



4.5 View across the Huangpu River, Shanghai, looking toward Puxi.

the famous Bund. The Pudong is the new Shanghai, with the Oriental Pearl TV Tower sitting in front of new high-rise office towers. The heart of the old city is located a few blocks west of the Bund around Nanjing Road and Yunan East Road. The cultural center of the city is located around Renmin (People's) Square, The Temple of the City God and Yu Yuan Garden. Situated in the Jiangsu province, the city sits on the alluvial plain of the Yangtze River; the name "Shanghai" literally translates as "upriver to the sea."

Shanghai began as a fishing village some 700 years ago during the Tang and Song Dynasties. Even 150 years ago it was subordinate in size and influence to other cities such as Suzhou and Hanzhou. Its rise to dominance is related to its role as a treaty port. Its location, at the confluence of the Yangtze and Huangpu Rivers, led to it becoming a commercial shipping port, and as international trade increased during the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644), Shanghai became a major town in southeast China. For hundreds of years, the Emperors of China actively isolated the Middle Kingdom from the rest of the world. Although China had some international trade contacts, they decreed that China was totally self-sufficient and simply did not need nor want outside contact. The end of China's isolation came at the end of the Opium Wars with the Treaty of Nanking in 1842.

After the First Opium War, China ceded Hong Kong to the British and five other cities were opened up to Western trade, namely Guangzhou, Xiamen, Fuzhou, Ningpo and Shanghai. By the turn of the century, there were around fifty such foreign enclaves, the most important being Shang-