

Books of Modern China



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Books, as carriers of ideas and knowledge, come shoulder to shoulder with the times. When book publishing in Modern China is studied against the backdrop of radical changes in the modern society, the struggle between China and the West, the old and the new, is uncovered. Topics such as national salvation and revitalization are deeply imprinted with the era. While transitions between engraving and lead printing, horizontal and vertical type setting, embody the uniqueness of the historical stages they were in.

At the same time, China's modern publishing industry itself also went through inception, development, prosperity, and fall in the modern society. During this period, political forces, social groups, and private organizations dominated the sector, giving birth to a number of noted publishing agencies, including The Commercial Press, Zhonghua Book Company, World Publishing House, and Kaiming Book Company as well as influential professionals such as Zhang Yuanji, Wang Yunwu, Gao Mengdan, and Lubi Kui. They together contributed huge to meeting Chinese people's thirst for politics, economy and education... Therefore, as storytellers of the history of Modern China, these books are an indispensable material for the study on modern history.

Politics, Economics & Law Books



Speech on Political Economics Translated by Zhang Zhongshi. Shenghuo Publishing House, 1938 edition.



Interpretation of the Publishing Law Written and compiled by Shao Zumin. World Publishing House, 1931 edition.

Children's Books and Textbooks



History Textbook for Higher Primary School Compiled by Fan Zuocheng. Zhonghua Book Company, first edition in 1937.



Chinese Textbook for Junior School Compiled by Sun Nuchao. Zhonghua Book Company, first edition in 1934.

图 Fate in Tears and Laughter Heart

Written by Zhang Henshui. Sanyou Publishing House, first edition in 1931.

Bestsellers



Panghuang Written by Lu Xun. Beixin Book Company, sixth edition in 1928.

Communist Publications



Public Philosophy Written by Ai Siqi.
Dushu Shenghuo Publishing House, 1939 edition.



The Communist Manifesto Co-authored by Marx and Engels. Liberation Press, 1949 edition.

A History of Socialist Thought Written by Tao Dayong.

Joint Publishing Company, 1949 edition.

Contemporary Biographies

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Social Scientists and Social Activists Compiled by Liu Bingli.
Zhonghua Book Company, 1931 edition.

社會科學家與社會運動第



Lu Xun Biography Written by Wang Shijing. Xinzhi Publishing House, 1948 edition.





Book Series

World Library
Compiled by Zheng Zhenduo.
Published by Shenghuo Publishing House
in 1935.

Universal Library Compiled by Wang Yunwu. Published by The Commercial Press in 1929.

Lifestyle Books



Tour Guide to Hangzhou West Lake Compiled by Lubi Zhi. Zhonghua Book Company, 1929 edition.



Daily Hygiene Compiled by Sun Zuo. The Commercial Press, 1916 edition.



Guide to Shanghai Compiled by Xu Wancheng. Guoguang Publishing House, 1938 edition.



Books of Modern China (1840~1949)

Honoring the vast collections of Shanghai Library, CNBKSY has compiled and built the *Books of Modern China (1840~1949)*. Among the over 120,000 books collected, many are rare books exclusive to Shanghai Library, which indicates great historical value worth holistic academic research.

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Books, newspapers and periodicals are the three pillars for literature and historical research, each with unique characteristics and functions, as well as varied narrative of historical events. While on the platform of CNBKSY, one-stop search across over 20,000 periodicals, 1,000 newspapers and 120,000 books published in Modern China is made available.

Visualization of Digital Humanities

Leveraging the research achievements of the digital humanities team of Shanghai Library, the database is connected to the general knowledge base (people, places, time, etc.) which makes map search and edition clustering possible. The system also supports data interactions with other service platforms of Shanghai Library, such as Name Authority Database, where more detailed introduction and related resources are available.

• Full-text Searchable

The database will be enabled with full-text search, allowing readers to search by title, author, publisher, keywords, and full text. In this way, more search results can be accurately located and highlighted, to make better use of precious library collections.







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