

CHINA



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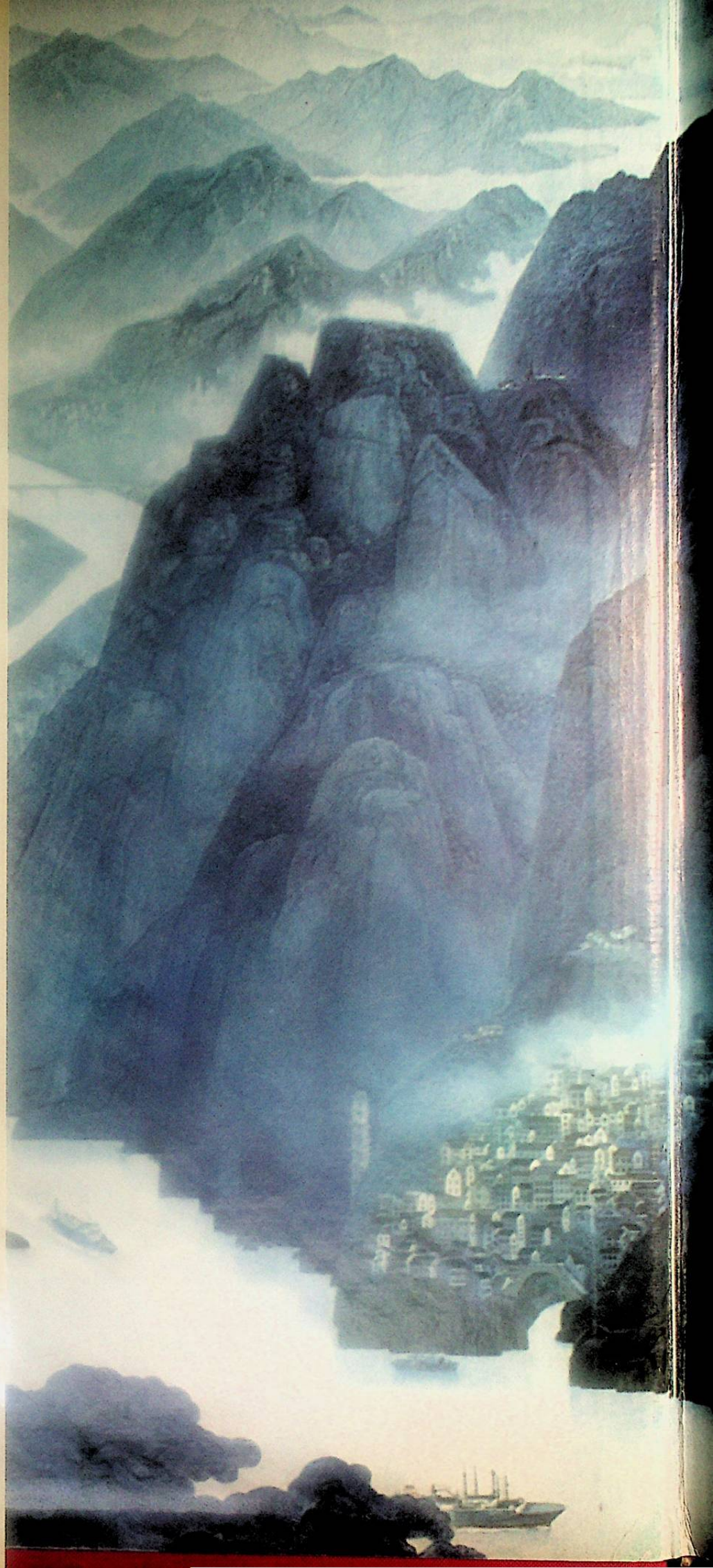
China is a breathtaking and authoritative self-portrait of China, written and illustrated by experts who are themselves Chinese. Unhampered by the cultural barriers or political restrictions which have troubled western sinologists, this remarkable book offers readers unprecedented insights into life in this vast and beautiful land.

Thoroughly documenting and illustrating the most populous country in the world, the book portrays a land of colour and variety completely unlike the bleak image of mass industry and propaganda in a monolithic society which many westerners have come to expect. Each of the major regions is explored, from the deserts of the far west, to the roof of the world in Xinan, Peking, the tropical south-east coast, and the huge industrial area of the north-east. The text is by a team of distinguished authors, each a recognised authority in a specific area, and was carefully translated to be clearly understandable while retaining the distinctive Chinese quality and flavour of the original.

The outstanding feature of the book is its magnificent illustrations. Including some 250 full colour plates, they were selected from about 24,000 photographs taken specially for this project by a team of China's finest young photographers. These pictures capture every aspect of China, its fantastic landscapes and the rich heritage of the longest continuous culture in the world. Readers are offered a look at the finest examples of China's treasures, and a comprehensive journey through this enormous and fascinating country.

The book looks at the kinds of life lived by contemporary Chinese, from sophisticated city dwellers to the natives of remote farming villages, at the daily life of an underwater fisherman at Guangxi and the moose hunters of the icy Xinganling mountains: a mosaic of different nationalities and ethnic groups.

*by Zheng Shifeng, Chu Shaotang, Liu Shuren,
Huang Jiemin, Li Tianren, Lu Xinsian,
Zhang Tianlin, and Chen Youwen*





ca. 2100–ca. 1600 B.C.	Xia (Hsia)
ca. 1600–1122 B.C.	Shang, or Yin
1122–770 B.C.	Western Zhou (Chou)
770–256 B.C.	Eastern Zhou (Chou)
	Spring and Autumn Period 770–476 B.C.
	Warring States Period 475–221 B.C.
	Han, Zhao (Chao), Wei, Yan (Yen), Qi (Ch'i), Chu, Qin (Ch'in)
221–207 B.C.	Qin (Ch'in)
206 B.C.–24 A.D.	Western Han
25–220	Eastern Han
220–280	Period of the Three Kingdoms
	Wei (North) 220–265
	Shu (Sichuan) 221–263
	Wu (South) 222–280
265–316	Western Jin (Chin)
317–420	Eastern Jin (Chin)
386–589	Period of the Southern and Northern Dynasties
	Southern Song (Sung) 420–479
	Southern Qi (Ch'i) 479–502
	Southern Liang 502–557
	Southern Chen 557–589
	Northern Wei 386–534
	Eastern Wei 534–550
	Northern Qi (Ch'i) 550–577
	Western Wei 535–556
	Northern Zhou (Chou) 557–581
581–618	Sui
618–907	Tang
907–979	Period of the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms
	Later Liang 907–923
	Later Tang 923–936
	Later Jin (Chin) 936–946
	Later Han 947–950
	Later Zhou (Chou) 951–960
	Ten Kingdoms 907–979
960–1127	Northern Song (Sung)
1127–1279	Southern Song (Sung)
916–1125	Liao
1115–1234	Jin (Chin)
1271–1368	Yuan, or Mongolian
1368–1644	Ming
1644–1911	Qing, or Manchu (Ch'ing)
	Death of the last Qing emperor, 1967
1912–1949	Republic of China
1949	People's Republic of China

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SHANA

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All Provinces and Autonomous Regions

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Cover:
*The Sleeping Buddha of Dazu. There are
many stone carvings in the county of Dazu,
province of Sichuan, among which the biggest
are the statues of Buddha on the cliffs of the
Baodingshan and Beishan Mountains. This is
the eleventh Buddha on the cliffs of Mount
Baodingshan, and represents the Buddha
passing into Nirvana. Work on the statue,
which is 31 m. (102 ft.) long, began in
1175, the second year in the reign of the
Emperor Chun Xi of the Southern Song
dynasty, and took over seventy years to finish.*