



# 白银

## 明朝的货币战争

YouTube

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Machine translation  
for your reference  
(unverified)

Hello there

你好

你好 (nǐ hǎo) hello; hi.

This is customized for you See  
Through Movie: The Da Ming  
Code Series

这是为你特别**定制**的**看穿**电影:  
大明密码**系列**

**定制** (dìng zhì) custom-made; made-to-order; to have  
something custom made. **看穿** (kàn chuān) see through  
(a person, scheme, trick etc). **系列** (xì liè) series; set.

I will talk about the Ming  
Dynasty story with you in  
combination with the movie

我会**结合**电影和你聊**一聊**明朝的  
故事

**结合** (jié hé) to combine; to link; to integrate;  
binding. **明朝** (míng zhāo) tomorrow morning; the  
following morning.

If the Ming Dynasty is  
destroyed

如果把明朝的**灭亡**

**灭亡** (miè wáng) to be destroyed; to become extinct; to  
perish; to die out; to destroy; to exterminate.

Linked with Columbus's great  
voyage

和**哥伦布**的**大航海**联系在**一起**

**哥伦布** (gē lún bù) Cristóbal Colón or Christopher  
Columbus (1451-1506); Columbus, capital of Ohio. **航  
海** (háng hǎi) sailing; navigation; voyage by sea. **在**一  
起**** (zài yī qǐ) together.

Looks a little far away

**看起来**好像**有一点**远

**看起来** (kàn qǐ lai) seemingly; apparently; looks as if;  
appear to be; gives the impression that; seems on the  
face of it to be. **有一点** (yǒu yī diǎn) a little; somewhat.

But in fact, the global  
integration started in the era of  
European navigation

但**实际上**欧洲**大航海**时代开启的  
全球**一体化**

**实际上** (shí jì shàng) in fact; in reality; as a matter of  
fact; in practice. **欧洲** (ōu zhōu) Europe; abbr. for 欧罗  
巴洲 (ōu luó bā zhōu). **时代** (shí dài) age; era; epoch;  
period (in one's life). **一体化** (yī tǐ huà) integration;  
incorporation; unification.

Had a profound impact on the  
Ming Dynasty

给大明**王朝**带来了**深远**的影响

**王朝** (wáng cháo) dynasty. **深远** (shēn yuǎn) far-  
reaching; profound and long-lasting.

The most important one is the  
silver issue

其中**最重要**的**就是**白银**问题**

**白银** (bái yín) Baiyin prefecture-level city in Gansu.

Spanish colonists discovered huge silver mines in the Americas

西班牙殖民者在美洲发现了巨大的银矿

西班牙 (xī bān yá) Spain. 殖民者 (zhí mín zhě) colonizer; colonist; settler. 美洲 (měi zhōu) America (including North, Central and South America); the Americas; abbr. for 亚美利加洲 (yà měi lì jiā zhōu). 巨大 (jù dà) huge; immense; very large; tremendous; gigantic; enormous. 矿 (kuàng) ore; mine.

The mined silver flooded into China

开采出的白银大量涌入中国

开采 (kāi cǎi) to extract (ore or other resource from a mine); to exploit; to mine. 大量 (dà liàng) great amount; large quantity; bulk; numerous; generous; magnanimous. 涌入 (yǒng rù) to come pouring in; influx.

It injected vitality into the Ming Dynasty economy and eased currency pressure

给明朝的经济注入了活力 缓解了货币压力

注入 (zhù rù) to pour into; to empty into. 活力 (huó lì) energy; vitality; vigor; vital force. 缓解 (huǎn jiě) to bring relief; to alleviate (a crisis); to dull (a pain). 货币 (huò bì) currency; monetary; money.

And then the “Thirty Years War” in Europe

而之后在欧洲发生的“三十年战争”

三十 (sān shí) thirty; 30. 战争 (zhàn zhēng) war; conflict.

And made American silver have to go directly to Spain

又让美洲白银不得不直接进入西班牙

Used to pay military expenses

用来支付军费

用来 (yòng lái) to be used for. 支付 (zhī fù) to pay (money). 军费 (jūn fèi) military expenditure.

The late Ming Dynasty quickly entered a serious currency shortage

明朝末期迅速进入了严重的货币不足

末期 (mò qī) end (of a period); last part; final phase. 迅速 (xùn sù) rapid; speedy; fast. 不足 (bù zú) insufficient; lacking; deficiency; not enough; inadequate; not worth; cannot; should not.

Deflationary state

也就是通货紧缩的状态

也就是 (yě jiù shì) that is; i.e.. 通货紧缩 (tōng huò jǐn suō) deflation. 状态 (zhuàng tài) state of affairs; state; mode; situation.

The entire domestic economy began to depression

整个国内经济开始大萧条

整个 (zhěng gè) whole; entire; total. 大萧条 (dà xiāo tiáo) the Great Depression (1929-c. 1939).

Eventually led to the silver crisis and financial collapse

最终导致了白银危机 财政崩盘

最终 (zuì zhōng) final; ultimate. 导致 (dǎo zhì) to lead to; to create; to cause; to bring about. 危机 (wēi jī) crisis. 财政 (cái zhèng) finances (public); financial. 崩盘 (bēng pán) (finance) to crash; to collapse; crash.

What is going on all this?

这一切是怎么回事呢?

怎么回事 (zěn me huí shì) what's the matter?; what's going on?; how could that be?; how did that come about?; what's it all about?.

We often see in film and television dramas

我们在影视剧中经常看到

The heroes go to the restaurant to eat half a catty of meat and half a catty of wine

大侠们去饭店吃饭 半斤肉半斤酒 下肚以后

大侠 (dà xiá) knight; swordsman; noble warrior; chivalrous hero. 酒 (jiǔ) wine (esp. rice wine); liquor; spirits; alcoholic beverage.

Call for the second checkout

喊上一声小二结账

喊 (hǎn) to yell; to shout; to call out for (a person). 一声 (yī shēng) first tone in Mandarin (high, level tone). 小二 (xiǎo èr) waiter. 结账 (jié zhàng) to pay the bill; to settle accounts; also written 结帐.

Then I patted the silver on the table

然后就把银子拍在了桌子上

银子 (yín zi) money; silver. 拍 (pāi) to pat; to clap; to slap; to swat; to take (a photo); to shoot (a film); racket (sports); beat (music).

Silver is money and can be used to buy food and drink

银子就是钱 可以用来买吃的买喝的

But this scene is actually not accurate

但是 这个场景其实并不算准确

场景 (chǎng jǐng) scene; scenario; setting.

Because the currency commonly used by the people

因为在民间 老百姓们普遍使用的货币

民间 (mín jiān) among the people; popular; folk; non-governmental; involving people rather than governments. 老百姓 (lǎo bǎi xìng) ordinary people; the "person in the street".

Not silver, but copper coin

并不是银子 而是铜钱

而是 (ér shì) rather. 铜 (tóng) copper (chemistry); see also 红铜 (hóng tóng).

You just need to think about it

你只要想一想也知道 银锭太大价值太高

银锭 (yín dìng) silver ingot. 价值 (jià zhí) value; worth; fig. values (ethical, cultural etc).

Not conducive to normal transactions

不利于平时的一般交易

不利 (bù lì) unfavorable; disadvantageous; harmful; detrimental. 交易 (jiāo yì) (business) transaction; business deal.

Especially when you go to a market to buy a la carte, do you use shreds of money?

尤其是赶个集买点菜之类的 用碎银子吗?

尤其是 (yóu qí shì) especially; most of all; above all; in particular. 赶 (gǎn) to overtake; to catch up with; to hurry; to rush; to try to catch (the bus etc); to drive (cattle etc) forward; to drive (sb) away; to avail oneself of (an opportunity); until. 点菜 (diǎn cài) to order dishes (in a restaurant). 之类 (zhī lèi) and so on; and such. 碎 (suì) to break down; to break into pieces; fragmentary.

There are also many questions. How about the fineness of the silver?

问题同样很多 银子成色怎么样?

同样 (tóng yàng) same; equal; equivalent. 成色 (chéng sè) relative purity of silver or gold; purity in carat weight; quality; fineness.

How to calculate weight? After all, this is money

重量怎么算? 毕竟这是钱

重量 (zhòng liàng) weight. 毕竟 (bì jìng) after all; all in all; when all is said and done; in the final analysis.

It's impossible to just count

不可能随便掂量掂量就作数了

不可能 (bù kě néng) impossible; cannot; not able. 掂量 (diān liang) to weigh in the hand; to consider; to ponder. 作数 (zuò shù) valid; counting (as valid).

In Chinese history, silver was the main currency in circulation

在中国**历史上**真正把白银**作为**主要**流通**货币的

**历史上** (lì shǐ shàng) historical; in history. **作为** (zuò wéi) one's conduct; deed; activity; accomplishment; achievement; to act as; as (in the capacity of); qua; to view as; to look upon (sth as); to take sth to be. **流通** (liú tōng) to circulate; to distribute; circulation; distribution.

It's the Ming Dynasty, but it's not like in the TV series.

确实是明朝 但并不像影视剧中那样

**那样** (nà yàng) that kind; that sort.

I just took out some broken silver to buy wine and meat

**随手就掏出**一些碎银子 用来买酒买肉

**随手** (suí shǒu) conveniently; without extra trouble; while doing it; in passing. **掏出** (tāo chū) to fish out; to take out (from a pocket, bag etc).

At that time, ordinary people still used copper coins

当时普通**百姓**用的还是铜钱

**百姓** (bǎi xìng) common people.

Although heavy and troublesome, copper coins are basically standard

虽然又**重**又**麻烦** 但是铜钱**基本**上是标准的

**重**又 (chóng yòu) once again. **基本**上 (jī běn shàng) basically; on the whole.

A coin represents a certain value and is easier to calculate

一枚铜钱**代表**一定价值 比较容易**计算**

**枚** (méi) classifier for coins, rings, badges, pearls, sporting medals, rockets, satellites etc; tree trunk; whip; wooden peg, used as a gag for marching soldiers (old). **代表** (dài biǎo) representative; delegate; to represent; to stand for; on behalf of; in the name of. **计算** (jì suàn) to count; to calculate; to compute.

The silver is mainly used by businessmen

用银子的 主要是**生意人**

And it's a relatively large-scale business

而且进行的是比较有**规模**的**买卖**

**规模** (guī mó) scale; scope; extent. **买卖** (mǎi mài) buying and selling; business; business transactions.

Silver is much more valuable than copper coins

银子比铜钱价值高得多

Relatively easy to carry

**相对来说** 比较方便**携带**

**相对** (xiāng duì) relatively; opposite; to resist; to oppose; relative; vis-a-vis; counterpart. **携带** (xié dài) to carry (on one's person); to support (old); Taiwan pr. (xī dài).

But the transaction process is also very complicated

只是交易**流程**也很复杂

**流程** (liú chéng) course; stream; sequence of processes; work flow in manufacturing.

They will use the jeweler's scale to weigh

他们会用**珠宝商**的**秤**来**称重**

**珠宝** (zhū bǎo) pearls; jewels; precious stones. **秤** (chèng) steelyard; Roman balance.

Cut the required weight with special scissors

用**特制**的**剪刀****裁剪**下需要的重量

**特制** (tè zhì) special; unique. **剪刀** (jiǎn dāo) scissors. **裁剪** (cái jiǎn) to cut out.

Then we will also ask "see the silver master" to appraise the purity of silver

然后还会请“看银师”来**鉴定**银的**纯度**

**鉴定** (jiàn dìng) to appraise; to identify; to evaluate. **纯度** (chún dù) purity.

Determine the value of silver

确定银子的价值

确定 (què dìng) definite; certain; fixed; to fix (on sth); to determine; to be sure; to ensure; to make certain; to ascertain; to clinch; to recognize; to confirm; OK (on computer dialog box).

It's basically the same form as our current precious metal trading

基本上就和我们现在的贵金属交易是一样的形式

贵金属 (guì jīn shǔ) precious metal. 形式 (xíng shì) outer appearance; form; shape; formality.

For the rulers of Chinese dynasties

对于中国历朝的统治者来说

朝 (zhāo) morning. 统治者 (tǒng zhì zhě) ruler.

As the population continues to expand, the total economic volume continues to grow

随着人口规模不断扩大 经济总量不断增长

人口 (rén kǒu) population; people. 不断 (bù duàn) unceasing; uninterrupted; continuous; constant. 扩大 (kuò dà) to expand; to enlarge; to broaden one's scope. 总量 (zǒng liàng) total; overall amount. 增长 (zēng zhǎng) to grow; to increase.

The problem of using copper coins and silver as precious metals

使用铜钱 银子这种贵金属作为货币的问题

More and more prominent

就越来越突出

突出 (tū chū) prominent; outstanding; to give prominence to; to protrude; to project.

Because China's copper and silver ore reserves are not abundant

因为中国的铜矿和银矿的储量并不丰富

铜矿 (tóng kuàng) copper mine; copper ore. 储量 (chǔ liàng) remaining quantity; reserves (of natural resources, oil etc).

This creates a shortage of precious metal currencies

这就造成了贵金属货币会出现短缺

这就 (zhè jiù) immediately; at once. 造成 (zào chéng) to bring about; to create; to cause. 短缺 (duǎn quē) shortage.

Have a major impact on the entire economy

对整个经济造成重大影响

重大 (zhòng dà) great; important; major; significant.

So in the Song Dynasty, the world's first paper currency was issued

所以在宋代就发行了全世界最早的纸质货币

宋代 (sòng dài) Song dynasty (960-1279). 发行 (fā xíng) to publish; to issue (stocks, currency etc); to release; to distribute (a film). 全世界 (quán shì jiè) worldwide; entire world. 纸质 (zhǐ zhì) paper; hard copy; printed (as opposed to electronically displayed).

Uniformly printed and distributed by the government

由政府统一印制和发行

政府 (zhèng fǔ) government. 统一 (tǒng yī) to unify; to unite; to integrate. 印制 (yìn zhì) to print; to produce (a publication).

The face value is calculated according to the currency value of the copper coin

面值是按照铜钱的币值来计算的

面值 (miàn zhí) face value; par value. 币值 (bì zhí) value of a currency.

The minimum denomination is 200 copper coins

最小面额是200文铜钱

面额 (miàn é) denomination (of currency or bond).

The largest denomination is 3000 copper coins

最大面额是3000文铜钱

The paper legal tender of the Song Dynasty

宋代这种纸质的**法定货币**

**法定货币** (fǎ dìng huò bì) fiat currency.

More than 5 centuries before the first banknotes appeared in Europe

比欧洲最早出现**钞票** 早了5个多世纪

**钞票** (chāo piào) paper money; a bill (e.g. 100 yuan).

Paper money is easy to carry and the cost is very low

**纸币**携带方便 而且**成本**很低

**纸币** (zhǐ bì) bank notes; paper currency. **成本** (chéng běn) (manufacturing, production etc) costs.

As soon as the money printing machine is turned on, the money rolls in

印**钞机**一开 钱就**滚滚**而来

**钞** (chāo) money; paper money; variant of 抄 (chāo). **滚滚** (gǔn gǔn) nickname for a panda.

This is the advantage of banknotes but also the biggest flaw

这是纸币的**优势** 但也是最大的**缺陷**

**优势** (yōu shì) superiority; dominance; advantage. **缺陷** (quē xiàn) defect; flaw; physical defect.

Because the money printing machine is not well managed, it's easy to overspend money.

因为管不好印钞机 就很容易**滥发**货币

**滥** (làn) overflowing; excessive; indiscriminate. **发货** (fā huò) to dispatch; to send out goods.

Cause currency value instability and also bring great harm

造成货币价值**不稳定** 同样带来**极大的危害**

**不稳定** (bù wěn dìng) unstable. **极大** (jí dà) maximum; enormous. **危害** (wēi hài) to jeopardize; to harm; to endanger; harmful effect; damage.

For example, there was such an anecdote more than ten years ago

比如**十几年** 前就出现了这样的**奇闻**

**十几** (shí jǐ) more than ten; a dozen or more. **奇闻** (qí wén) anecdote; fantastic story.

Zimbabwe's currency system is out of control

**津巴布韦**的货币**系统**失控

**津巴布韦** (jīn bā bù wéi) Zimbabwe. **系统** (xì tǒng) system. **失控** (shī kòng) to go out of control.

Zimbabwe dollar depreciates

**津巴布韦**元大**贬值**

**贬值** (biǎn zhí) to become devaluated; to devalue; to depreciate.

Even a single banknote with a face value of 100 trillion was printed

甚至印出了**单张**面值100万亿的**纸币**

**单张** (dān zhāng) flyer; leaflet; single-sheet (map etc).

The emperor of the Song Dynasty also discovered that as long as the ink pattern was printed on a piece of paper

**宋朝皇帝**也发现 只要把**油墨**图案印在**纸片**上

**宋朝** (sòng cháo) Song Dynasty (960-1279); also Song of Southern dynasties 南朝宋 (420-479). **皇帝** (huáng dì) emperor. **油墨** (yóu mò) printing ink. **图案** (tú àn) design; pattern. **纸片** (zhǐ piàn) a piece, scrap or fragment of paper.

You can buy things. This is so convenient.

就可以**买东西**了 这简直太方便了

**买东西** (mǎi dōng xi) to do one's shopping. **简直** (jiǎn zhí) simply; at all; practically.

When the northern nomads invaded

到了北方游牧民族入侵的时候

游牧(yóu mù) nomadic; to move about in search of pasture; to rove around as a nomad. 入侵(rù qīn) to invade.

In order to pay the huge military expenses, the Song Dynasty emperor madly used the money printing machine

为了支付巨额军费 宋朝皇帝疯狂开动印钞机

巨额(jù é) large sum (of money); a huge amount. 疯狂(fēng kuáng) crazy; frantic; extreme popularity. 开动(kāi dòng) to start; to set in motion; to move; to march; to dig in (eating); to tuck in (eating).

Caused a great devaluation of the currency

造成了货币大贬值

This currency disaster has not had time to break out

这场货币灾难还没来得及大爆发

灾难(zāi nàn) disaster; catastrophe. 爆发(bào fā) to break out; to erupt; to explode; to burst out.

The Mongols occupied the Central Plains and the Song Dynasty fell

蒙古人就占领了中原 宋朝灭亡

蒙古人(měng gǔ rén) Mongol. 占领(zhàn lǐng) to occupy (a territory); to hold. 中原(zhōng yuán) Central Plain, the middle and lower regions of the Yellow river, including Henan, western Shandong, southern Shanxi and Hebei.

After the establishment of the Yuan Dynasty, the Mongols would not be able to engage in economic activities

蒙古人建立元朝以后 更不会搞经济

建立(jiàn lì) to establish; to set up; to found. 元朝(yuán cháo) Yuan or Mongol dynasty (1279-1368). 搞(gǎo) to do; to make; to go in for; to set up; to get hold of; to take care of.

Printing money became addictive. As a result, the problem of devaluation of Yuan Dynasty's banknotes became more serious

印钱上了瘾 结果元朝的纸币贬值问题更加严重

瘾(yǐn) addiction; craving. 更加(gèng jiā) more (than sth else); even more.

When Zhu Yuanzhang established the Ming Dynasty

到了朱元璋建立明朝

朱元璋(zhū yuán zhāng) Zhu Yuanzhang, personal name of first Ming dynasty emperor Hongwu 洪武(hóng wǔ).

He has witnessed the chaos of the devaluation of banknotes at the end of the Yuan Dynasty

他亲眼目睹过元朝末年纸币贬值的混乱情况

亲眼目睹(qīn yǎn mù dǔ) to see for oneself; to see with one's own eyes. 末年(mò nián) the final years (of a regime). 混乱(hùn luàn) confusion; chaos; disorder.

So he wants to issue new coins and no longer use paper money

所以他想要发行新的钱币 不再使用纸币

钱币(qián bì) money. 再使用(zài shǐ yòng) to reuse.

But he found that such a huge empire

可是 他发现 这么一个庞大帝国

庞大(páng dà) huge; enormous; tremendous. 帝国(dì guó) empire; imperial.

Copper mines are so scarce

铜矿却是如此匮乏

却是(què shì) nevertheless; actually; the fact is .... 如此(rú cǐ) in this way; so. 匮乏(kuì fá) to be deficient in sth; to be short of sth (supplies, money etc).

The casting of copper coins caused the price of raw material copper to soar

铸造铜币 造成了原材料铜的价格飙升

铸造(zhù zào) to cast (pour metal into a mold). 原材料(yuán cái liào) raw materials; unprocessed materials. 飙升(biāo shēng) to rise rapidly; to soar.



Even to make a copper coin with a denomination of one dollar

甚至为了**制造**面额**一块**钱的铜币

**制造** (zhì zào) to manufacture; to make. **一块** (yī kuài) one block; one piece; one (unit of money); together; in the same place; in company.

It costs two yuan, which is not feasible at all

要**花费**两块钱的成本 **这根本**不可行

**花费** (huā fèi) expense; cost; to spend (time or money); expenditure. **根本** (gēn běn) fundamental; basic; root; simply; absolutely (not); (not) at all.

He had to start the money printing machine again to issue banknotes

他只好又**启动**印钞机 发行纸币

**启动** (qǐ dòng) to start (a machine); (fig.) to set in motion; to launch (an operation); to activate (a plan).

As a result, inflation

结果又造成**通货膨胀**

**通货膨胀** (tōng huò péng zhàng) inflation.

In just ten years, banknotes have depreciated by 75%

**仅仅**十年时间 纸币就贬值了75%

**仅仅** (jǐn jǐn) barely; only; merely; only (this and nothing more).

So the Ming Dynasty didn't solve its currency problem from the beginning

所以 明朝从一开始就没有解决好  
自己的货币问题

Not only swinging back and forth between paper money and coinage

不仅在纸币和**铸币**之间来回**摇摆**

**铸币** (zhù bì) coin; to mint (coins). **之间** (zhī jiān) between; among; inter-. **来回** (lái huí) to make a round trip; return journey; back and forth; to and fro; repeatedly. **摇摆** (yáo bǎi) to sway; to wobble; to waver.

And every emperor takes office

而且每一任皇帝**上任**

**上任** (shàng rèn) to take office; previous (incumbent); predecessor.

Will declare the coins of the previous emperor invalid

就会**宣布**前任皇帝**时期**的钱币**无效**

**宣布** (xuān bù) to declare; to announce; to proclaim. **前任** (qián rèn) predecessor; ex-; former; ex (spouse etc). **时期** (shí qī) period; phase. **无效** (wú xiào) not valid; ineffective; in vain.

Start issuing new currency

开始发行新的货币

Such a situation is a disaster for the common people

这样的情况 对于老百姓来说 就是灾难

Because you don't know the money in your hand

因为你不知道自己**手里**的钱

**手里** (shǒu lǐ) in hand; (a situation is) in sb's hands.

How much will it be worth tomorrow

明天还会值多少钱

But ordinary people still have to live after all

可是老百姓们毕竟还要生活

If you want to live, there will be transactions

要生活 就一定还会**涉及**到交易

**涉及** (shè jí) to involve; to touch upon (a topic).



The historian Gu Yanwu wrote about such an example

史学家顾炎武写到过这样一个例子

史学家 (shǐ xué jiā) historian. 顾炎武 (gù yán wǔ) Gu Yanwu (1613-1682), late Ming and early Qing Confucian philosopher, linguist and historian, played a founding role in phonology of early Chinese, author of Rizhilu or Record of daily study 日知录. 例子 (lì zǐ) case; (for) instance; example.

During the Jiajing period of the Ming Dynasty, merchants in Zhangpu County, Fujian

在明朝嘉靖年间 福建漳浦县的商人

嘉 (jiā) excellent; auspicious; to praise; to commend. 靖 (jìng) quiet; peaceful; to make tranquil; to pacify. 年间 (nián jiān) in the years of; during those years; period (of dynasty or decade). 福建 (fú jiàn) Fujian province (Fukien) in east China, abbr. 福 or 闽, capital Fuzhou 福州; Fujian province (Fukien) in Taiwan. 漳浦县 (zhāng pǔ xiàn) Zhangpu county in Zhangzhou 漳州 (zhāng zhōu), Fujian. 商人 (shāng rén) merchant; businessman.

They are still using Song Dynasty coins for trading

竟然还在使用宋代铸币进行交易

进行交易 (jìn xíng jiāo yì) to carry out a transaction.

It can be seen that they are very

可见他们对于明朝政府

可见 (kě jiàn) it can clearly be seen (that this is the case); it is (thus) clear; clear; visible.

How untrustworthy the currency issued

发行的货币是多么的不信任

信任 (xìn rèn) to trust; to have confidence in.

As the saying goes, Prosperity antique chaos gold

俗话说 盛世古董乱世金

俗话说 (sú huà shuō) as the proverb says; as they say.... 盛世 (shèng shì) a flourishing period; period of prosperity; a golden age. 古董 (gǔ dòng) curio; antique. 乱世 (luàn shì) the world in chaos; troubled times; (in Buddhism) the mortal world.

In other words, antiques are valuable in peace and prosperity

就是说太平盛世的时候 古董值钱

就是说 (jiù shì shuō) in other words; that is. 太平盛世 (tài píng shèng shì) peace and prosperity (idiom). 值钱 (zhí qián) valuable; costly; expensive.

In troubled times, precious metals like gold and silver are even more valuable.

而到了乱世 金银这种贵金属就更值钱

金银 (jīn yín) gold and silver.

So in the folk

所以在当时的民间

Merchants began to use silver for transactions, although it was troublesome

商人们开始使用白银进行交易 虽然麻烦

But at least it will not be as unreliable as government-issued currency

但起码不会像政府发行的货币那样不靠谱

起码 (qǐ mǎ) at the minimum; at the very least. 靠谱 (kào pǔ) reliable; reasonable; probable.

The people don't have that much money in their hands.

老百姓们手里没有那么多钱 也都是小买小卖

They can only continue to use unstable coins

他们**只能**继续使用不稳定的铸币

**只能 (zhǐ néng)** can only; obliged to do sth; to have no other choice.

Gradually as the merchants use

**渐渐地** 随着商人们的使用

**渐渐 (jiàn jiàn)** gradually.

Silver began to become the main currency circulating in the Ming Dynasty

白银开始成为了在明朝流通的主要货币

This kind of civil behavior in turn affected the government

这种民间**行为** **反过来**也影响到了政府

**行为 (xíng wéi)** action; conduct; behavior; activity. **反过来 (fǎn guo lái)** conversely; in reverse order; in an opposite direction.

Previously, China's tax system was that farmers turned in their crops

之前中国的**税收制度** 就是**农民们** **上缴农作物**

**税收 (shuì shōu)** taxation. **制度 (zhì dù)** system (e.g. political, administrative etc); institution. **农民 (nóng mǐn)** peasant; farmer. **上缴 (shàng jiǎo)** to transfer (income, profits etc) to higher authorities. **农作物 (nóng zuò wù)** (farm) crops.

In the Ming Dynasty, the government asked the people to use silver

到了明朝 政府要求**人民**用白银

**人民 (rén mín)** the people.

Pay taxes and fees instead of crops

**代替**农作物支付**税费**

**代替 (dài tì)** to replace; to take the place of. **税 (shuì)** taxes; duties.

It's convenient for the government

对于政府来说这样收起来方便

Easy to use

用起来也方便

From the Wanli period on, 90% of the tax revenue has become silver

从**万历年**间开始90%的**税收**都**变成**了白银

**历年 (lì nián)** over the years; bygone years. **变成 (biàn chéng)** to change into; to turn into; to become.

China in the Ming Dynasty was the world's largest economy

明朝的中国 是当时全世界最大的经济体

Merchants use silver, trading farmers use silver to pay taxes

商人们用白银 交易农民们用白银**缴税**

**缴税 (jiǎo shuì)** to pay tax.

The whole country began to silver

整个国家开始白银化

This means there must be enough silver

**这意味着**必须要有**足够的**白银

**意味着 (yì wèi zhe)** to signify; to mean; to imply. **须要 (xū yào)** must; have to. **足够 (zú gòu)** enough; sufficient.

In order to keep the whole country running

才能**维持**整个国家的**运转**

**维持 (wéi chí)** to keep; to maintain; to preserve. **运转 (yùn zhuǎn)** to work; to operate; to revolve; to turn around.

But as mentioned earlier, China's silver mines are not rich

可是前面说过 中国的银矿并不**富裕**

**富裕 (fù yù)** Fuyu county in Qiqihar 齐齐哈尔 (qí qí hā ěr), Heilongjiang.

Can't cope with such a large-scale silver demand

根本应付不了这样大规模的白银需求

应付 (yìng fu) to deal with; to cope. 不了 (bù liǎo) unable to; without end. 大规模 (dà guī mó) large scale; extensive; wide scale; broad scale. 需求 (xū qiú) requirement; to require; (economics) demand.

What to do? Japan next door has a lot of silver

怎么办呢? 隔壁的日本倒是有不少白银

隔壁 (gé bì) next door; neighbor. 倒是 (dào shì) contrary to what one might expect; actually; contrariwise; why don't you. 不少 (bù shǎo) many; a lot; not few.

But the Ming Dynasty implemented a maritime prohibition policy most of the time

但明朝在大多数的时间里 实行着海禁的政策

大多数 (dà duō shù) (great) majority. 实行 (shí xíng) to implement; to carry out; to put into practice. 海禁 (hǎi jìn) prohibition on entering or leaving by sea. 政策 (zhèng cè) policy.

The relationship with Japan is not good either

和日本的关系也并不是好

Merchants who desperately needed a lot of silver had to do business secretly with Japanese pirates

急需大量白银的商人们 只好和倭寇秘密做生意

急需 (jí xū) to urgently need; urgent need. 倭寇 (wō kòu) Japanese pirates (in 16th and 17th century). 秘密 (mì mì) secret. 做生意 (zuò shēng yì) to do business.

Trade silk and porcelain for silver from Japanese pirates

用丝绸 瓷器来从倭寇手里换取白银

丝绸 (sī chóu) silk cloth; silk. 瓷器 (cí qì) chinaware; porcelain. 换取 (huàn qǔ) to obtain (sth) in exchange; to exchange (sth) for (sth else).

Take it back to the country for consumption and taxation. The Ming Dynasty government used these taxes

拿回国用来消费和缴税 明朝政府用这些税收

回国 (huí guó) to return to one's home country. 消费 (xiāo fèi) to consume; to spend.

To fight against Japanese pirates again

又去打击倭寇

打击 (dǎ jī) to hit; to strike; to attack; to crack down on sth; blow; (psychological) shock; percussion (music).

This actually formed a malformed trading network

这实际上形成了一个畸形的贸易网络

形成 (xíng chéng) to form; to take shape. 畸形 (jī xíng) deformity; abnormality. 贸易 (mào yì) (commercial) trade. 网络 (wǎng luò) network (computing, telecommunications, transport etc).

It means that the Ming Dynasty government is fighting its own money supplier

等于明朝政府在和自己的货币供应商作战

等于 (děng yú) to equal; to be tantamount to. 供应商 (gōng ying shāng) supplier. 作战 (zuò zhàn) combat; to fight.

This situation is definitely not sustainable

这种情况肯定不能持续

持续 (chí xù) to continue; to persist; sustainable; preservation.

To solve the silver problem

为了解决白银问题

The Ming Dynasty also opened a sea ban in a short time

明朝也在短时间内开放过海禁

短时间 (duǎn shí jiān) short term; short time. 开放 (kāi fàng) to bloom; to open; to be open (to the public); to open up (to the outside); to be open-minded; unrestrained by convention; unconstrained in one's sexuality.

Fujian merchants began to do business overseas and traveled all over Asia

In the Philippines, they met Europeans with large amounts of silver in their hands

The silver in the hands of these Europeans

It was brought back from the American colonies

At the same time, Europeans also found that the goods of these Chinese merchants are selling well

Mainly silk and porcelain

Thus, a worldwide triangular trade was formed

The Spanish set off from Europe

Went to America to mine a lot of silver

Shipped to Asia to buy Chinese silk porcelain with silver

And then shipped back to Europe for sale

This trade allows a large amount of silver to flow into China

Alleviated the problem of silver shortage in China

The Ming Dynasty really became the Silver Empire

But in 1618 a large-scale war broke out in Europe

The war lasted for 30 years and it didn't end until 1648.

So the history is called "Thirty Years War"

福建商人们开始**出海经商** 走遍了**亚洲各地**

在**菲律宾** 他们遇上了**手握有大量白银的欧洲人**

这些欧洲人手里的白银

**正是**从**美洲殖民地**运回来的

同时欧洲人也发现这些中国商人的货很好卖

主要是**丝绸和瓷器**

于是 就这样形成了一个世界性的**三角贸易**

**西班牙人**从欧洲出发

**前往美洲** 开采出大量白银

运到亚洲 用白银购买中国的**丝绸瓷器**

然后再运回欧洲进行**销售**

这样的贸易 让大量的白银**流入**中国

缓解了**中国白银短缺**的问题

明朝也真正成为了**白银帝国**

可是就在1618年 欧洲爆发了大规模的**战争**

这场战争持续了30年 一直到1648年才**结束**

所以**史称** “三十年战争”

**出海** (chū hǎi) to go out to sea. **经商** (jīng shāng) to trade; to carry out commercial activities; in business. **各地** (gè dì) in all parts of (a country); various regions.

**菲律宾** (fēi lǚ bīn) the Philippines. **握有** (wò yǒu) to grasp and own; to hold (power). **欧洲人** (ōu zhōu rén) European (person).

**正是** (zhèng shì) (emphasizes that sth is precisely or exactly as stated); precisely; exactly; even; if; just like; in the same way as. **殖民地** (zhí mín dì) colony.

**三角** (sān jiǎo) triangle.

**西班牙人** (xī bān yá rén) Spaniard; Spanish person.

**前往** (qián wǎng) to leave for; to proceed towards; to go.

**销售** (xiāo shòu) to sell; to market; sales (representative, agreement etc).

**流入** (liú rù) to flow into; to drift into; influx; inflow.

**称** (chēng) to weigh; to state; to name; name; appellation; to praise.

In order to pay for the military, Spain's silver mined from the Americas

为了支付军费 西班牙从美洲开采出的白银

No longer flow into China through triangular trade

不再通过三角贸易 流入中国

But brought it back to Spain

而是直接带回西班牙

带回 (dài huí) to bring back.

This caused the Ming Dynasty to instantly lose its main source of silver

这造成明朝瞬间失去了最主要的白银来源

瞬间 (shùn jiān) in an instant; in a flash. 失去 (shī qù) to lose. 来源 (láiyuán) source (of information etc); origin.

In these thirty years

在这三十年中

年中 (nián zhōng) within the year; in the middle of the year; mid-year.

The Ming Dynasty successively experienced three emperors Taichang, Tianqi and Chongzhen

明朝先后经历了三任皇帝泰昌 天启 崇祯

先后 (xiān hòu) early or late; priority; in succession; one after another. 泰 (tài) Mt Tai 泰山 (tài shān) in Shandong; abbr. for Thailand. 昌 (chāng) prosperous; flourishing. 启 (qǐ) Qi son of Yu the Great 禹 (yǔ), reported founder of the Xia Dynasty 夏朝 (xià cháo) (c. 2070-c. 1600 BC). 崇祯 (chóng zhēn) Chongzhen, reign name of last Ming emperor (1628-1644).

During this period, natural disasters caused a shortage of food

在这期间 天灾导致粮食欠收

在这期间 (zài zhè qī jiān) during time; in this time. 天灾 (tiān zāi) natural disaster. 粮食 (liáng shi) foodstuff; cereals. 欠 (qiàn) deficient; to owe; to lack; yawn.

Shortage of silver makes farmers' taxation problems more serious

白银短缺造成农民们的赋税问题更加严重

赋税 (fù shuì) taxation.

In the end they had to leave the land and rise up

最终让他们只好离开土地 揭竿而起

土地 (tǔ dì) land; soil; territory. 揭 (jiē) to take the lid off; to expose; to unmask. 竿 (gān) pole.

In the next issue, let's talk about the leaders of the peasant uprising at the end of Ming Dynasty

下一期 咱们就讲一讲明末农民起义的领袖

讲明 (jiǎng míng) to explain. 农民起义 (nóng mǐn qǐ yì) peasant revolt. 领袖 (lǐng xiù) leader.

The story of Chuang Wang Li Zicheng

闯王李自成的故事

闯王 (chuǎng wáng) Chuangwang or Roaming King, adopted name of late Ming peasant rebel leader Li Zicheng 李自成 (1605-1645). 李自成 (lǐ zì chéng) Li Zicheng (1605-1645), leader of peasant rebellion at the end of the Ming Dynasty.