

## **The Development of Bronze Technology in Early China and its Eurasian Connection**

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Over the past two decades, the accumulation of archaeological evidence from Northwest China suggests a strong link between the beginning of bronze metallurgy in East Asia and the eastward spread of bronzes across the Eurasian steppe. It has been suggested that bronze metallurgy was first introduced into northwestern China and then spread further eastwards to the Central Plains of China. The appearance of ritual bronzes and the rise of piece-mould casting technology at the Erlitou site in Henan province marked a breakthrough in the early development of bronze metallurgy in Central China. The subsequent Shang dynasty period witnessed the development of diverse bronze technologies in many regional centers, indicating the significance of regional interaction as well as local innovations. This paper will first discuss the introduction of bronze metallurgy into China and highlight the use of personal ornaments and the implications of this; then, it will examine the social background for the rise of piece-mould casting technology in the Central Plains of China; finally, it will focus on the development of bronze technology in the peripheral regions of the Central Plains, and explore the crucial influence of social-cultural factors on the formation of some local bronze traditions.