

<<房龙地理>>

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内容概要

在20世纪的历史学家和科普作家中，房龙不仅素以多才多艺、学识渊博著称，行文汪洋恣肆，辞采丰赡，而且始终以敏锐的目光和深邃的洞察力思考着人类生存与发展的本质问题，以真理之光和宽广的胸怀启迪和滋养着读者的心智。

可以说，房龙是少数几位能够站在人文主义的立场审视全人类的历史与文化的思想家。

郁达夫曾评价说：“房龙的笔，有一种魅力……无论大人孩子，读他的书，都娓娓忘倦了。

”著名学者曹聚仁也评价说，房龙的书，“这50年中，我总是看了又看，除了《儒林外史》、《红楼梦》，没有其他的书这么吸引我了。

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作者简介

亨德里克·威廉·房龙（Hendrik Willem Van Loon 1882--1944），荷裔美国人，著名学者。1882年出生在荷兰，他是出色的通俗作家，在历史、文化、文明、科学等方面都有著作，而且读者众多，他是伟大的文化普及者，大师级的人物。
作家，历史地理学家。

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章节摘录

插图：Rain is merely evaporated water from the oceans and from the inland seas and from the inland snow-fields, which is carried along by the air in the form of vapor. As hot air can hold much more vapor than cold air, the water-vapor will be carried along without much difficulty until the air grows colder. Then part of it gets condensed and falls back again upon the surface of the earth in the form of rain or hail or snow. The rainfall of any given region therefore will depend almost entirely upon the winds to which it is exposed. If we have a sea-coast separated from the mainland by mountains (a very common occurrence) the coastal region will be wet and damp. For the wind, being forced to rise into higher regions (where the pressure is lower) , will cool off as it gets further and further away from the sea-level and it will shed its vapor in the form of rain and snow and will reappear on the other side of the mountain range as a dry wind without a drop of moisture. The rainfall of the tropics is both regular and abundant because the enormous heat of the land makes the air rise to a great height, where it gets cooled off and is obliged to let go of most of its vapor, which thereupon returns to earth in the form of heavy sheets of rain. But as the sun does not always stand right over the equator, but moves slightly from north to south, most of the equatorial regions enjoy four seasons, two seasons during which there are terrific rain storms and two seasons during which the weather is dry. But those regions which are exposed to steady air-currents running from colder to warmer regions are by far the worst off. For as the wind passes from the cold area to the hot one, their capacity for absorption becomes steadily greater and they are unable to release the vapor they carry - causing many parts of this earth to be turned into deserts where it may not rain more than once or twice every ten years. So much for the general subject of wind and rain. A detailed discussion will follow when we describe each individual country.

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编辑推荐

《房龙地理(英文彩绘本)(套装共2册)》以方位、大视角审视几千年来人类为生存而进行的斗争。房龙生当乱世，他始终关注的一个问题便是各种文明之间如何才能破除此疆彼界，达到相互的宽容与理解。

GENERALLY SPEAKING, I have paid more attention to the purely "human" side of geography than to the commercial problems which are held to be of such great importance in a day and age devoted to mass production. But experience has taught me that no matter how eloquent you wax upon the subject of importing and exporting, and the output of coal mines and oil reservoirs and bank deposits, you will never be able to tell your reader something which he can remember from one page to the next. Whenever he has need of such figures he will be obliged to look them up once more and verify them with the help of a dozen contradictory handbooks on commercial statistics. Man comes first in this geography. His physical environment and background come next. The rest is given whatever space remains. It is in relation to us as human beings that Hendrik Van Loon now explores the cracked and wrinkled face of old Mother Earth. This book contains no statistics about the important export of raw cotton and canned kangaroo tails. It is packed full of information, but only that information that has something to do with us, as inhabitants of this sphere we call home. The discovery of a trade route, the slant of a mountain range, the curve of a river valley: we all know vaguely that these have enormous power to influence lives and fortunes. Now, for the first time, the fascinating story of these things and what they mean to us is set down in text and pictures. Through the analogy of handkerchiefs, one learns what is happening to the surface of the earth. A plate of soup helps to understand air currents. Under your eyes the course of the Gulf Stream turns into an enthralling story, and the central Spanish plateau is reconstructed in imagination by means of your soup plate, two saucers, and a spoon. A Dutch-American historian and journalist. Born in Rotterdam, he went to the United States in 1903 to study at Cornell University. From the 1910s until his death, Van Loon wrote many books, illustrating them himself. Most widely known among these is *The Story of Mankind*, a history of the world especially for children, which won the first Newbery Medal in 1922. The book was later updated by Van Loon and has continued to be updated, first by his son and later by other historians. However, he also wrote many other very popular books aimed at young adults. As a writer he was known for emphasizing crucial historical events and giving a complete picture of individual characters, as well as the role of the arts in history. He also had an informal and thought-provoking style which, particularly in *The Story of Mankind*, included personal anecdotes.

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