

The Man Who Changed China

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jiang zemin's life and leadership sweep through almost eighty tumultuous years of chinese history japanese occupation civil war great leap forward cultural revolution tiananmen square and more recently dramatic economic growth tensions with taiwan and opportunities and confrontations with america jiang's story is an epic of war deprivation revolution political turmoil social convulsion economic reform national transformation and international resurgence to robert lawrence kuhn a

longtime china observer understanding the legacy of jiang zemin is essential for understanding the challenges of contemporary china by examining jiang s life we observe the clash between china s traditional culture and chaotic history and we appreciate how its changes impact the entire world in the man who changed china kuhn who was cited by the asianwall street journal for the unprecedented access he was given in the course of writing this book has produced what the journal called probably the closest thing to an authorized biography that s possible in communist china here a reader will find a complex and nuanced portrait of china s senior leader whose policies continue to exert great influence over the course of his country kuhn offers insight into how the japanese occupation during jiang s teenage years imprinted his psyche for life how he became a communist and how decades later he struggled to transform the party in the face of withering criticism in a sense kuhn argues jiang s early skeptics got it right he was a transitional figure but not in the way they had meant with unshakable if paternalistic vision a lifelong love of chinese civilization and backroom political skills that no one had anticipated jiang zemin became an unexpected agent of change effecting the transition from a traumatized society to a confident prosperous country rapidly ascending in the new world order kuhn shows how jiang led china through an amazing metamorphosis from a fretful country destabilized by the turmoil and crackdown in tiananmen square into a vibrant nation that became a primary engine of global economic growth above all jiang is a chinese patriot and it is important to appreciate what that really means in offering this unusually intimate and comprehensive personal and political biography kuhn demonstrates that jiang zemin s life personifies the history of contemporary china giving invaluable insight into what china is today and will become in the future

the year 1919 changed chinese culture radically but in a way that completely took contemporaries by surprise at the beginning of the year even well informed intellectuals did not anticipate that for instance baihua a precursor of the modern chinese language communism hu shi and chen duxiu would become important and famous all of which was very obvious to them at the end of the year elisabeth forster traces the precise mechanisms behind this transformation on the basis of a rich variety of sources including newspapers personal letters student essays advertisements textbooks and diaries she proposes a new model for cultural change which puts intellectual marketing at its core this book retells the story of the new culture movement in light of the diversified and decentered picture of republican china developed in recent scholarship it is a lively and ironic narrative about cultural change through academic infighting rumors and conspiracy theories newspaper stories and intellectuals hell bent on selling agendas through powerful buzzwords

a fascinating look at china now and in the years to come through the eyes of those at the helm as china continues its rapid ascent attention is turning to its leaders

who they are and how they view the country's incredible transformation over the last thirty years in how China's leaders think the inside story of China's past current and future leaders revised bestselling author Lawrence Kuhn goes directly to the source talking with members of China's ruling party and examining recently declassified party material to provide readers with an intimate look at China's leaders and leadership structure visionary principles and convulsive past and tracing the nation's reform efforts focusing on President Hu Jintao's philosophies and policies the book looks to the next generation of China's leaders to ask the questions on everyone's lips who are China's future leaders how do they view China's place in the world confronting China's leaders head on Kuhn asks about the country's many problems from economic imbalances to unsustainable development to find out if there's a road map for change presenting the thoughts of key Chinese leaders on everything from media military banking and healthcare to film the internet science and technology and much more the book paints an intimate candid portrayal of how China's leaders really think presents a fascinating insight into how China's leaders think about their country and where it's headed asks the tough questions about China's need for reform pulls together information from over 100 personal interviews as well as recently declassified party documents taking readers closer to party officials than ever before how China's leaders think documents China's thirty year struggle toward economic and social reform and what's to come

the story of Sun Yat-sen's crusade to establish the People's Republic of China from the time he finished college to his death

Chinese farmers comprise one fifth of the world's population this book contends that they have been the driving force behind their country's remarkable economic growth and social change over the past 15 years guided by their own interests rather than by directives from Beijing

as China debates its past how will it define its future in this work Horner offers a different interpretation of how China's changed view of its modern historical experience has also changed China's understanding of its long intellectual and cultural tradition

in the first systematic study of its kind Hua Yu Li explains why in 1953 Mao suddenly changed direction in economic policy and launched China on a Stalinist road to socialism in so doing he profoundly changed the country's economic and political landscape including rich

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