紫禁城——回顧與前瞻

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THE FORBIDDEN CITY: In Retrospect and Outlook

The Forbidden City was the imperial residence and the place of issuing orders of the feudal emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. It is located on the guidance axis about eight kilometers long from north to south within the Beijing City. To the north of the Forbidden City is an artificial mound called Wan Shou Shan (now the Coal Hill), and towards the north along the guidance axis there are the Bell-tower and the Drum-tower one behind another. To the south of the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, the Temple of Mountains and Rivers (now the Temple of Agriculture), the Imperial Ancestral Temple and the Temple to the Gods of Land and Grains stand symmetrically on both east and west sides of the main line.

The Three Great Halls (Tai He Dian, or Hall of Supreme Harmony, Zhong He Dian, or Hall of Middle Harmony and Bao He Dian, or Hall of Preserving Harmony) and the Rear Three Palaces (Qian Qing Gong, or Palace of Heavenly Purity, Jiao Tai Dian, or Hall of Union and Kun Ning Gong, or Palace of Earthly Tranquility), which embodied the centre of the feudal imperial power, are situated in the centre of the Forbidden City. Other groups of buildings are also in symmetrical arrangement.

The Forbidden City was given a most prominent place in the planning of the old Beijing City. This reflects the mentality of "the sovereign is the supreme dominant position in the whole nation".

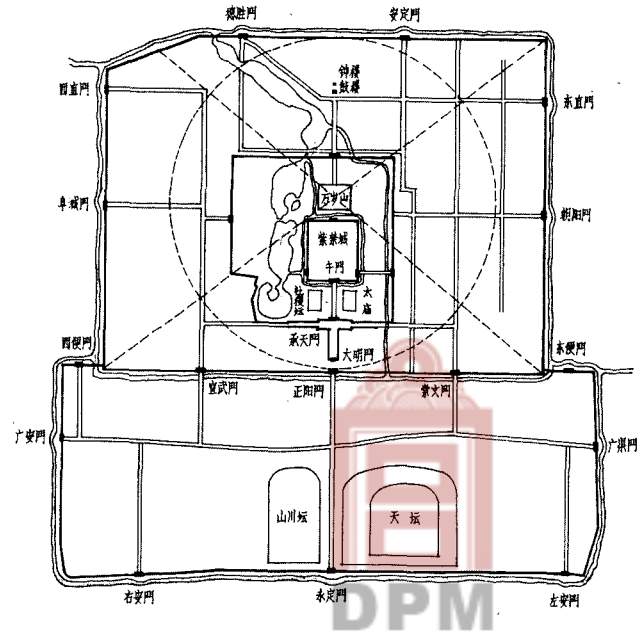
在我國歷史上，封建王朝的統治，前後相繼長達兩千多年，直到本世紀初清朝的覆亡爲止。在這兩千多年的封建王朝統治時期，歷代帝王的都城，曾有多次遷移。但眞正稱得上是全國最大的政治中心的只有兩個，在前期是長安，在後期就是北京。

人人都知道，北京城裏封建皇帝日常起居和發號施令的地方，就是紫禁城。而紫禁城又是北京舊城平面設計的核心。不瞭解這一點，就不能眞正瞭解舊日北京城的最大特點，因而也就不能眞正體會封建時代皇權統治的嚴酷程度。它不惜利用一切手段，來宣揚封建皇帝『普天之下，唯我獨尊』，而這一點，正是北京舊城設計思想的主題。

北京城的歷史可以上溯到三千多年以前，它發展成爲全國性的政治中心，也已有八百多年。八百多年前金朝在這裏擴建舊城，命名中都。中都是在北京的原始城址上發展起來的，也是最後和最大的一座大城。

元初在中都城東北郊外，另建新城，改名大都。大都城的興建爲今日的北京城奠定了基礎。

大都城按照統一規劃，首先在湖泊一帶的東西兩岸，建成三組宮殿。東岸一組規模最大，叫做『大內』，也就是現在紫禁城的前身。西岸兩組南北對立，分別爲皇太子與皇太后所居。原有的湖泊既已深在宮闕之內，因而也就改用了傳統的名稱：太液池。環繞三宮築有皇城城牆，皇城之外又修建大城城牆。應該注意的是在全城的平面設計



明朝改建後的北京城平面設計示意圖
Plan of Beijing City rebuilt in the Ming Dynasty.