumn Period, China was split into many small rival vassal states. By the time of the Warring States Period, these small states coalesced into seven powerful

bigger states. By way of reforms, these seven states developed into the feudal society, which paved the way for the later unification of China under the Qin Dynasty.

When the ancient Egyptian, Babylonian and Indian civilizations were progressing, the ancient Chinese civilization in the Xia, Shang and Western Zhou dynasties was already in full bloom. When the Greek and Roman city states were in their heyday, the thought and culture of the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods was flourishing in ancient China. With a broad view of the ancient world civilization, one may find that the two stars of civilization — one in the East, the other in the West — were shining at the same time. This gradually developed into two centers of world civilization.



中国境内最早的人类

The Earliest Human Beings in China

元谋人(距今约170万年, 目前中国境内发现的最早的直立人)

Yuanmou Man (dated back to some 1 700 000 years ago, the earliest human beings ever found in China so far)

蓝田人(距今约100万~50万年, 已经完全直立行走)

Lantian Man (dated back to about 1 000 000 and 500 000 years ago, was able to walk upright on 2 feet)

北京人(距今约70万~20万年, 懂得用火和制作、使用石器)

Peking Man (dated back to 700 000 and 200 000 years ago, skilled at making fire, making and using stone tools)

山顶洞人(距今约18 000年, 相貌已经和现代人没有明显区别, “假若给他们穿戴上现代人的服饰和我们站在一起, 谁也不会用奇异的眼光多看他们一眼。”)

Upper Cave Man (dated back to about 18 000 years ago, resembled modern human beings in appearance)

大荔人(距今约30万~20万年, 是由猿人向古人过渡的典型)

Dali Man (dated back to about 200 000 and 300 000 years ago, representative of the transition from apes to ancient man)



中国是世界文明古国, 也是人类的发源地之一。中国到目前为止是世界上发现旧石器时代的人类化石和文化遗址最多的国家, 其中重要的有元谋人、蓝田人、北京人、山顶洞人等。

1987年12月, 发现北京人头盖骨的周口店北京猿人遗址被联合国教科文组织列入世界遗产名录。

The Earliest Human Beings in China

China is not only a country with a long history of ancient civilization, but also one of the birthplaces of the human race throughout the world. China ranks first in the number of human fossils and cultural sites dating from the Paleolithic Period, among which Yuanmou Man, Lantian Man, Peking Man and Upper Cave Man are the most important.

In December 1987, the Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian where Peking Man's crania were found was added to the World Cultural Heritage List by the UNESCO.



小资料 Data

旧石器时代

原始人用石块敲打出来的石器叫打制石器，使用这种石器的时代就叫做旧石器时代。旧石器时代经历了二三百万年，那时人们过着采集和渔猎的生活。

新石器时代

大约从八九千年前开始，原始人已经普遍使用磨制石器。使用磨制石器的时代叫新石器时代。磨制石器更为先进和好用，能够提高原始人的生产水平和生活水平。新石器时代已出现农业和牧业。

The Paleolithic Period

This period is so named in accordance with the stone vessels they used—primitive men used stones to make chipped stone vessels. The Paleolithic Period lasted for two to three million years. People then lived life by picking up wild fruits, hunting and fishing together.

The Neolithic Period

Starting from around 8 000 to 9 000 years ago, primitive people already used new kinds of stone artifacts—artifacts that were ground out rather than chipped, hence the period termed "Neolithic Period". The new stone artifacts were more sophisticated and handier, greatly improving the level of production and life alike. It was during the Neolithic Period that agriculture and animal husbandry appeared.

1	2
3	

1. 北京人头盖骨和元谋人牙齿
The skull of Peking Man and the teeth of Yuanmon Man
2. 山顶洞人头部复原图
A replica of the head of Upper Cave Man
3. 北京人头部复原图
A replica of the head of Peking Man

开天辟地的创世神话

The Great Myth of the Creation of Man in Ancient China



我们人类的祖先究竟是从哪里来的？

据说在很久很久以前，天和地是混沌沌的一团气，像个大鸡蛋。有个叫盘古（Pāngǔ）的人，用巨斧把天地劈开，他站在天地中间，手托着天，脚踩着地，他不断地长高，把天托得越来越高，把地踩得越来越低。这样过了一万八千年，天和地相隔九万里，盘古也成了顶天立地的巨人。盘古死后，他的眼睛变成了太阳和月亮，四肢变成了山脉，血液变成了江河湖海，筋脉变成了道路，肌肉变成了田土，头发和胡须变成了天上的星星，皮肤和汗毛变成了花草树木，牙齿和骨头变成闪光的

金属、坚硬的石头和圆亮的珍珠玉石，他流出的汗水变成了雨露。特别是他身上的许多小虫子，变成了人类。这就是盘古开天地的传说，是中国人世代流传下来的创世神话。

还有很多神话传说是古人根据原始人的生活想像出来的。比如教人在树上造屋的有巢氏（Yǎochāoshì），钻木取火的燧人氏（Suìrénshì），教会人们打猎、发明了“八卦”的伏羲氏（Fúxīshì），种植五谷、品尝百草寻找药材的神农氏等等。他们是远古古人战胜自然、改造自然的象征，是勤劳智慧的古代中国人的代表。

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| 3

1. 神农氏像
A portrait of Shennongshi
2. 伏羲氏像
A portrait of Fuxishi
3. 伏羲六十四卦方圆图
Fuxi's diagram of 64 divinatory symbols



The Great Myth of the Creation of Man in Ancient China

Where were the Chinese ancestors from? Legend has it that a long long time ago, Heaven and Earth were a chaotic gathering of air masses, just like an egg. A man named Pangu axed the Heaven off from the Earth with a huge axe. Standing right in between the Heaven and the Earth, hands holding out the sky, feet stamping on the ground, he grew taller and taller, hence the sky became higher and higher while the ground became lower and lower.

This lasted for 18 000 years. As a result, the Heaven and the Earth were finally driven away from each other to a vast distance of 90 000 li and Pangu became a giant with his head holding up the heaven and his feet stamping on the ground. After his death, his eyes became the Sun and the Moon, his four limbs, the mountains, blood, riv-

ers, lakes and seas, his sinews, the field, his arteries, the roads and ways, his hairs and moustaches, the stars in the sky, his skin and body hairs, flowers, grass and woods, his teeth and bones, the shining metals, hard stones, glittering pearls and precious stones, his sweats, the dews. What is miraculous is that many of the small insects on his body became human beings. This is the legend of Pangu creating the new Heaven and the Earth. This

myth has been passed on generation after generation until our time in China.

Besides Pangu's myth, many more myths were created by our Chinese ancestors by their imagination. For instance, the legend of Youchaoshi who taught people how to make houses on the branches of trees; Suirensi who taught people how to make



fire with wood out of chiseling; Fuxishi who taught people to hunt and invented Eight Trigrams (eight combinations of three whole or broken lines formerly used in divination); Shennongshi who grew foods and looked for medicine herbs by tasting more than a hundred kinds of herbs and grasses. All of them are the embodiment of the wisdom of our ancient conscientious Chinese people, the epitome of the invincible Chinese people who transformed and conquered nature.

