

05.03-Construction in the west

Construction in the west

Build it and they might come

Western provinces can still be a wild place for development
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Vocab

1. **construction** n. the process or method of building or making sth, especially roads, buildings, bridges, etc. 建筑；建造；施工

e.g. Our new offices are still **under construction** (= being built). 我们的新办公楼尚在修建中。

APPLE trees provide much of the livelihood for the 100 or so families of Xuanmagou village, on the **outskirts** of Lanzhou, a **grimy** industrial city in north-west China. In March, fearing the **gritty** dust from heavy equipment working nearby would damage the trees, residents blocked access to the village and brought work on an ambitious and **controversial** construction project to a **halt**.

Vocab

1. **outskirts** n. 市郊；郊区 **The outskirts of** a city or town are the parts of it that are farthest away from its centre.

e.g. Hours later we reached the **outskirts** of New York. 我们几小时后到达了纽约市郊。

2. **grimy** adj. 满是污垢的；肮脏的 Something that is **grimy** is very dirty.

e.g. ...a **grimy** industrial city. 肮脏的工业城市

3. **gritty** adj. 含沙砾的；覆有沙砾的；沙砾般的 Something that is **gritty** contains grit, is covered with grit, or has a texture like that of grit.

e.g. The sheets fell on the **gritty** floor, and she just let them lie. 床单掉到满是沙砾的地板上，她都没去捡。

4. **controversial** adj. causing a lot of angry public discussion and disagreement 引起争论的；有争议的

e.g. a **highly controversial** topic 颇有争议的话题

5. **halt** v. to stop; to make sb/ sth stop (使) 停止，停下

e.g. She walked towards him and then halted. 她向他走去，然后停下。

Sentence

In March, fearing the **gritty** dust from heavy equipment working nearby would damage the trees, residents blocked access to the village and brought work on an ambitious and **controversial** construction project to a **halt**.

主干：residents **blocked** access to the village and **brought** work on... 这里有两个并列的谓语 fearing the **gritty** dust... 现在分词引导的状语从句，这里表原因

Called "Lanzhou New City," the project is **touted** as a way to **revitalise** the capital of Gansu province on the edge of the Gobi desert, **relieve** overcrowding, and create a **lively hub** for western China.

Vocab

1. **tout** v. ~ sb/ sth (as sth) to try to persuade people that sb/ sth is important or valuable by praising them/ it 标榜；吹捧；吹嘘

e.g. She's being touted as the next leader of the party. 她被吹捧为该党的下一任领导人。

2. **revitalize** v. to make sth stronger, more active or more healthy 使更强壮；使恢复生机（或健康）

e.g. measures to revitalize the inner cities 让市中心更加繁荣的措施

3. **relieve** v. to remove or reduce an unpleasant feeling or pain 解除，减轻，缓和（不快或痛苦）

e.g. to relieve anxiety/ guilt/ stress 消除焦虑/内疚；缓解压力

4. **lively** adj. full of life and energy; active and enthusiastic 精力充沛的；生气勃勃的；活跃热情的

e.g. an intelligent and lively young woman 聪慧而充满活力的年轻女士

5. **hub** n. (活动的) 中心，核心 You can describe a place as a **hub of** an activity when it is a very important centre for that activity.

e.g. The island's social **hub** is the Cafe Sport...该岛的社交中心是“体育咖啡馆”。

The plan fits in with two **prongs** of the national development strategy. One is to **foster** urbanisation in the hope that moving people out of the countryside will turn them into the sort of domestic consumers the nation needs to rebalance its economy. The other is to develop the **vast** but backward west and achieve the long-sought goal of reducing **stubborn regional disparities**. But the execution of this project, and the comparison with that of another, even larger one 70km (43 miles) north of Lanzhou, suggests it will be hard to tame China's wild west.

Vocab

1. **prong** n. (政策、计划等的) 部分，方面 The **prongs** of something such as a policy or plan are the separate parts of it.

e.g. The shareholder rights movement has two **prongs**...股东权利运动有两部分。

2. **foster** v. to encourage sth to develop 促进；助长；培养；鼓励

e.g. The club's aim is to foster better relations within the community. 俱乐部的宗旨是促进团体内部的关系。

3. **vast** n. extremely large in area, size, amount, etc. 辽阔的；巨大的；庞大的；大量的

e.g. At dusk bats appear **in vast numbers**. 蝙蝠于傍晚时分大批出现。

4. **stubborn** n. 倔强的；固执的；顽固的；执拗的 Someone who is **stubborn** or who behaves in a **stubborn** way is determined to do what they want and is very unwilling to change their mind.

e.g. He is a **stubborn** character used to getting his own way...他性格固执，惯于一意孤行。

5. **regional** adj. of or relating to a region 地区的；区域的；地方的

e.g. regional variations in pronunciation 发音的地区差异

6. **disparity** n. a difference, especially one connected with unfair treatment (尤指因不公正对待引起的) 不同，不等，差异，悬殊

e.g. the wide disparity between rich and poor 贫富悬殊

Sentence

But the execution of this project, and the comparison with that of another, even larger one 70km (43 miles) north of Lanzhou, suggests it will be hard to tame China's wild west.

主干：the execution of this project and the comparison **suggests (that)** ... 主语有两个，谓语是 suggest

The larger project, set on flatter land near the city's main airport, is called "Lanzhou New Area." Its planned size **exceeds** 800 square km (300 square miles) and officials forecast its economic output, **centred on** manufacturing, **petrochemicals** and energy, to reach 270 billion yuan (\$43 billion) by 2030. Now it is merely a dusty, vast and **peculiar** landscape with roads in place and most buildings as yet unbuilt.

Vocab

1. **exceed** v. to be greater than a particular number or amount 超过 (数量)
e.g. His achievements have **exceeded expectations**. 他的成就出乎预料。
2. **centre on** 集中在...上
3. **petrochemical** n. 石油化学产品 **Petrochemicals** are chemicals that are obtained from petroleum or natural gas.
4. **peculiar** strange or unusual, especially in a way that is unpleasant or worrying 怪异的；奇怪的；不寻常的
e.g. **For some peculiar reason**, she refused to come inside. 出于某种奇怪的原因，她拒绝到里面来。

But experts say it stands a chance of becoming what **promotional** videos and brochures **boldly portray**. This "New Area" is China's fifth such zone approved by the central State Council; others include Pudong, a well-known area in Shanghai, and Binhai in Tianjin. It has been launched with much more **transparency** and there have been few complaints from environmentalists or residents.

Vocab

1. **promotional** adj. 推销的；推广的；宣传的 **Promotional** material, events, or ideas are designed to increase the sales of a product or service.
e.g. You can use the logo in all your **promotional** material. 你们可以将这个标志用在所有的宣传材料中。
2. **boldly** adv. 大胆地；冒失地；显眼地
3. **portray** n. to show sb/ sth in a picture; to describe sb/ sth in a piece of writing 描绘；描画；描写
4. **transparency** n. the quality of sth, such as glass, that allows you to see through it 透明；透明性

It is a different story at the "New City" project. Lanzhou itself is set in a narrow valley of the Yellow River surrounded by mountains, and has long lacked enough space for its 3.6m people. For decades local leaders have **contemplated** expansion into the **unforgiving** landscape of dry sandy hills just north of the river. Now, despite serious questions about the absence of environmental **evaluations**, public **consultation** or even proper official approval, it is going ahead.

Vocab

1. **contemplate** v. to think deeply about sth for a long time 深思熟虑；沉思；苦思冥想
e.g. to contemplate your future 仔细盘算未来
2. **unforgiving** adj. unpleasant and causing difficulties for people 让人为难的；难应付的；棘手的
e.g. Business is a competitive activity. It is very fierce and very **unforgiving**. 商场如战场，竞争激烈，不近人情。

3. **evaluation** n. 评价; [审计] 评估; 估价; 求值

4. **consultation** n. the act of discussing sth with sb or with a group of people before making a decision about it 咨询; 商讨; 磋商

e.g. a **consultation document/ paper/ period/ process** 咨询文件/论文/时间/过程

At the heart of the project is the work now under way—in Xuanmagou and other nearby villages—to shear the tops off 700 mountains, use that dirt to fill the valleys in between, and so create a plateau fit for new construction. Residents and environmentalists are concerned about the scale of the project and its **potential** impact.

Vocab

1. **shear off** v. ~ (sth) (off) (*technical* 术语) (especially of metal 尤指金属) to break under pressure; to cut through sth and make it break 切断; 剪切; 断

e.g. The bolts holding the wheel in place sheared off. 固定这个轮子的几个螺栓断了。

2. **potential** adj. that can develop into sth or be developed in the future 潜在的; 可能的

e.g. potential customers 潜在的客户

Sentence

At the heart of the project is the work now under way—in Xuanmagou and other nearby villages—to shear the tops off 700 mountains, use that dirt to fill the valleys in between, and so create a plateau fit for new construction.

主干: the heart of the project use that... 其中 the heart of the project (that) is the work now under way 这里是一个从句省略了 that

Their reasons vary, but centre on a lack of transparency. Environmentalists insist their complaints are not based on **knee-jerk** opposition to development. “We are not necessarily opposed,” says Zhao Zhong, a local activist. “If we could see detailed information we could evaluate it, but nobody is providing any.”

Vocab

1. **knee-jerk** adj. 未经思考作出的; 依靠本能作出的 If you call someone's response to a question or situation a **knee-jerk** reaction, you mean that they react in a very predictable way, without thinking.

e.g. The **knee-jerk** reaction to this is to call for proper security in all hospitals. 对此类状况的第一反应会是要求所有医院都采取适当的安全措施。

Li Ding, a **geography** professor at Lanzhou University, says there is not even clarity on the boundaries of the new project. One widely reported figure says it will cover 113 square km. City officials, says Mr Li, were at first keen to publicise the project, but have shut up as criticism **mounted**.

Vocab

1. **geography** n. the scientific study of the earth's surface, physical features, divisions, products, population, etc. 地理(学)

e.g. **human/ physical/ economic/ social geography** 人文/自然/经济/社会地理学

2. **mount** v. 增强; 加剧 If something **mounts**, it increases in intensity.

e.g. The decibel level was **mounting**... 噪音在增强。

Sentence

One widely reported figure says it will cover 113 square km.

这里 One widely reported figure says (that) it will cover 113 square km. 常见的省略要明白，不然一看两个谓语两个主语，会一脸懵逼

One big concern is the area's lack of water. Wang Nai'ang, also of Lanzhou University, says **precise** calculations are difficult because of the **vagueness** of the plans that have so far been made public. He says he does not know whether the annual **shortfall** will be 100 cubic metres of water or a billion. "But I can **definitely** say the area will lack adequate water." Villagers complain they have not been consulted, and do not know whether they will be forced to move or **compensated adequately**.

Vocab

1. **precise** *adj.* clear and accurate 准确的；确切的；精确的；明确的

e.g. precise details/ instructions/ measurements 确切的细节；明确的指令；精确的尺寸

2. **vagueness** *n.* 模糊；含糊；暧昧；茫然

3. **shortfall** *n.* 不足；缺口；差额；亏空 If there is a **shortfall in** something, there is less of it than you need.

e.g. The government has refused to make up a £30,000 **shortfall in** funding. 政府拒不补上30,000 英镑的资金缺口。

4. **definitely** *adv.* a way of emphasizing that sth is true and that there is no doubt about it 肯定；没问题；当然；确实

e.g. 'Was it what you expected?' 'Yes, definitely.' "那是你所期待的吗？" "当然是。"

5. **compensate** *v.* ~ (for sth) to provide sth good to balance or reduce the bad effects of damage, loss, etc. 补偿；弥补

e.g. Nothing can compensate for the loss of a loved one. 失去心爱的人是无法补偿的。

6. **adequately** *adv.* 充分地；足够地；适当地

According to Mr Zhao, this kind of thing now happens less in China's more developed eastern provinces. "But in the west, it is still easy to avoid transparency and public **consultation**."

Vocab

1. **consultation** *n.* the act of discussing sth with sb or with a group of people before making a decision about it 咨询；商讨；磋商

e.g. a **consultation document/ paper/ period/ process** 咨询文件/论文/时间/过程

Lanzhou city officials did not respond to questions about the project. Nor did one of the main developers, China Pacific Construction Group, a private firm headed by Yan Jiehe, a **flamboyant tycoon** often described as "China's Donald Trump." But Mr Yan recently told the China Economic Weekly that the project would be a "city of wonders", **blending** the best of Las Vegas and Venice.

Vocab

1. **flamboyant** *adj.* different, confident and exciting in a way that attracts attention 炫耀的；卖弄的

e.g. a **flamboyant gesture/ style/ personality** 炫耀的手势/作风/个性

2. **tycoon** *n.* 大亨；巨头；大实业家 A **tycoon** is a person who is successful in business and so has

become rich and powerful.

e.g. ...a self-made Irish property tycoon. 白手起家的爱尔兰房地产巨头

3. blend v. 结合, 融合, 综合 (想法、政策和风格) If you **blend** ideas, policies, or styles, you use them together in order to achieve something.

e.g. ...a band that **blended** jazz, folk and classical music. 将爵士乐、民乐以及古典乐糅合在一起的乐队

Sentence

Nor did one of the main developers, China Pacific Construction Group, a private firm headed by Yan Jiehe, a flamboyant tycoon often described as "China's Donald Trump."

主干: Nor did one of the main developers 这里 nor 和上文 did not respond to...都构成否定, 即表示他们都没有回应这个关于项目的问题

China Pacific Construction Group 解释 the main developers

a private firm headed by Yan Jiehe 解释 China Pacific Construction Group

a flamboyant tycoon often described as "China's Donald Trump." 解释 Yan Jiehe

From the print edition: China

Construction in the west Build it and they might come 西部建设: 筑好金巢引凤来

Western provinces can still be a wild place for development.

西部省份仍是尚待开发的处女地。

APPLE trees provide much of the livelihood for the 100 or so families of Xuanmagou village, on the outskirts of Lanzhou, a grimy industrial city in north-west China. In March, fearing the gritty dust from heavy equipment working nearby would damage the trees, residents blocked access to the village and brought work on an ambitious and controversial construction project to a halt. 位于脏乱的中国西北工业城市兰州市郊区里有一个萱麻沟村, 里面约100户人家中的大部分生活来源是种植苹果树。3月份, 村民害怕村子边上运行着的重型机械带来的沙尘会对苹果树造成损害, 他们堵住进村入口, 这个浩大又备受争议的工程不得不停工整顿。

Called "Lanzhou New City," the project is touted as a way to revitalise the capital of Gansu province on the edge of the Gobi desert, relieve overcrowding, and create a lively hub for western China.

这个工程叫做“兰州新城”, 号称能够让处于戈壁边缘的甘肃省省会缓解城市拥挤状况, 从而重新焕发活力, 为中国西部创造一个魅力都市。

The plan fits in with two prongs of the national development strategy. One is to foster urbanisation in the hope that moving people out of the countryside will turn them into the sort of domestic consumers the nation needs to rebalance its economy. The other is to develop the vast but backward west and achieve the long-sought goal of reducing stubborn regional disparities. But the execution of this project, and the comparison with that of another, even larger one 70km (43 miles) north of Lanzhou, suggests it will be hard to tame China's wild west.

这个计划是配合国家发展战略中的两部分内容, 一是促进城市化, 希望人们搬出农村, 转变

为重新平衡国家经济发展所需的国内消费人群，二是发展幅员辽阔但稍显落后的西部，改变长期以来地区差异显著的窘境。但同另一项此类，甚至说更大的工程相比，这项工程在操作过程中说明，驯服中国的西北荒地不是一件容易的事。

The larger project, set on flatter land near the city's main airport, is called "Lanzhou New Area." Its planned size exceeds 800 square km (300 square miles) and officials forecast its economic output, centred on manufacturing, petrochemicals and energy, to reach 270 billion yuan (\$43 billion) by 2030. Now it is merely a dusty, vast and peculiar landscape with roads in place and most buildings as yet unbuilt.

另一项更大的工程设立在兰州市机场附近较为平坦的地区，名字为“兰州新区”。它的规划面积超过800平方公里（300平方英里），政府预计，到2030年，以制造、石油化工和能源等方面为主的经济产出将达到2700亿元（430亿美元）。而现在它只是一大片尘土飞扬气氛怪异的土地，路是有的，建筑却大多还没完工。

But experts say it stands a chance of becoming what promotional videos and brochures boldly portray. This "New Area" is China's fifth such zone approved by the central State Council; others include Pudong, a well-known area in Shanghai, and Binhai in Tianjin. It has been launched with much more transparency and there have been few complaints from environmentalists or residents.

但是专家说它有可能成为展望视频和宣传册大胆描绘的那个样子。这片“新区”是由国务院批准的中国第五个类似项目，其它四个包括著名的上海浦东新区和天津滨海新区。它的启动更加透明，而且几乎没有环保人士或当地居民投诉。

It is a different story at the "New City" project. Lanzhou itself is set in a narrow valley of the Yellow River surrounded by mountains, and has long lacked enough space for its 3.6m people. For decades local leaders have contemplated expansion into the unforgiving landscape of dry sandy hills just north of the river. Now, despite serious questions about the absence of environmental evaluations, public consultation or even proper official approval, it is going ahead.

但“新城”就不一样了，兰州市地处四周环山且狭窄的黄河峡谷，360万居民长期缺乏足够的空间。几十年来，当地领导想方设法希望向黄河北边干燥的沙丘地带扩展。现在，尽管人们对该项目的环境评估、公共协商甚至正式的官方许可的缺少都存在巨大的疑问，但这个项目还是继续开工。

At the heart of the project is the work now under way—in Xuanmagou and other nearby villages—to shear the tops off 700 mountains, use that dirt to fill the valleys in between, and so create a plateau fit for new construction. Residents and environmentalists are concerned about the scale of the project and its potential impact. 该工程的核心地带正好就是萱麻沟村及其它邻近村庄，现在正如火如荼进行中。先削平770座山，然后用这些土石填平中间的山谷，这样一来就形成了适合建设新工程的平原。居民和环保热心人士都担心工程规模所带来的隐患。

Their reasons vary, but centre on a lack of transparency. Environmentalists insist their complaints are not based on knee-jerk opposition to development. "We are not necessarily opposed," says Zhao Zhong, a local activist. "If we could see detailed information we could evaluate it, but nobody is providing any."

他们的理由各种各样，但都集中在透明度的缺乏。环保主义人士坚持认为自己的担心不是毫无缘由地反对发展。当地人心群众赵钟（音）说：“我们没必要反对发展，但要是能够见到

详细的信息，我们就能对它做评估，可没一个人提供任何信息。”

Li Ding, a geography professor at Lanzhou University, says there is not even clarity on the boundaries of the new project. One widely reported figure says it will cover 113 square km. City officials, says Mr Li, were at first keen to publicise the project, but have shut up as criticism mounted.

兰州大学地理学教授李丁说，这项工程甚至都没有说清楚建设边界。一个广为人知的数字说它占地113平方公里。李丁说市里的官员起初想把这个工程定性为公共项目，但是由于批评意见太多就关停了。

One big concern is the area's lack of water. Wang Nai'ang, also of Lanzhou University, says precise calculations are difficult because of the vagueness of the plans that have so far been made public. He says he does not know whether the annual shortfall will be 100 cubic metres of water or a billion. "But I can definitely say the area will lack adequate water." Villagers complain they have not been consulted, and do not know whether they will be forced to move or compensated adequately.

缺水也是一个大问题。鉴于这个工程公开披露的信息很少，精确的数字难以计算。同样是来自兰州大学的王乃昂这样指出。他还说，虽然他不知道每年的水资源缺口是100立方还是10亿立方，“但是我敢肯定这个地区会缺少足够多的水资源。”村民抱怨相关部门和建设方没有咨询他们的意见，不知道以后自己会不会被强制搬迁或者补偿够不够多。

According to Mr Zhao, this kind of thing now happens less in China's more developed eastern provinces. "But in the west, it is still easy to avoid transparency and public consultation."

根据赵钟（音）的说法，这种事在中国更发达的东部发生得要少些，“但是在西部，躲避公开透明和不征询民众意见还是很容易做到的。”

Lanzhou city officials did not respond to questions about the project. Nor did one of the main developers, China Pacific Construction Group, a private firm headed by Yan Jiehe, a flamboyant tycoon often described as "China's Donald Trump." But Mr Yan recently told the China Economic Weekly that the project would be a "city of wonders", blending the best of Las Vegas and Venice.

兰州市官员以及作为主要开发商之一的中国太平洋建设集团都未对这个项目的相关疑问作出回应。严介和是该私人公司的董事长，被称为“中国的唐纳德·特朗普”。最近他告诉《中国经济周刊》，这个项目会成为“奇迹之城”，汇集了拉斯韦加斯和威尼斯的成功经验。