

A timeline of Chinese science fiction

From humble beginnings, sci-fi literature and filmmaking in China have evolved into a major, expanding market, with its influence spreading far beyond national borders.

A total of 35 chapters of China's first sci-fi novel "Lunar Colony" were published, though the novel was not finished. It was written by an unknown author under the pen name Old Fisherman of the Secluded River.

1904

Zheng Wenguang, considered "the father of Chinese sci-fi literature," published his short story "From Earth to Mars," the first sci-fi work of New China.

1905

Xu Nianci published "New Tales of Mr Absurdity," China's first finished work of modern science fiction.

1954

Zheng's "Builders of Mars" won an international award at Moscow. It is the first time a Chinese sci-fi novel was so honored in the world.

1957

Lao She's modern sci-fi satire "City of Cats" came out in an English version. It is regarded as the first Chinese sci-fi novel to gain global attention.

1964

The golden age of Chinese sci-fi novels, with numerous works on a variety of subjects published in professional magazines.

1978-1983

The Chinese sci-fi film "Death Ray on the Coral Island," based on a novel by Tong Enzheng, was released.

1980

The Galaxy Award, China's most prestigious sci-fi honor, was initiated by domestic sci-fi magazines.

1986

Yao Haijun established the Chinese Science Fiction Readers' Association with the help of his fanzine Nebula. In the 1990s, regional fandoms and university clubs boomed all around China. The Science Fiction World magazine also founded its own fan club.

1990

Liu Cixin's sci-fi novel "The Three-Body Problem" won the Hugo Award, the first Chinese author to be honored with the prestigious global award.

2015

Hao Jingfang won the Hugo Award for her novelette "Folding Beijing."

2016

The film "The Wandering Earth" was released in China to wide acclaim, though it was produced on a shoestring budget for special effects.

2019

China announced new support for sci-fi movies, covering content development, screening, technology and talent fostering.

2020

"The Wandering Earth II," a prequel to the 2019 production, premieres to box office success in China and North America.

2023

The 81st World Science Fiction Convention will be held in the southwestern city of Chengdu, a hub for sci-fi works, from October 18-22.

2023