序

中国最近几年的变化可以说是日新月异。普林斯顿大学对外汉语教研室继《现代汉语中级读本》（1992）、《华夏行》（1995）、《中国啊！中国》（1997）等中级读本之后，编写《新的中国》，正是为了适应这一快速的改变。

《新的中国》所体现的，依旧是一个外国学生初到中国时的一些观察和体会，而所介绍的内容和词汇则不出一个留学生的生活日用。《华夏行》所反映的是八十年代初期的中国社会，作者经常拿中国和西方比较。在《新的中国》里，作者不再作中西比较，而是拿当今的中国与改革开放之前的中国比较。在中西比较中，我们看到许多中国不能令人满意的地方；但是在当今和先前的比较中，我们发现中国近二十年来有飞跃的进步，而这个进步也缩小了中西的差距。
《新的中国》正是在这个基础上编写出来的一本对外汉语中级读本。和《华夏行》比较，《新的中国》少了一点批评，多了一份“同情的了解”。
在美国对外汉语教学界纷纷编写“商周汉语”读本的今天，我们推出这本一般性的中级读本，也许有其不合时宜的地方。但是我们相信，语文的训练必须从一般的基础入手，所谓“一般”，在内容上指的是生活日用；在结构上，指的是发音和基本语法句构的掌握。《新的中国》特别着重这些基础的训练。

《新的中国》一如我们先前所出的读本，每一课的课文尽量作到不只是简单的叙述或对话，而是在叙述或对话中夹着作者的意见。我们希望能借此引发学生学习和讨论的兴趣。

《新的中国》初稿完成于1997年夏天，1998年我们在普林斯顿大学北京汉语培训班试用，效果很好，并根据老师学生的意见，作了一些增删。在课文的编排上，还是繁简并列，但在词汇的安排上，为了便于学生使用，我们首次采用与本文同页互见的方式。这是形式上的一大改进。与前几期出课本比较，练习部分增添了新形式，当有助于实际教学。

本书课文由周质平撰写，词汇、句型和练习是由杨玫、张家惠编写的。
本书之成要特别向 Matthew Eagar 先生和 Kara Wortman, Jennifer Hunt, Robin Workman 三位小姐致谢，他们仔细校看了本书的英文部分，改正了错误。Matthew 并设计了封面，使本书大为增色。普大的同事夏岩、蒋冕华、安延明、戴晓雪四位老师，在最后定稿阶段，参加讨论，提供了许多宝贵意见，在此一并致谢。当然书中若有任何错误或不妥的地方，完全是作者的责任。

周质平、杨玫、张家惠

1999年2月28日
Preface

China has experienced rapid changes over the past two decades. The Chinese Language Program at Princeton University is publishing *A New China* to supplement previous textbooks and provide up-to-date material on the changing face of China.

Like some earlier textbooks in our series, *A New China* is written from the perspective of a foreign student who has just arrived in China. Its predecessor *A Trip to China* reflects Chinese society in the early 1980s and compares China to the Western world. In *A New China*, we no longer compare China to the West, but rather compare contemporary China to its pre-reform eras. When we compared China and the West, we found it inevitable that China fell short in many respects. In our comparison between contemporary and pre-reform China, however, we have found great improvements in Chinese society in the recent decade. These improvements have in fact narrowed the gap between China and the western world.

Nowadays in the field of Chinese language instruction in the U. S., it has become very popular to publish textbooks in “business Chinese.” We insist, however, that providing a solid foundation in grammar and pronunciation is more essential than teaching vocabulary geared toward specific usage.

As we have done in previous textbooks, we have made every effort in *A New China* to fill each lesson not only with mere description and
dialogue, but also with the authors' viewpoints. We hope this will provoke discussion and will inspire students' interest in Chinese.

The draft of A New China was written in the summer of 1997 and was field-tested at the 1998 session of Princeton in Beijing summer intensive language program. The book was well received by students. As in previous textbooks, we have included both traditional and simplified versions of the text. For the first time, however, we have included vocabulary on the same page as the text. This change should make the book more convenient for students. We have also added several new exercises.

We would sincerely like to thank Matthew Eagar, Kara Wortman, Jennifer Hunt, and Robin Workman, who have taken pains to edit the English glossary and grammar notes. Their efforts have greatly improved the English portions of this book. Matthew also designed the cover which has significantly enhanced the presentation of this text. We would also like to extend thanks to our colleagues, Xia Yan, Chiang Mien-hwa, An Yanming, and Dai Xiaoaxue, who have made valuable suggestions for the final revision of the textbook. Any errors are strictly the responsibility of the authors.

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