

我眼中的中国：从童年向往到亲身亲历

China in My Eyes: From Childhood Trust to Living Experience

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孔子曾说：“知者不惑，仁者不忧，勇者不惧”，今日之中国，不仅在各大学府与课堂间践行着这句古训，更将这种精神融入了百姓的日常。从治学修业的严谨自律，到开拓创新的进取精神，我眼中的中国，正是一个孕育希望、向世界传递自信的国度。

Confucius once said, "Education breeds confidence, confidence breeds hope, hope breeds peace." When I look at China today I see these words brought to life not only in its universities and classrooms but also in the everyday lives of its people. From the discipline of learning to the spirit of innovation, China in my eyes is a nation that cultivates hope and radiates confidence to the world.

Like many Pakistanis, I grew up knowing that China is our ironclad friend. That idea was reinforced by a school course in Pakistan Studies, where China always held a central place. After I graduated in biotechnology, I decided to prepare for the Central Superior Services(CSS). That choice opened new windows for my thinking. As an aspirant, I studied a wide range of subjects on international affairs and relations and tried to understand the reasons behind China's success and its vision for the future.

During my CSS interview the chairman asked me to list why China's education system is outperforming much of the world. That question changed the way I studied China. I began to look through a new lens that combined history, modernity, and possibility. I dreamed of being posted to China not from mere sentiment but from a desire to witness the childhood trust and the reality of a country that marries a deep historical heart with a forward-looking spirit.

Luckily I had the chance to come to China



泽纳特·阿夫扎尔 (Zeenat Afzal)

和许多巴基斯坦人一样,我从小就知道中国是我们的“铁哥们”。这一认知在学校的《巴基斯坦研究》课程中得到了强化——在这门课里,中国始终占据核心地位。生物技术专业毕业后,我决定备考(巴基斯坦)中央高级公务员考试(CSS)。这个选择为我的思想打开了全新的视野。作为一名备考者,我广泛学习了国际事务与国际关系领域的各类知识,努力探寻中国成功的深层原因及其对未来的愿景。

在(巴基斯坦)中央高级公务员考试(CSS)的面试环节中,主考官问我:为何中国的教育体系能超越全球多数国家?这个问题彻底改变了我研究中国的视角,我开始通过融合历史积淀、现代成就与未来潜力的多维视角来观察这个国度。我渴望能被派驻中国,并非单纯出于情感偏好,更是一份深切的期许:为了亲眼见证童年时代那份信赖所托付的国度,如何将深邃的历史灵魂与前瞻的开拓精神完美融合。

幸运的是,我有机会以语言生的身份来到中国。如今

as a language student. I am still here, learning Chinese and preparing for further study. My time here has deepened what I learned from books and classrooms. It has also made me more certain that continued learning and exchange between our countries bring real benefits.

My first view of the Middle Kingdom was Qinhuangdao in Hebei, where I arrived one dark night and woke to the rising sun over a land of silk and wisdom. That morning felt like an initiation into a system of education I had once been asked about in an interview. The teachers and staff of Qinhuangdao Vocational and Technical College were my first direct contact with a friend beyond borders. They welcomed us with calm dignity. College volunteers became my first Chinese friends, and each of them presented their country to us as we represented Pakistan to them.

Chinese is often described as one of the most difficult languages in the world, but I welcomed the challenge. Learning it would not have been possible without the patient efforts of teachers and the college administration. Their kindness and support made me feel at home away from home and made adaptation smoother than I had expected.

During my time here I experienced culture not only through books but through living traditions. A Chinese tea class taught me patience and mindfulness, and each cup seemed to carry a story of harmony and hospitality. In tai chi lessons I discovered a philosophy of balance that has guided this civilization for centuries. Calligraphy and painting revealed aesthetic discipline and resilience. A food culture class taught me that a meal in China is never only food, but a story of history, region and family. From the choice of ingredients to the harmony of flavors, every dish carries cultural meaning.

My first contact with the wider Chinese public came during a two-month stay in Beijing. Skyscrapers pierced the sky and modern



泽纳特·阿夫扎尔 (右二) 前往新疆参加的国际烹饪比赛

Zeenat Afzal (right 2) participated International Cooking Competition held in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

我在这里, 学习中文, 为进一步深造做准备。在这里的时光, 加深了我从书本和课堂上学到的认知。同时也让我更加确信, 中巴两国之间持续的学习与交流, 能带来实实在在的益处。

我对华夏大地的第一印象, 始于河北秦皇岛。抵达时已是夜色深沉, 次日清晨醒来, 朝阳正映照在这片承载着丝绸文明与千年智慧的土地。那个早晨, 仿佛是一场启蒙——让我亲身走进了曾经面试中被问及的中国教育体系。秦皇岛职业技术学院的老师和工作人员, 是我与异国友人的第一次直接接触, 他们带着从容的气度迎接我们。学院的志愿者成了我的第一批中国朋友, 我们向他们展现着巴基斯坦的风貌, 他们也向我们呈现着真实的国家。

中文常被称作世界上最难学的语言之一, 但我乐于

infrastructure unfolded beyond imagination. Roads are carefully planned, and a sea of people move with remarkable civic discipline. At the heart of this modernity lie well-preserved historical sites whose stories speak for themselves. The result is an extraordinary blend of past and present.

Traveling through Beijing's city center, one cannot miss the civic order, respectful routines, a network of bicycles and e-bikes available to all, and traffic signals that choreograph an evening rhythm of movement and calm. I recommend that anyone spare a few minutes at a busy intersection in the evening; you will see a rare synchronization of gentle civility and urban energy.

迎接这份挑战。若非老师们和学院行政人员的耐心付出,我恐怕难以学好中文。他们的善意与支持,让我在异乡感受到了家的温暖,也让我的适应过程比预想中顺利得多。

在这里的日子里,我对文化的体验不仅来自书本,更来自鲜活的传统。一节中国茶艺课让我学会了耐心与专注,每一杯茶仿佛都承载着和谐与好客的故事。太极课上,我领悟到平衡之道——这种哲学已指引着这个文明走过数百年。书法与绘画展现出审美中的严谨与韧性。还有饮食文化课,让我明白:在中国,一餐饭从不只是食物,从食材的选择到风味的调和,每一道菜都蕴含着深厚的文化,更承载着历史、地域特色与家庭温情的故事。

我与广大中国民众的首次接触,是在为期两个月的北京之行中。摩天大楼直插云霄,现代化的基础设施超乎想象。道路规划井然有序,熙熙攘攘的人群流动间,尽显良好的公民素养。在这份现代气息的核心,是留存着众多保存完好的历史遗迹,它们静静矗立,诉说着属于自己的千年故事。最终,过去与当下在此交融共生,成就了这般非凡的城市风貌。

漫步在北京的城市中心,你会看到井然的市民秩序、谦和的日常举止、可供全民使用的自行车与电动车网络,还有那指挥着傍晚动静相宜节奏的交通信号灯。我建议每个人都在傍晚时分,抽空在一处繁忙的十字路口驻足片刻,你就会看到一种罕见的景象:温和的文明素养与都市活力在此完美融合。

细微的人情暖意,与宏伟的建筑一样意义非凡。我记得天安门广场外的一位女警官,陪我们等了四十分钟,帮我们叫到了出租车。还有一次,一个陌生人为了给我们指路,特意绕路同行,直到陪我们走到了目的地。这些瞬间虽小,却充分展现了普通中国人的热情好客、敬业精神和善良坚韧。

我还有幸参观了北京理工大学。校园里配备了顶尖的现代化设施,更有勤奋专注的学生。我走访的实验室设备精良,充满了聪慧好奇的思想——这是这个国家在科技与教育领域投入的切实证明。这次参观让我更加坚信,对教育与科研的持续投入,正是中国保持发展势头



泽纳特·阿夫扎尔(中)和朋友在北京天安门
Zeenat Afzal (middle) and her friend at Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

Small human gestures mattered as much as grand architecture. I remember a female police officer outside Tiananmen Square who waited with us for forty minutes and helped us get a taxi. A stranger once diverted from his route and walked with us until we found our way. These moments are small but they speak volumes about the hospitality, dedication and resilience of ordinary people.

I was also privileged to visit Beijing Institute of Technology. The campus houses state-of-the-art facilities complemented by dedicated, hardworking students. The labs I toured were meticulously equipped and animated by brilliant, curious minds—a practical testament to the country's investment in science and education. That visit reinforced my belief that investment in education and research is at the core of China's momentum.

I was fortunate to travel to Xinjiang for an international cooking competition. Yili, also known as Yining, is a region at the crossroads of Central Asia. Hospitable people, original cuisines and serene traditions made it unforgettable. That journey confirmed a truth I felt throughout China: from the northeast



泽纳特·阿夫扎尔（左）正在学习包饺子
Zeenat Afzal (left) is learning to make dumplings.

的核心所在。

我曾有幸前往新疆伊犁的首府伊宁市参加一场国际烹饪比赛。那里位于中亚十字路口的地区，那里热情的人们、地道的美食与宁静的传统，都令人难忘。这段旅程印证了我在中国各地都感受到的一个事实：从东北到西北，中国的气候与风光虽在变化，但人们身上那份热情好客、勤劳奋进与文化自豪感始终不变。

于我而言，中国就像一架巨大的织机，古老的丝线正被织入现代的锦缎之中。每一座城市、每一堂课、每一次相遇，都是一根丝线，共同编织出这幅国家的画卷。这个国家在奋勇向前的同时，始终紧握着历史，更坚守着自身的价值内核；这种植根传统又锐意进取的融合，令人由衷赞叹。

作为一名仍在中国学习语言、规划深造的学生，我的体验仍在持续，且不断沉淀升华。我怀揣着课本中的知识与民族记忆而来，如今每一天都在收获新的感悟、结识新的朋友，也愈加坚信民间交流的价值。我期待能在这里继续深造，推动文化与学术交流不断深化，期待在相互尊重、互学互鉴与共创未来的愿景基础上，为搭建中巴两国间的友谊桥梁添砖加瓦。

伟大的文明不仅因历史被铭记，更因对未来的愿景而被敬仰。在我眼中，中国正是这样一种文明：它将古老的智慧与现代的追求融为一体，书写着一段激励世界的篇章。

to the northwest, the country's climate and scenery change, but the spirit of welcome, industriousness and cultural pride remain constant.

I have felt China like a vast loom where ancient threads are being woven into modern fabric. Each city, class and encounter is a thread that helps form a national tapestry. The country moves forward while keeping history close and its values even closer, and that blend of rootedness and restlessness is impressive.

As a student who is still in China learning the language and planning to pursue further study, my experience remains ongoing and evolving. I came with knowledge from textbooks and national memory. I am living each day with new understanding, new friends and a firmer belief in the value of people-to-people exchange. I look forward to studying here, to continuing cultural and academic exchange, and to building bridges between our two countries based on mutual respect, learning and shared future ambitions.

Great civilizations are not only remembered for their history but admired for their vision of the future. In my eyes, China represents a civilization that harmonizes its ancient wisdom with modern aspirations, shaping a narrative that inspires the world.