

**From the World Heritage Irrigation Structure of
Lougang Irrigation and Drainage System of Taihu
Lake Basin to the Global Important Agricultural
Cultural Heritage of mulberry fish ponds**

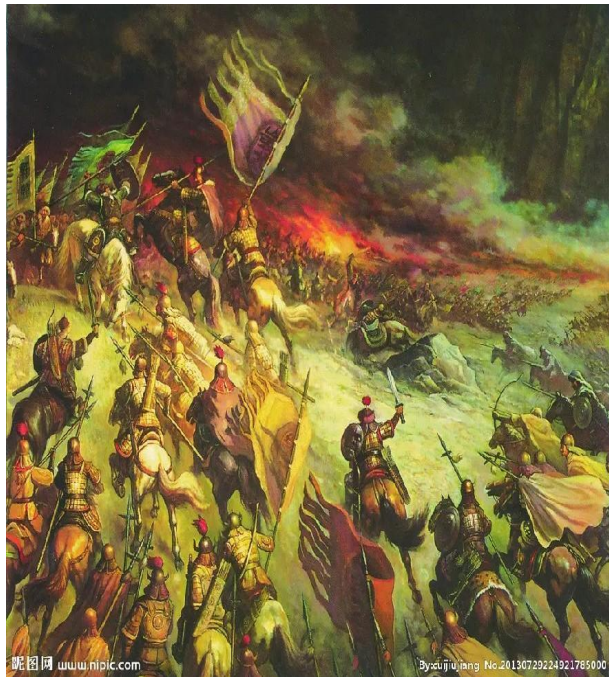


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- In ancient times, the southern shore of Taihu Lake was a vast area of marshes and mudflats. With water high and land low, sparse population, and inconvenient transportation, it was not suitable for human production and living, earning it the nickname "wilderness."



More than 2300 years ago, the ancestors of Taihu Lake began to build embankments and dig channels for drainage along the lake.



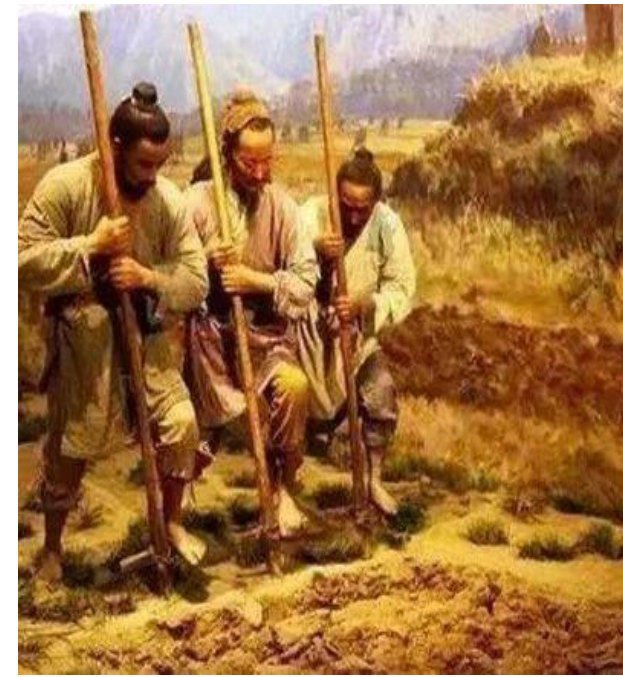
war needs



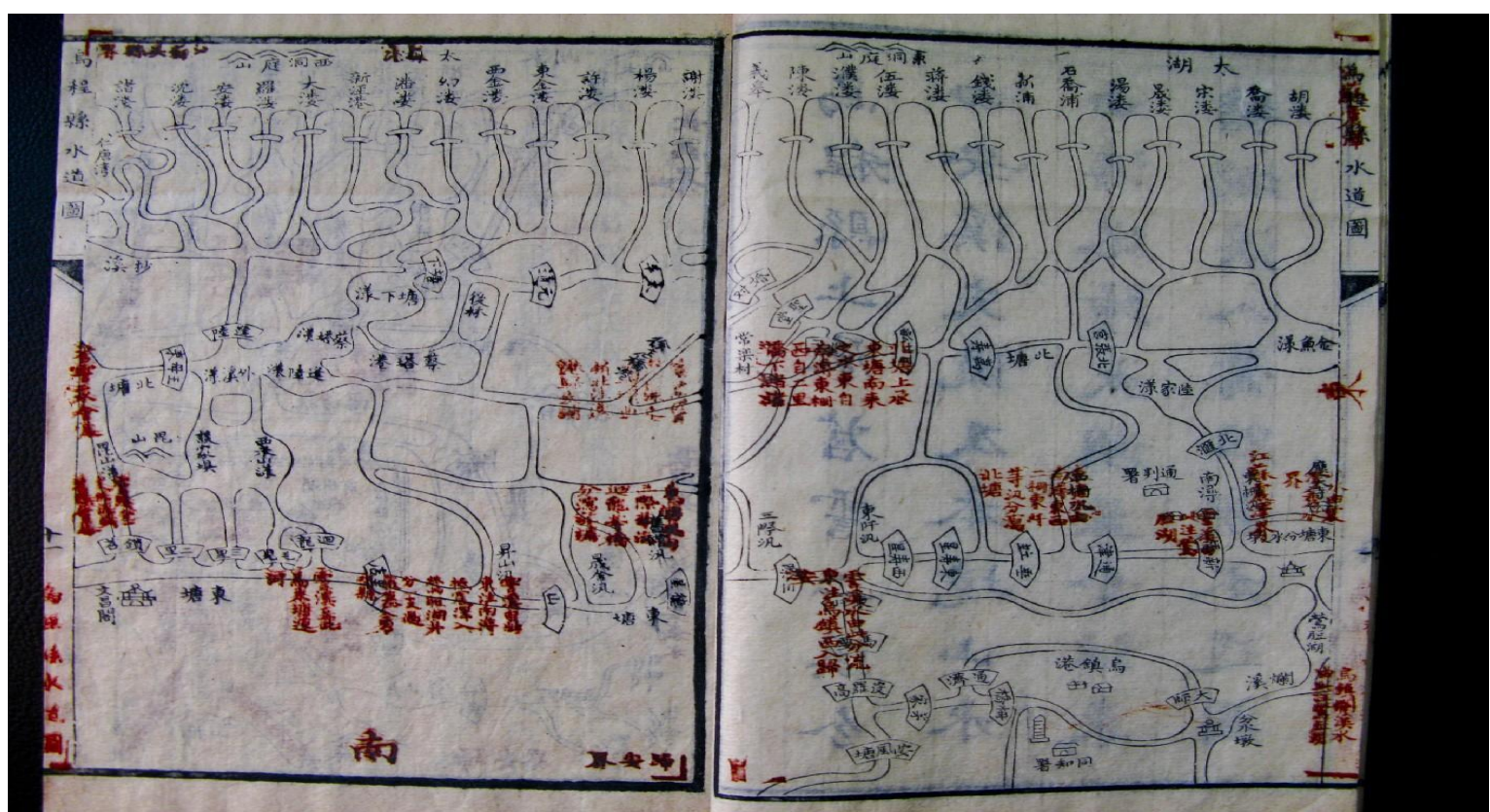
flood discharge



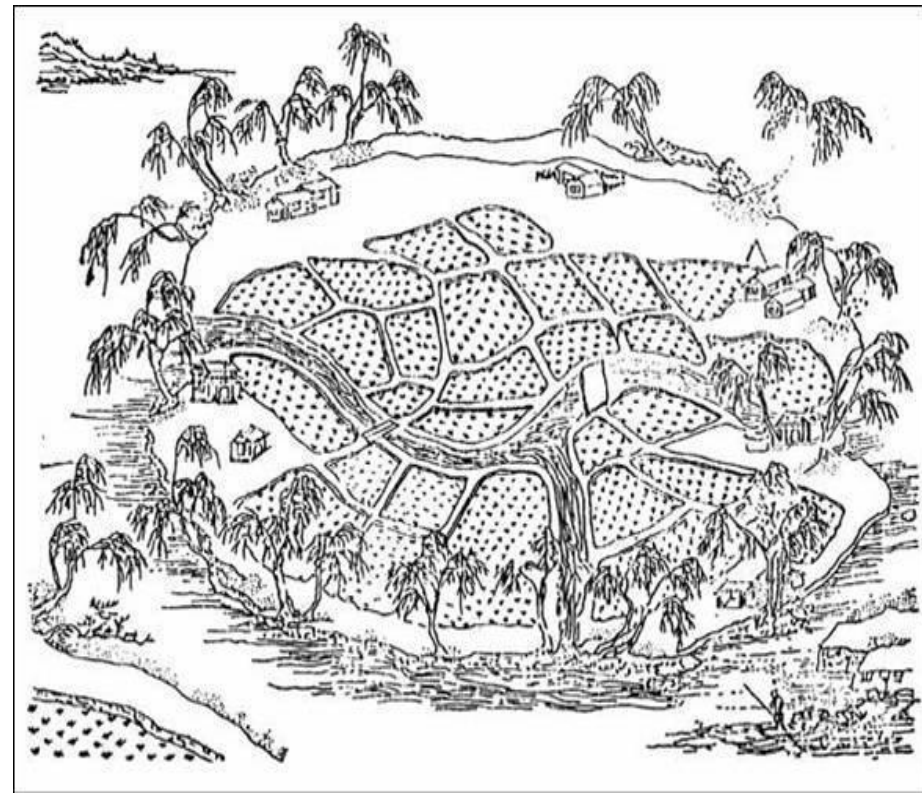
irrigation



land reclamation



Waterway Map of
Wucheng County



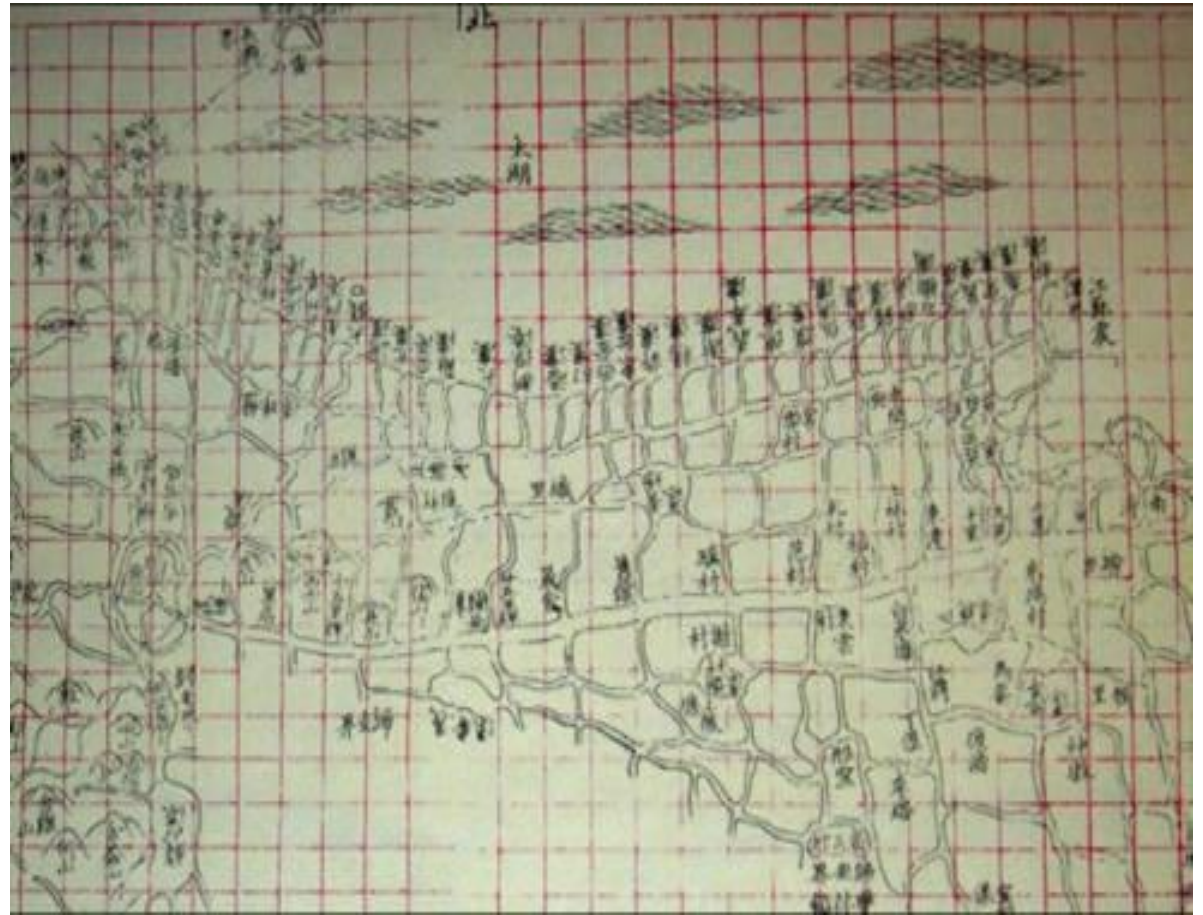
The Illustration of Polder Engineering" (Selected from the
Qing Dynasty book "Shoushi Tongkao")

About 1700 years ago, people excavated Lougang on the mudflats of Taihu Lake, separating the water and soil, and new land began to emerge. The excavated mud was piled up around, forming embankments resembling city walls, which people called “wei”. Water flowed outside the wei, and fields formed inside, creating Lougang Irrigation and Drainage System of Taihu Lake Basin.

"Lougang" specifically refers to the artificial small rivers in Huzhou City, which flow from north to south, are distributed densely, and relatively small in scale.



QiaoLou

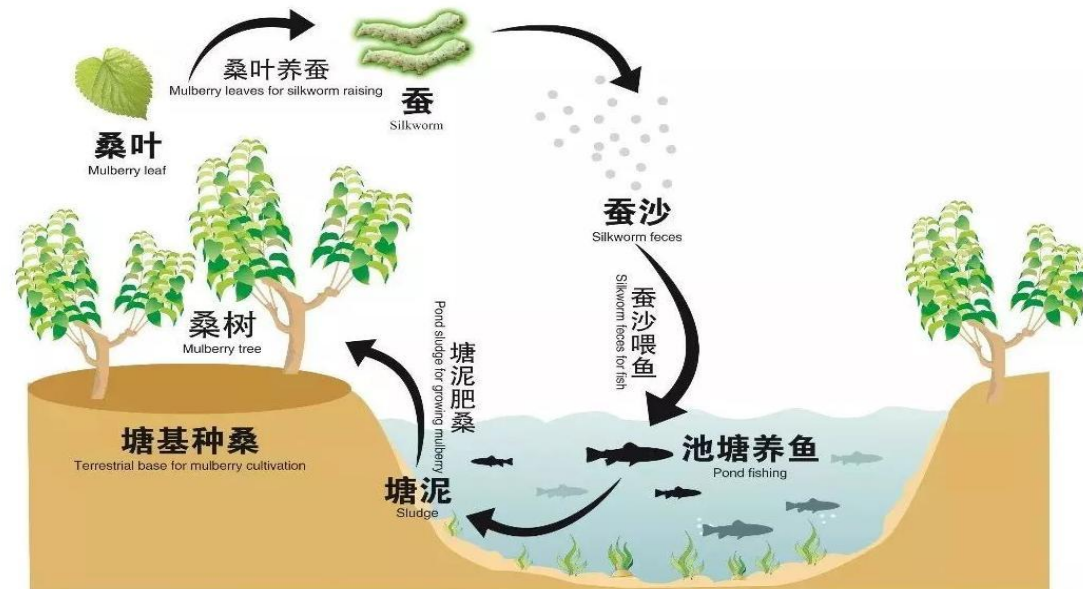


Wuxing Lougang in 1673 Map(selected from the Kangxi "Wucheng County Chronicles")

Parallel to Taihu, the larger-scale waterways are called “Hengtang”.



Since the 11th century, our ancestors, during the construction of the Lougang water conservancy project, creatively piled up the excavated soil from the riverbed into embankments. They planted rice in the fertile fields and mounds, bred aquatic products in the low-lying marshes and ponds within the fields, and raised silkworms to feed on mulberry leaves on the banks of the ponds. They used silkworm waste to feed the aquatic animals and utilized the sediment from the water as fertilizer for rice fields, vegetable plots, and mulberry orchards. This created a sustainable ecological agricultural system known as “raising fish in the ponds, planting mulberry trees along the pond banks, using mulberry leaves to feed silkworms, feeding silkworm waste to fish, using fish waste to fertilize the ponds, and using pond sediment to fertilize mulberry trees”.



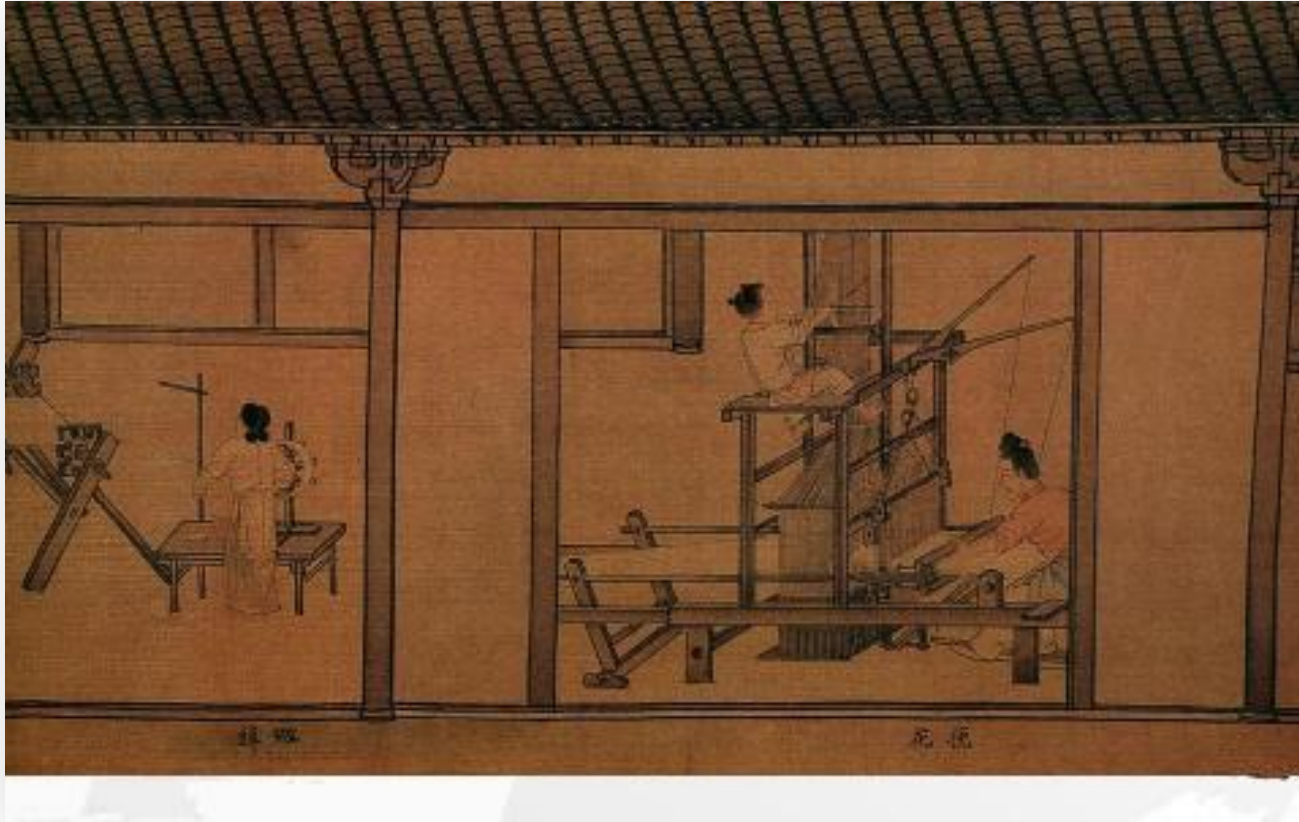
mulberry fish pond



Close-up view of mulberry fish pond



The Lougang polders and mulberry fish ponds contributed to making Huzhou the “Silk Capital” .

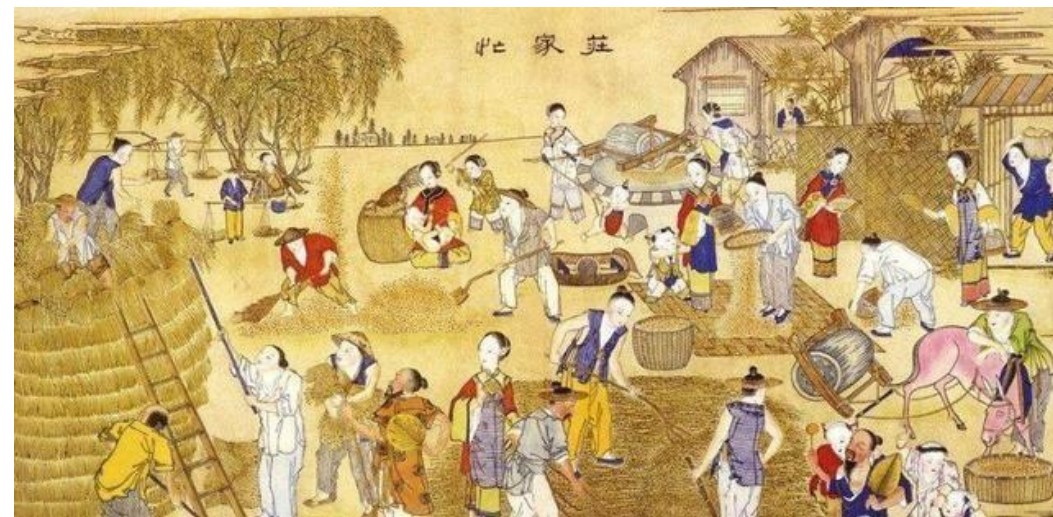


Reeling silk

The Lougang polders and mulberry fish ponds contributed to making Huzhou “the land of fish and rice” .



The Lougang polders and mulberry fish ponds have made Huzhou the “Granary of the World”. (If Huzhou and Suzhou are sufficient, the world is satisfied.)



On November 8, 2016, during the 67th Executive Council of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Lougang Irrigation and Drainage System of Taihu Lake Basin was included in the Third World Heritage List of Irrigation Engineering.



On November 23, 2017, the “mulberry fish pond system in Huzhou, Zhejiang” was included in the Global Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) by expert review of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).



Protecting Lougang, we walk together.

湖州市太湖溇港世界灌溉工程遗产保护条例

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打印

关闭

湖州市人大常委会公告

(第1号)

2022年3月9日湖州市第八届人民代表大会常务委员会第四十一次会议通过的《湖州市太湖溇港世界灌溉工程遗产保护条例》，已于2022年5月27日浙江省第十三届人民代表大会常务委员会第三十六次会议批准，现予公布，自2022年6月20日起施行。

湖州市人民代表大会常务委员会

2022年6月6日

Regulations on the Protection of [Lougang in Taihu Lake](#)

Establishing the “Lougang Little Guardians Brigade Team of Taihu Lake” and carrying out a series of activities with the theme “Protecting the World Heritage of Lougang Irrigation and Drainage System of Taihu Lake Basin and Building a Green, Low-Carbon, and Prosperous Homeland.”



Beautiful China, Dynamic Huzhou!

