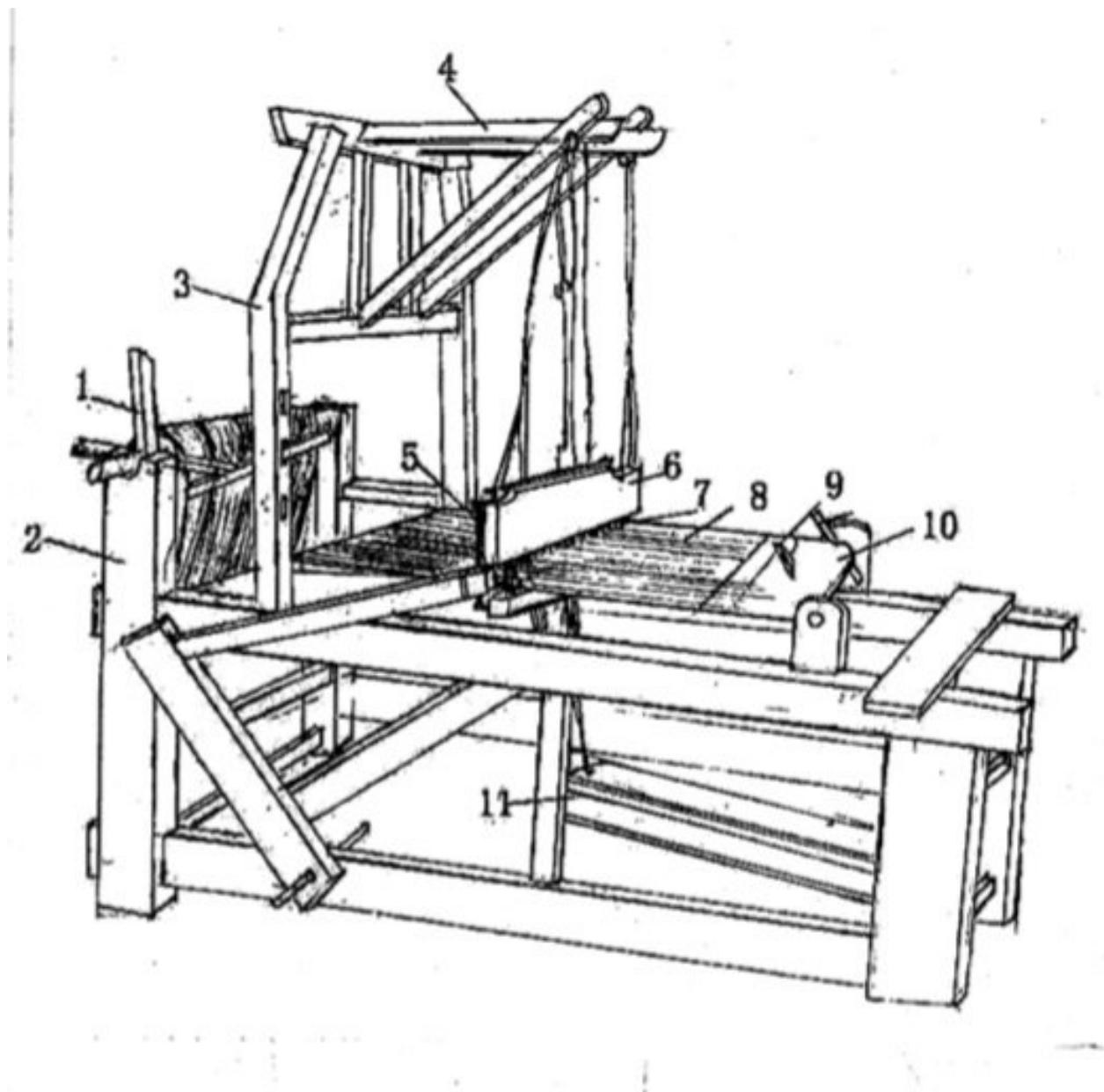


Handloom Cloth: Line Drawing Of Handloom

China's planned economy aimed to concentrate resources such as cotton in the hands of the state. Ideally, the state would buy raw materials at low, state-set prices, process them in urban factories, and sell them back to the rural population at a profit. However, because of growing demand in China's cities and the export market, rural China was chronically undersupplied with textiles. Women who produced cloth at home were in latent conflict with the state: the cotton they used was embezzled or stolen from the fields, and they used their own labor power for private endeavors, rather than for work in the collective fields. At the same time, women's work at home provided the preconditions for socialist accumulation: without women's unpaid work, rural people would have gone naked and would have been unable to work in the fields.



The image is a technical line drawing of a traditional Chinese handloom. It shows a complex wooden frame with various components labeled with numbers 1 through 11. The loom is designed for manual operation, with a large horizontal beam (1) at the top, supported by vertical posts (2). A central mechanism (3) allows for the movement of the weft beam (4). The drawing illustrates the intricate structure of the loom, including the heddles (5) and the reed (6) used for beating the weft into place. The overall design is functional and efficient, reflecting the traditional craftsmanship of the region.

TITLE

Line drawing of handloom

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CREATOR

Shang Jingwen 尚静文

PUBLISHER

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DESCRIPTION

Line drawing of a handloom from rural Shaanxi, where fieldwork was carried out.

Source: Shang Jingwen 尚静文, 'Zhongnanshan xia de shougong fangzhiji - Zhouzhi, Huxian jige xiangcun de diaocha,' (终南山下的手工纺织机 - 周至、户县几个乡村的调查) in Wang Yuning 王宇宁 (ed.), *Guanzhong minjian qiju yu nongmin shenghuo* (关中民间器具与农民生活) (Beijing: Xueyuan chubanshe, 2010).