

CHINA HANDBOOK SERIES

HISTORY

Compiled by
the *China Handbook* Editorial Committee

Translated by
Dun J. Li

FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS BEIJING

First Edition 1982

ISBN 0-8351-0985-2

Published by Foreign Languages Press
24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing, China

Printed by Foreign Languages Printing House
19 West Chegongzhuang Road, Beijing, China

Distributed by China Publications Centre (Guoji Shudian)
P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China

Printed in the People's Republic of China

EDITOR'S NOTE

More than 30 years have elapsed since the birth of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949. "What is China really like today?" many people abroad wish to know. To answer this question, we plan to compile and publish a voluminous *China Handbook*, in which we intend to introduce the New China in every field of its activities. Emphasis will be on the process of development during the past three decades, the accomplishments and the problems that still remain. The book will contain accurate statistics and related materials, all of which will be ready references for an interested reader.

To enhance the usefulness of the forthcoming volume, we plan to publish 10 major sections separately at first, so that we shall have an opportunity to take into consideration the opinions of our readers before all the composite parts are put together, revised and published as one volume. These separate sections are:

- Geography
- History
- Politics
- Economy
- Education and Science
- Literature and Art
- Sports and Public Health
- Culture
- Life and Lifestyles

Tourism

Here, we wish particularly to point out the following:

First, the statistics listed in each separate book exclude those of Taiwan, unless otherwise indicated.

Second, the statistics are those compiled up to the end of 1980.

The *China Handbook* Editorial Committee

CONTENTS

Chapter One

EARLY PERIOD (TO 1840)	1
1. Primitive Society	1
2. Slave Society	3
3. Beginning of Feudal Society: Warring States Period	8
4. Growth of Feudal Society: Qin and Han Times	12
5. Grand Union of Nationalities and Economic Development: Three Kingdoms, Two Jins, and Southern and Northern Dynasties	27
6. Apex of Feudal Society: Sui, Tang, and Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms	37
7. Continual Development of Feudal Economy: Liao, Song, Western Xia, Kin and Yuan Dynasties	59
8. Slow Decline of the Feudal System: Ming and Qing Dynasties	75

Chapter Two

MODERN PERIOD (1840-1919)	97
1. Opium War and Taiping Heavenly Kingdom	97
2. "Westernization" Movement, Sino-French War and Sino-Japanese War	109
3. Bourgeois Reform Movement and Yihetuan Movement	118

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 4. Bourgeois Revolution of 1911 and Struggle
Against Northern Warlords | 127 |
| 5. Modern Culture | 134 |

Chapter Three

CONTEMPORARY PERIOD (1919-49)	140
-------------------------------	-----

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. May Fourth Movement, and Establishment
of the Chinese Communist Party | 140 |
| 2. First Revolutionary Civil War | 145 |
| 3. Second Revolutionary Civil War | 154 |
| 4. War of Resistance Against Japan | 166 |
| 5. Third Revolutionary Civil War | 174 |
| 6. Contemporary Culture | 183 |

Appendix:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| Chronological Table of Chinese History | 188 |
|--|-----|

CHINA HANDBOOK SERIES

"What is China really like today?" many people abroad ask. This series answers the question by presenting different aspects of China:

Geography	Education and Science
History	Literature and Art
Politics	Sports and Public Health
Economy	Life and Lifestyles
Culture	Tourism

China is one of the oldest civilizations in the world. The *Yuanmou Man*, whose fossil was discovered in Yuanmou County, Yunnan Province in China's southwest, is approximately 1.7 million years old — the earliest on record in Chinese history. As proved by unearthed materials and other sources that have been certified as reliable, the Shang Dynasty (c. 16th-11th century B.C.) was the first dynasty in China. Outlined in this booklet is China's written history of 3,600 years up to the establishment of the People's Republic. It is hoped that by understanding China's past, the reader will have a better grasp of its present.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS BEIJING CHINA

ISBN 0-8351-0985-2