

03.29-Pingyao

Pingyao

In banking's shadow

A former financial **hub** now begs for the **patronage** of tourists
Oct 18th 2014 | From the print edition

Vocab

1. **hub** n. the central and most important part of a particular place or activity (某地或活动的) 中心, 核心

e.g. the commercial hub of the city 城市的商业中心

2. **patronage** n. 资助; 赞助 **Patronage** is the support and money given by someone to a person or a group such as a charity.

e.g. The Vevey Festival was founded 12 years ago under the **patronage** of Oona Chaplin. 沃韦喜剧电影节是12年前在乌娜·卓别麟的赞助下设立的。

ITALIAN cities such as Florence and Venice have long made a **mint** from the **architectural wonders** built when they were financial centres. China has been slower to capitalise on the physical remains of past commercial glory in Pingyao, an urban backwater in inland Shanxi province, which was China's banking hub in the 19th century. Today tourists flock to the walled city, with its unusually **well-preserved** houses built between the 17th and 19th centuries. But restoring its former wealth remains **elusive**.

Vocab

1. **mint** n. 巨额钱财 If you say that someone makes a **a mint**, you mean that they make a very large amount of money.

e.g. They were worth a **mint**. 它们价值不菲。

2. **architectural** adj. 建筑学的; 建筑上的 **Architectural** means relating to the design and construction of buildings.

3. **wonder** n. =**marvel** something that fills you with surprise and admiration 奇迹; 奇观; 奇事; 奇妙之处

e.g. the **Seven Wonders of the World** (= the seven most impressive structures of the ancient world) 世界七大奇观

4. **capitalize on** v. =**take advantage of sth** **PHR V** 'capitalize on/ upon sth to gain a further advantage for yourself from a situation 充分利用; 从...中获得更多的好处

e.g. The team failed to capitalize on their early lead. 这个队未能充分利用开场初期领先的优势

5. **backwater** n. 闭塞的地方; 与世隔绝的地方 A **backwater** is a place that is isolated.

6. **well-preserved** adj. (物件或建筑)保存良好的 A **well-preserved** object or building does not show any signs of its age.

e.g. Although many of the stones have fallen out, the monument remains very well preserved. 尽管许多石头都已经掉下来了, 那个纪念碑仍保存良好。

7. **elusive** n. 难以得到的; 难以描述的; 想不起来的; 难以实现的 Something or someone that is **elusive** is difficult to find, describe, remember, or achieve.

e.g. In London late-night taxis are **elusive** and far from cheap. 在伦敦, 深夜时难以打到出租车,

而且车费非常贵。

Sentence

China has been slower to capitalise on the physical remains of past commercial glory in Pingyao, an urban backwater in inland Shanxi province, which was China's banking hub in the 19th century.

主干: China has been slower to capitalise

an urban backwater in inland Shanxi province 这句是 Pingyao 的同位语, 解释 Pingyao
which was China's banking hub in the 19th century. 非限定性定语从句, 先行词是 Pingyao

The most-visited attraction in modern Pingyao is the Rishengchang **Draft Bank**, which in 1823 became the first in China to issue **cheques**. The city lay on the path of a **lucrative** trade route. The bank's manager **spied** a business opportunity when he saw silver shipments passing each other in opposite direction. He replaced pricey security, wagons and pack animals with a clearing house.

Vocab

1. draft bank n. 票号

2. cheque n. **US=check** a printed form that you can write on and sign as a way of paying for sth instead of using money 支票

3. lucrative adj. 获利多的; 赚大钱的 A **lucrative** activity, job, or business deal is very profitable.
e.g. a **lucrative business** / **contract** / **market** 利润丰厚的生意/合同/市场

4. spy v. to suddenly see or notice sb/ sth 突然看见; 发现

e.g. In the distance we spied the Pacific for the first time. 在远处, 我们突然第一次看到了太平洋。

Sentence

He replaced pricey security, wagons and pack animals with a clearing house.

主干: He replaced pricey security...

with a clearing house. 这里的 with 意思是 using sth 用; 使用; 以; 藉

e.g. It is treated with acid before being analysed. 对它先用酸处理再进行分析。

The bank **spawned** around 50 competitors across Shanxi (nearly half in Pingyao) with hundreds of branches across the empire. At the time Chinese bankers were held in lower **esteem** than **peasants** and tradesmen. They tried to keep staff honest by making them pledge their homes and even to **surrender** their families as slaves if they committed fraud; investors had no control over the banks' daily operations.

Vocab

1. spawn v. 产生; 造成; 引起 If something **spawns** something else, it causes it to happen or to be created.

e.g. Tyndall's inspired work **spawned** a whole new branch of science... 由廷德尔富有创见的著作发展出了一个崭新的科学分支。

2. esteem n. great respect and admiration; a good opinion of sb 尊重; 敬重; 好评
e.g. She is **held in high esteem** by her colleagues. 她深受同事们的敬重。

3. peasant n. (especially in the past, or in poorer countries) a farmer who owns or rents a small piece of land (尤指昔日或贫穷国家的) 农民, 小农, 佃农

e.g. peasant farmers 个体农民

4. surrender v. ~ (yourself) (to sb) to admit that you have been defeated and want to

stop fighting; to allow yourself to be caught, taken prisoner, etc. 投降

Sentence

They tried to keep staff honest by making them pledge their homes and even to surrender their families as slaves if they committed fraud; investors had no control over the banks' daily operations.

主干: They tried to keep staff honest

by making them pledge their homes and even to surrender their families as slaves 这里的 by 是通过...的方法

But it was not the staff that did for the banks. They collapsed soon after the Qing dynasty's **demise** in 1911. The government withdrew its remittance business, currency unification removed the need for the silver trade between cities and competition grew from modern banks.

Vocab

1. **demise** n. 终止;消亡;死亡 The **demise** of something or someone is their end or death.

e.g. ...the **demise** of the reform movement...改革运动的消亡

2. **remittance** n. =**payment** the act of sending money to sb in order to pay for sth 汇付; 汇款

e.g. Remittance can be made by cheque or credit card. 可通过支票或信用卡汇款。

3. **unification** n. 合一; 联合; 统一 **Unification** is the process by which two or more countries join together and become one country.

e.g. ...the process of general European **unification**. 欧洲一体化进程

Sentence

The government withdrew its remittance business, currency unification removed the need for the silver trade between cities and competition grew from modern banks.

这里三个并列句

主干: The government **withdrew** its remittance business

逗号在这里起到 and 的作用 currency unification **removed** the need for the silver trade between cities 谓语 removed

and competition **grew** from modern banks. 谓语 grew

Pingyao's **ensuing** poverty proved to be its **saviour**. Its **picturesque** grid of traditional **imperial** houses survived when most elsewhere **succumbed** to Mao's **hatred** of the old and his **successors'** love of the new. Now it has **reinvented** itself. Around 1.5m people visited Pingyao in 2013, up from around 50,000 in 1997 when UNESCO named it a **world heritage site**.

Vocab

1. **ensuing** adj. 接着发生的;接踵而来的;随之产生的 **Ensuing** events happen immediately after other events.

2. **saviour** n. 救助者;拯救者;救星 A **saviour** is a person who saves someone or something from danger, ruin, or defeat.

e.g. She regarded him as her **saviour**. 她将他当成自己的救星。

3. **picturesque** adj. =**quaint** pretty, especially in a way that looks old-fashioned 优美的; 古色古香的

e.g. a picturesque cottage/ setting/ village 画儿一般的小屋/环境/村落

4. **imperial** adj. connected with an empire 帝国的; 皇帝的

- e.g. the imperial family/ palace/ army 皇室家族；皇宫；皇家陆军
5. **succumb** v. to not be able to fight an attack, an illness, a **temptation**, etc. 屈服；屈从；抵挡不住（攻击、疾病、诱惑等）
- e.g. The town succumbed after a short siege. 该城被围困不久即告失守。
6. **hatred** n. 仇恨；憎恶；敌意 **Hatred** is an extremely strong feeling of dislike for someone or something.
- e.g. My **hatred** for her is so intense it seems to be destroying me...我对她恨之入骨，都快要无法自拔了。
7. **successor** n. 接任者；继承者 Someone's **successor** is the person who takes their job after they have left.
- e.g. Their latest release is a **worthy successor** to their popular debut album. 继首张唱片大受欢迎之后，他们最新推出的专辑再获成功。
8. **reinvent** v. 彻底改变；改造 To **reinvent** something means to change it so that it seems different and new.
- e.g. They have tried to **reinvent** their retail stores...他们一直在尝试改造他们的零售店。
9. **world heritage site** n. a natural or **man-made** place that is recognized as having great international importance and is therefore protected 世界遗产保护区

Hope that the streets would again be lined with silver are **overblown**. The benefits of the tourist boom are spread only narrowly. A small, **spruced-up** central area **thrums** with visitors enjoying the curved **rooftops**, traditional **façades**, red lanterns and, strangely, Mao **memorabilia**. Beyond the centre, many streets look like **slums**: roofs **slump**, walls are **crumbling** and waste is carried away by a horse rather than **sewers**. Few can afford to fix up their homes, even with financial support from the government and the California-based Global Heritage Fund, a charity that is helping to preserve some of China's historical sites.

Vocab

1. **overblown** adj. 夸张的；过分的；夸大其词的 Something that is **overblown** makes something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it really is.
- e.g. Warnings of disaster may be **overblown**...灾害预警有被夸大的可能。
2. **spruce up** 装扮；打扮 If something **is spruced up**, its appearance is improved. If someone **is spruced up**, they have made themselves look very smart.
- e.g. Many buildings have been **spruced up**...很多大楼都被装扮一新。
3. **thrum** v. (机器、引擎)嗡嗡响，发出沉闷声 When something such as a machine or engine **thrums**, it makes a low beating sound.
- e.g. My head was going **thrum thrum thrum**. 我的脑袋嗡嗡作响。
4. **rooftop** n. the outside part of the roof of a building 屋顶外部；外屋顶
- e.g. From the hill we looked out over the rooftops of Athens. 我们从山上眺望雅典建筑的顶部。
5. **façade** n. (尤指大型建筑物的)正面，临街的一面 The **façade** of a building, especially a large one, is its front wall or the wall that faces the street.
6. **memorabilia** n. (与某人或某组织相关的)收藏品，纪念品 **Memorabilia** are things that you collect because they are connected with a person or organization in which you are interested.
7. **slum** n. 贫民区；贫民窟 A **slum** is an area of a city where living conditions are very bad and where the houses are in bad condition.
- e.g. ...inner-city **slums** in the old cities of the north and east. 北部和东部老城市里的市中心贫民区

8. **slump** v. to sit or fall down heavily 重重地坐下 (或倒下)

e.g. She slumped to her knees. 她扑通一声跪倒在地。

9. **crumble** v. if a building or piece of land is **crumbling**, parts of it are breaking off 坍塌; 损坏; 崩裂

e.g. The cliff is gradually crumbling away. 峭壁正在逐渐崩坍。

10. **sewer** n. 污水管; 下水道; 阴沟 A **sewer** is a large underground channel that carries waste matter and rain water away, usually to a place where it is treated and made harmless.

e.g. ...the city's **sewer system**. 城市排水系统

Sentence

Few can afford to fix up their homes, even with financial support from the government and the California-based Global Heritage Fund, a charity that is helping to preserve some of China's historical sites.

主干: Few can afford to fix up their homes

even with financial support from the government and the California-based Global Heritage Fund 这是一个并列短语, 非从句, even with A from C and D

a charity that is helping to preserve some of China's historical sites. 这是对 GHF 的解释, a charity 然后加上了一个定语从句, 解释这个 charity

To **declutter** the town, four-fifths of the city's population have been moved outside the city walls since 1997. But the new town's hotels and karaoke halls are often empty. A high-speed rail link that opened in July running from the nearby provincial capital, Taiyuan, to Xi'an (home of the crowd-pulling **Terracotta Army**) should **draw** the crowds. But ease of access also means ease of retreat: most **sightseers** come only for the day. Making money from moving people around China may prove harder than profiting from the movement of silver.

Vocab

1. **de-clutter** 连一起没办法解释意思, 单个来查:

de- removing sth 除掉; 去掉; 取消 .**PREFIX** 前缀 (加在名词之前构成动词)表示“除去”, “除掉” **De-** is added to a noun in order to make it a verb referring to the removal of the thing described by the noun.

e.g. I've defrosted the freezer...我已经给冷冻柜除过霜了。

clutter n. (尤指没用或不需要的)杂乱的东西 **Clutter** is a lot of things in an untidy state, especially things that are not useful or necessary.

2. **Terracotta Army** n. (秦始皇) 兵马俑

3. **draw** v. ~ **sb (to sth)** to attract or interest sb 吸引; 招引; 使感兴趣

e.g. The movie is drawing large audiences. 这部影片吸引着大批观众。

4. **sightseer** n. 观光客; 游客 A **sightseer** is someone who is travelling around visiting the interesting places that tourists usually visit.

e.g. ...coachloads of **sightseers**. 几车厢的观光旅客

Sentence

Making money from moving people around China may prove harder than profiting from the movement of silver.

句子结构: Making money from A may prove harder than profiting from B

谓语是 may prove

注意比较前后的句子形式要保持一致: 现在分词+from+名词

Making money from moving people

profiting from the movement of silver

From the print edition: China

Pingyao In banking's shadow 平遥古城：票号背后

A former financial hub now begs for the patronage of tourists.

曾经的金融中心，如今乞求游客的光顾。

Italian cities such as Florence and Venice have long made a mint from the architectural wonders built when they were financial centres. China has been slower to capitalise on the physical remains of past commercial glory in Pingyao, an urban backwater in inland Shanxi province, which was China's banking hub in the 19th century. Today tourists flock to the walled city, with its unusually well-preserved houses built between the 17th and 19th centuries. But restoring its former wealth remains elusive.

像佛罗伦萨、威尼斯这类曾是金融中心的意大利城市，保留了大量辉煌的建筑奇观，人们也早就开始利用这些遗迹赚大钱。中国的平遥一座是位于内地省份山西的闭塞小城，19世纪时曾是全国的金融中心。之前，中国对平遥往日辉煌的商业遗迹开发得相对缓慢。如今，这座城墙高耸、拥有大片保存良好的17至19世纪建筑的小城，迎来了熙熙攘攘的游客。但要让城市重回往日的富饶仍然不太可能。

The most-visited attraction in modern Pingyao is the Rishengchang Draft Bank, which in 1823 became the first in China to issue cheques. The city lay on the path of a lucrative trade route. The bank's manager spied a business opportunity when he saw silver shipments passing each other in opposite direction. He replaced pricey security, wagons and pack animals with a clearing house.

日昇昌票号是如今平遥最吸引游客的景点，1823年，这家票号开出了中国第一张支票。小城坐落在财源滚滚的贸易路线上，票号经理从络绎不绝运送白银的商队中觉察到了商机。他以一间提供结算服务的铺子，取代了成本颇高的镖师、马车、以及驮畜。

The bank spawned around 50 competitors across Shanxi (nearly half in Pingyao) with hundreds of branches across the empire. At the time Chinese bankers were held in lower esteem than peasants and tradesmen. They tried to keep staff honest by making them pledge their homes and even to surrender their families as slaves if they committed fraud; investors had no control over the banks' daily operations. 这家票号导致山西省内诞生了约50家类似的竞争者（近半数都在平遥），数以百计的分庄遍布整个国家。在那时的中国，票号掌柜的地位比农民、商人都低。为了确保伙计的信用，他们会让伙计用自己的房子做抵押，如果发现伙计有欺诈行为，甚至会把他和家人卖作佣人；同时投资人无权掌控票号的日常经营。

But it was not the staff that did for the banks. They collapsed soon after the Qing dynasty's demise in 1911. The government withdrew its remittance business, currency unification removed the need for the silver trade between cities and competition grew from modern banks.

然而最终并不是伙计们毁了票号。1911年清朝灭亡后，它们很快便都倒闭了。政府取缔了票

号的汇款业务，统一使用纸币也取代了城市间的白银流通，来自现代化银行的竞争日益激烈。

Pingyao's ensuing poverty proved to be its saviour. Its picturesque grid of traditional imperial houses survived when most elsewhere succumbed to Mao's hatred of the old and his successors' love of the new. Now it has reinvented itself. Now it has reinvented itself. Around 1.5m people visited Pingyao in 2013, up from around 50,000 in 1997 when UNESCO named it a world heritage site.

平遥随后的穷困反倒拯救了小城。当全国上下都屈从于毛对旧物的憎恨、以及后继者们对新物的狂热之时，平遥安然躲过了这一切，风景如画，星罗棋盘的旧帝国式建筑群也得以保存。如今平遥又重拾自我。2013年共有约150万人来平遥游览，而当1997年联合国教科文组织认定其为世界文化遗产时，这个数字只有五万。

Hope that the streets would again be lined with silver are overblown. The benefits of the tourist boom are spread only narrowly. A small, spruced-up central area thrums with visitors enjoying the curved rooftops, traditional facades, red lanterns and, strangely, Mao memorabilia. Beyond the centre, many streets look like slums: roofs slump, walls are crumbling and waste is carried away by a horse rather than sewers. Few can afford to fix up their homes, even with financial support from the government and the California-based Global Heritage Fund, a charity that is helping to preserve some of China's historical sites. 但期盼平遥的街巷再一次遍地金银是过于乐观了，旅游的繁荣只能让小范围受益。游客在小巧整洁的中央区来往游览，欣赏着建筑弧形的房顶、古朴的外观、大红的灯笼，以及一些奇怪的毛主席纪念品。而中央区之外，许多街道看着像贫民窟一样：屋顶塌陷、墙体崩塌，废物甚至不是排进下水道，而是由马匹运出。尽管政府有财政支持，意在保护中国某些历史遗迹，总部位于加利福尼亚的全球文化遗产基金会也有捐助，但也几乎没人有钱来修缮一下自己的家。

To de-clutter the town, four-fifths of the city's population have been moved outside the city walls since 1997. But the new town's hotels and karaoke halls are often empty. A high-speed rail link that opened in July running from the nearby provincial capital, Taiyuan, to Xi'an (home of the crowd-pulling Terracotta Army) should draw the crowds. But ease of access also means ease of retreat: most sightseers come only for the day. Making money from moving people around China may prove harder than profiting from the movement of silver.

为整理市容，自1997年起，这座城市五分之四的人口已搬迁到古城之外，但新城的旅馆与KTV经常空空如也。今年七月，邻近的省会城市太原到西安（兵马俑所在地）的高铁已开通，会为古城带来游客。但游人进来方便，离开也方便：多数观光客们只在城里逗留一天。从中国各地往来的人群身上赚钱，确实比运送白银更为艰难。