

**AN
OUTLINE
OF
CHINESE
GEOGRAPHY**

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**FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS
PEKING**

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Foreword

China is a vast and populous country with a long history and rich revolutionary traditions.

China's territory is covered with fertile plains, crossed by sprawling mountains and meandering rivers, favoured with a long zigzag coastline, and studded with islands. It has lush and luxuriant forests, a wide range of products and abundant mineral resources. More than 50 fraternal nationalities have lived and worked generation after generation on this vast land of 9.6 million square kilometres and, together, have created a 4,000-year-old history.

Before liberation, under the ruthless exploitation and oppression of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism, China remained a ravaged land full of scars. Life was almost impossible for the people. For long years, political, economic and cultural development was extremely slow.

The Chinese people finally overthrew the rule of the Kuomintang reactionaries after decades of heroic armed struggle under the leadership of Chairman Mao Tsetung and the Chinese Communist Party. On October 1, 1949,

the People's Republic of China was inaugurated. The Chinese people have stood up.

Guided by Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, the Chinese people have, since the birth of the new China, continued the socialist revolution in the political, economic, cultural and ideological fields, and have gone ahead with the rapid development of socialist construction. Since the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution which started in 1966, Chairman Mao's revolutionary line has taken ever firmer root in the people's hearts. The revolutionary spirit of maintaining independence and keeping the initiative in our own hands and relying on our own efforts has been further developed. The 800 million people are in high spirits, and the whole country has taken on a new look. A picture of prosperity is seen everywhere: Fertile fields cultivated as meticulously as in the pace-setting Tachai Production Brigade of Shansi Province dot the landscape. Crude oil from Taching in northeast China flows to various parts of the country. Like glowing pearls, a string of hydro-electric stations has been built along the turbulent Yellow River. Rainbow-like bridges span the imposing Yangtze River, formerly known as a "natural barrier." The various targets set by the Fourth Five-Year Plan for the gross output value of industry and agriculture have been achieved. . . . Rallying closely round the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, the Chinese people are now striving to implement the strategic decision, "grasp the key link of class struggle and bring about great order across the land," consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat and, by the end of this century, make China a great and powerful socialist country with modern agri-

culture, industry, national defence and science and technology.

The present volume is intended to introduce our readers to China's beautiful land and the achievements of the Chinese people in their effort to transform nature and build socialism. It deals briefly with China's administrative divisions, physical features, climate, soils, islands, vegetation and animal life, as well as its industrial and agricultural construction.