

<<上海传奇>>

图书基本信息

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## 内容概要

In modern times , Shanghai is like an infant nurtured by both Chinese traditional culture and the process of urbanization. The adventures it has experienced eventually develop into impressive and memorable stories which are stunning with mixed feelings on the stage of modern China. Before Shanghai was forced to be opened , it was an ordinary coastal county in east China. Residents in Shanghai lived a self-sufficient life. They cultivated rice and wove cotton. As other cities on the Yangtze delta , the county had to pay a heavy tax placed by the imperial court. It enjoyed a small fame as a transshipment port for the sea trade between north and south China , but it had yet displayed the talents and advantages for doing long-distance sea trade. After 1843 , Shanghai was forced to be opened to the world. In less than one hundred years , a fundamental reform happened on this piece of tiny land. It suddenly changed identity as the first modern city in China and a well known metropolitan city in the Far East area. The cultural miracles created by Shanghai raised interests of the complete world. This book tells the legends on how kindling of western civilizations was introduced into the foreign settlements in Shanghai during Late Qing period. Based on abundant historical resources and visual tools , author of the book repeats the legends with an easy plain language. A familiar but exotic world gradually manifests in front of the readers: foreign settlement , Shanghai Municipal Council , Shanghai Town Hall , the mixed court , title deed , modern street , gas , waterworks , electric light , telegraph , tram and trolleybus , train , public garden , racecourse , newspaper , library , cinema , western orchestra and band , and etc. These legends provide answers to the question how modern Shanghai is established. They record the historical moments on the transformation of Shanghai from a local county to a metropolitan city and display the cultural enchantment during the city's development. As a symbol of modern culture , Shanghai not only represents the lower Yangtze region , the Yangtze River , east China and the whole nation , but also belongs to East Asia , Asia , the Pacific and the world.

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