PREFACE

A Trip to China parallels Intermediate Reader of Modern Chinese (Princeton University Press, 1992) in that both are intended for American college students who have studied one year of Chinese. The two have different foci in their content. Intermediate Reader of Modern Chinese mainly reflects American campus life, whereas A Trip to China discusses Chinese people and current issues in China from the point of view of an American student.

Most Chinese textbooks currently available focus on introducing China, but almost all look at China from a Chinese point of view and thus unavoidably contain a certain degree of nationalism. When introducing China, it seems necessary to extol the greatness of Chinese culture and the magnificence of the Chinese. In this textbook, we attempt to observe the full complexity of Chinese society from the point of view of an American student living in China. We frankly point out the hypocrisy and deceit that can lurk behind Chinese modesty and civility. We also hope to reflect the wide diversity of Chinese society through simple, everyday experiences.

This textbook contains no Chinese historical anecdotes or political propaganda. What it conveys is the China seen by an American student of beginning Chinese. Joy, excitement, perplexity and disappointment are all present. China’s beauty and ugliness are both revealed through analysis, explanation and debate. We believe that the students' interest in learning Chinese is aroused only by reflecting the many facets of Chinese society. If we are sometimes provocative, it is because we believe this is a useful way to engage the language student. We do not intend for this textbook to propagate any ideology or political philosophy.

The last few chapters deal with current social and intellectual concerns important in modern Chinese society. Content thus shifts from daily life to the discussion of issues. The latter portion is designed to prepare students for entry into newspaper or advanced reading classes and leads into one of the following three textbooks all published by Princeton University Press: Newspaper Readings: The USA in the People’s Daily, Advanced Reader of Modern Chinese: China’s Own Critics, and Advanced Reader of Modern Chinese: China’s Peril & Promise.

The text is in two volumes. The first contains lessons with simplified and traditional characters in juxtaposition, written by Chih-p’ing Chou. The second, by Der-lin Chao, contains vocabulary, grammar notes and exercises. Attached in Volume I are two separate vocabulary indexes in Pinyin and English. Volume II contains a sentence pattern index. Additionally, we have prepared audiocassettes for use as supplemental teaching material. The original draft of this book was completed in the summer of 1992 and was used by the Princeton in Beijing summer program from 1993 to 1995. During this time, many other schools have adopted it as their textbook. While trying out the book, many
teachers have offered valuable suggestions about both content and structure. We are unable to thank them individually here.

While writing this textbook, Professor Perry Link has been most encouraging and has provided valuable advice. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to him. At the final stage, our colleagues from the East Asian Studies Department at Princeton University - Hai-t'ao T'ang, Xuedong Wang, Zhiqiang Yu, Ying Wang, Lung-hua Hu and Zhijun Mu - as well as Kai Li of Oberlin College and Professor Qing-fu Liu and Ms. Yijing Ji of Beijing Normal University, all carefully reviewed the text in its entirety and offered suggestions. We especially want to thank them. In addition to offering comments, Joanne Chiang also wrote calligraphy for the cover. We would like to express our deepest gratitude.

Mr. Matthew Roberts, Ms. Helen McCabe, Ms. Kim Nerres-Cooke and Ms. Cindy Wong have reviewed the English in the glossaries, sentence patterns and exercises; without their painstaking efforts, this book could not possibly be published now, and we are very grateful.

Chih-p'ing Chou
Der-lin Chao
December 29, 1995
序

《华夏行》与我们1992年由普林斯顿大学出版社印行的《现代汉语中高级读本》都是为在美国大学学过一年现代汉语的学生而编写的。但在内容上各有不同的着重。《现代汉语中高级读本》主要反映美国大学生的校园生活，而《华夏行》则是透过一个美国学生来谈中国的人与事。

坊间现有的汉语读本大多以介绍中国为主，但几乎全是从中国人的角度来看中国，结果免不了带着一定程度的民族主义色彩；不介绍中国则已，一介绍就必须说中国文化的伟大，中华民族的壮盛。在这本语言教科书里我们试着透过一个美国学生来看中国社会的众生相；我们不客气地指出中国人谦虚客气的背后也往往隐藏着虚伪与狡诈；我们也希望从日常的一些小经验中反映中国社会的多样并存。

在这本教科书里既没有“草船借箭”、“牛郎织女”这类历史故事，也没有“八路军”、“天安门”的政治宣传。这本教科书所体现的是一个初学汉语的美国学生所看到的中国社会。这里有他的喜悦，他的兴奋，也有他的迷惘和失望。中国的可爱和丑陋都有部分的俗露。其中有分析、解释和辩论，但我们也不否认有些是个人的偏见和好恶。我们相信只有多方面的反映中国社会才能引发学生学习汉语的兴趣。

本书的最后几课介绍了一些近年来中国人比较关心的议题，课文的内容从日常生活进到了问题的讨论。这一部份是为了学完后读报和进入高级读本所作的准备工作，和普林斯顿大学所出《人民日报笔下的美国》与《现代汉语高级读本：中国知识份子的自省》与《现代汉语高级读本：中国的危机与希望》三本教科书是前后衔接的。

这本教科书的写定，依旧是本着我们多年来的原则：内容为语言服务。我们丝毫无意借着这本教科书的印行来传达任何的意识形态或政治思想。我们除了为学习中文的学生服务以外，是不为任何其他制度或思想服务的。
本书分两册。第一册是由周质平所写的课文，采繁简两体并列方式。第二册是由赵德麟所编的生词、句型和练习。在第一册课文之后，我们编了两个索引。第一个是汉语拼音索引，第二个是英文索引。此外，我们录制了录音带作为辅助教材。本书初稿成于1992年夏天，过去三年来在普林斯顿大学北京汉语短训班试用。其间也有不少学校采用本书作为教材。试用期间许多老师都对本书内容和结构提出了宝贵的意见，我们无法在此一一道谢了。

本书在编写过程中，普林斯顿大学东亚系的林培瑞教授对我们多方协助，我们非常感激。在定稿的阶段，中文组的同事：唐海涛、王学东、俞志强、王颖、胡龙华、牧之筠诸位老师和奥柏林学院的李恺老师，北京师范大学的刘庆福教授和季益静老师都曾仔细看过全文提出意见，我们要特别向他们致谢。杨玫老师除了为本书提出改正意见以外，并为本书题字，在此表示我们感谢之忱。

普大中国语文教研室的Matt Roberts、Helen McCabe、Kim Nerres-Cooke和Cindy Wong作了许多校改、输入和编定索引的工作，没有他们的努力，这本书是不可能在此时出版的，我们在此深致谢忱。

周质平   赵德麟

一九九五年十二月二十九日