

# Art In China Oxford History Of Art

Art In China Oxford History Of Art art in china oxford history of art offers a comprehensive exploration of one of the world's most ancient and influential artistic traditions. The study of Chinese art, as presented in the Oxford History of Art, provides valuable insights into the cultural, philosophical, and historical contexts that have shaped China's visual expressions over millennia. This article delves into the rich history of Chinese art, highlighting key periods, influential styles, and significant artworks, while emphasizing the scholarly contributions of Oxford's acclaimed art history program. Introduction to Chinese Art in the Oxford History of Art The Oxford History of Art is renowned for its scholarly approach to global art traditions, and its coverage of Chinese art is no exception. The volume dedicated to China traces the evolution of artistic practice from prehistoric times through the modern era. It underscores how Chinese art reflects the nation's philosophical ideas, political history, and social changes. The study of Chinese art within this context is essential for understanding not only aesthetic developments but also the cultural and ideological currents that have driven artistic innovation. Oxford's approach emphasizes critical analysis, contextualization, and the integration of archaeological findings with historical narratives. The Origins and Early Chinese Art Prehistoric Art and Neolithic Cultures Chinese art history begins with prehistoric artifacts dating back to the Paleolithic era. Notable examples include stone tools, pottery, and early figurines. During the Neolithic period (circa 7000–2000 BCE), distinct regional cultures emerged, exemplified by the Yangshao and Longshan cultures, which produced painted pottery, jade objects, and ritual artifacts. Shang and Zhou Dynasties: The Foundations of Chinese Artistic Tradition The Shang (c. 1600–1046 BCE) and Zhou (1046–256 BCE) dynasties mark the formative phases of Chinese art. The Shang period is famous for its sophisticated bronze casting, with ritual vessels like the ding and gui serving both functional and ceremonial roles. Oracle bones, inscribed with early Chinese script, represent one of the earliest forms of Chinese writing and are invaluable archaeological finds. During the Zhou Dynasty, art became more refined, with the development of elaborate bronze vessels, jade carvings, and intricate silk textiles. The concept of feng shui and ancestral worship influenced aesthetic choices, emphasizing harmony and reverence for tradition. 2 Classical Chinese Art: The Imperial Age Han Dynasty (206 BCE – 220 CE): The Rise of Artistic Sophistication The Han Dynasty is characterized by advancements in sculpture, painting, and ceramics. Tomb figurines, often made of terracotta, depict soldiers, servants, and animals, reflecting beliefs in the afterlife. Silk paintings and calligraphy also flourished, establishing enduring artistic conventions. Six Dynasties and Tang Dynasty (220–907 CE): Cultural Flourishing Following the fall of the Han, the Six Dynasties period saw a diversification of styles, with Buddhist art becoming prominent. The Tang Dynasty, a golden age, witnessed the creation of iconic Buddhist sculptures, murals, and painted scrolls. The Tang court patronized a cosmopolitan style, blending influences from Persia, India, and Central Asia. Notable artworks include the Buddha statues at the Longmen Grottoes and Dunhuang murals, which exemplify the synthesis of spiritual themes and artistic mastery. Song (960–1279 CE) and Yuan Dynasties (1271–1368 CE): Artistic Innovations The Song period is renowned for its landscape painting, emphasizing subtle

brushwork and atmospheric perspective. Artists like Fan Kuan and Guo Xi captured the natural world with poetic sensitivity. The era also saw the rise of literati painting, where scholars expressed personal feelings through ink and brush. The Yuan Dynasty, established by the Mongols, fostered a distinctive style that combined traditional Chinese techniques with influences from Central Asia. Artists such as Zhao Mengfu revived classical themes and integrated calligraphy into their paintings. Ming and Qing Dynasties: Refinement and Diversification Ming Dynasty (1368–1644 CE): Porcelain and Court Art The Ming period is famous for its exquisite blue-and-white porcelain, which became a major export commodity. Court painters produced elaborate murals, religious images, and narrative scrolls. The development of literati painting continued, emphasizing personal expression and scholarly ideals. Qing Dynasty (1644–1912 CE): Expansion and Innovation Under Qing rule, Chinese art experienced both consolidation and experimentation. Palace workshops produced grand imperial paintings, while individual artists like Giuseppe Castiglione introduced Western techniques, blending European realism with traditional Chinese aesthetics. The late Qing era also saw the emergence of revolutionary art, reflecting social upheavals and nationalist sentiments. Modern and Contemporary Chinese Art 20th Century Transformations The 20th century was a period of dramatic change. Artists grappled with the legacy of imperial traditions and the impact of Western art movements. The May Fourth Movement (1919) catalyzed a cultural renaissance, inspiring new artistic expressions. Prominent figures include: Xu Beihong Qi Baishi Zhang Daqian who integrated traditional techniques with modern themes. Contemporary Art in China Since the late 20th century, Chinese contemporary art has gained global prominence. Artists like Ai Weiwei and Cai Guo-Qiang challenge social and political norms through provocative installations, sculpture, and performance art. This period reflects a complex dialogue between tradition and innovation, with art serving as a platform for social commentary and cultural identity. Scholarly Contributions and Resources The Oxford History of Art provides a thorough scholarly foundation for understanding Chinese art's complexities. It synthesizes archaeological discoveries, historical texts, and critical theory to offer a nuanced perspective. Key resources include: In-depth chronologies of Chinese dynasties Analysis of major art forms: painting, sculpture, ceramics, calligraphy, and textiles Discussion of philosophical influences such as Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism Examination of regional variations and minority artistic traditions The volume also emphasizes the importance of contextualizing artworks within their social, political, and spiritual environments, fostering a holistic understanding of Chinese artistic heritage. 4 Conclusion art in china oxford history of art encapsulates a vast and diverse tradition that spans thousands of years. From prehistoric jade carvings to contemporary multimedia installations, Chinese art reflects the nation's enduring cultural values, philosophical ideas, and historical transformations. The Oxford approach ensures that students and scholars appreciate not only the aesthetic qualities of Chinese artworks but also their deeper meanings and societal significance. Whether exploring the refined brushwork of Song landscape paintings or the revolutionary spirit of modern installation art, readers gain a comprehensive understanding of China's artistic legacy. As China continues to evolve as a global cultural hub, its rich artistic history remains a vital part of understanding both its past and its future. QuestionAnswer What are some key periods of Chinese art highlighted in the Oxford History of Art? The Oxford History of Art covers major periods such as the Shang and Zhou Dynasties, the Tang and Song Dynasties, Ming and Qing eras, and modern contemporary developments, illustrating the evolution of Chinese artistic styles and themes. How does the Oxford History of Art explain the significance of landscape painting in Chinese art? It emphasizes that Chinese landscape painting, or shan shui, reflects philosophical ideas like Daoism and Confucianism, serving as a means to express harmony with nature and spiritual contemplation. What role does

calligraphy play in Chinese art according to the Oxford History of Art? Calligraphy is regarded as a high art form that embodies the artist's personality and moral character, with its development closely linked to Chinese painting and scholarly traditions. How does the Oxford History of Art address the influence of Buddhism on Chinese art? It explores how Buddhist themes and iconography profoundly influenced sculpture, painting, and temple architecture, especially during the Tang and Song dynasties, fostering a unique syncretic artistic style. What insights does the Oxford History of Art provide on modern Chinese art movements? It discusses the emergence of modernist movements, the impact of political upheavals like the Cultural Revolution, and contemporary art's global engagement and innovative practices. How does the Oxford History of Art describe the relationship between Chinese ceramics and cultural identity? The book highlights that Chinese ceramics, such as porcelain, have long been symbols of cultural sophistication, technological innovation, and trade influence, reflecting broader social and cultural values. In what ways does the Oxford History of Art analyze the impact of Western art on Chinese artists? It examines the introduction of Western artistic techniques and ideas during the 19th and 20th centuries, leading to hybrid styles and new artistic expressions that engage with global art discourses. Art In China Oxford History Of Art 5 Art in China Oxford History of Art: A Comprehensive Exploration of a Rich and Evolving Artistic Tradition China's artistic heritage is one of the most enduring and influential in human history. Spanning thousands of years, Chinese art reflects the nation's complex cultural, philosophical, and political developments. Within the authoritative scope of the Oxford History of Art, the study of art in China offers a detailed narrative of aesthetic innovation, spiritual expression, technical mastery, and social change. This guide aims to unpack the key themes, periods, and forms that define Chinese art, providing a thorough overview for enthusiasts, students, and scholars alike. --- The Significance of Art in Chinese Culture Chinese art is not merely decorative; it embodies the core philosophies—such as Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism—that have shaped Chinese society. Art functions as a visual language through which ideas about harmony, morality, nature, and spirituality are conveyed. From imperial court commissions to folk traditions, Chinese art reflects a continuous dialogue between the spiritual and the material. --- Overview of Major Periods in Chinese Art History Chinese art history can be broadly divided into several key periods, each marked by distinctive styles, materials, and cultural priorities: - Prehistoric and Ancient China (c. 10,000 BCE – 221 BCE) - Imperial Dynasties (221 BCE – 1912 CE) - Han Dynasty - Tang Dynasty - Song Dynasty - Yuan Dynasty - Ming Dynasty - Qing Dynasty - Modern and Contemporary Chinese Art (20th century – present) Understanding these eras provides context for the evolution of artistic techniques and themes. --- Prehistoric and Ancient Chinese Art Key Features - Jade Carvings: Among the earliest artifacts, jade was prized for its durability and spiritual significance. - Pottery and Ceramics: The development of pottery, especially during the Neolithic period, reflects advances in technique and aesthetics. - Bronze Ritual Vessels: During the Shang and Zhou dynasties, highly decorated bronze vessels served ceremonial functions, showcasing sophisticated casting techniques. Significance Ancient Chinese art was largely functional and ritualistic, emphasizing harmony with nature and ancestral veneration. --- Imperial Chinese Art: An Overview The imperial periods saw the flourishing of diverse art forms, driven by court patronage and dynastic stability. Han Dynasty (206 BCE – 220 CE) - Silk painting and calligraphy emerged as refined arts. - Ceramics advanced with the creation of the famous Han terracotta figurines. Tang Dynasty (618–907) - Known for innovative ceramic techniques and the development of landscape painting. - The Buddhist influence brought elaborate sculptures and murals. Song Dynasty (960–1279) - A golden age for literature and arts, especially landscape painting. - Artists like Guo Xi prioritized capturing the spirit of nature over realism. - Porcelain reached new heights, exemplified by Cizhou ware and

blue-and-white porcelain. Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) - The Mongol rule fostered a more inclusive artistic environment. - Literati painting flourished, emphasizing personal expression. Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) - Revival of traditional styles and techniques. - The production of blue-and-white porcelain became globally renowned. - Architectural projects, including the Forbidden City, showcased imperial grandeur. Qing Dynasty Art In China Oxford History Of Art 6 (1644-1912) - Artistic diversity expanded with court paintings, scrolls, and embroidery. - Integration of Western influences began in later years. --- Major Artistic Genres and Forms Chinese art encompasses a broad spectrum, including painting, sculpture, ceramics, calligraphy, and decorative arts. Painting - Ink Wash Painting: Emphasizes fluid brushwork and spontaneity. - Landscape Painting: Central to Chinese art, depicting mountains, rivers, and trees to express philosophical ideas. - Bird-and-Flower Painting: Focuses on detailed depictions of flora and fauna. Calligraphy - Considered the highest art form, blending visual beauty with literary meaning. - Styles range from seal script to cursive, reflecting personal expression. Sculpture - From terracotta warriors to Buddhist statues, sculpture often served religious or funerary purposes. - Notable for detailed craftsmanship and symbolic motifs. Ceramics - China's porcelain is world-famous, with innovations in glaze, shape, and decoration. - Techniques were refined over dynasties, influencing global ceramic traditions. --- Religious Influences and Artistic Expression Buddhism, introduced from India, profoundly impacted Chinese art: - Murals and Cave Temples: The Mogao Caves in Dunhuang contain exquisite Buddhist murals. - Statues and Icons: Representations of Buddhas and bodhisattvas emphasize spiritual ideals. - Scroll Paintings: Illustrated Buddhist scriptures and teachings. Daoism and Confucianism also shaped themes of harmony with nature and moral virtue in artistic motifs. --- The Role of the Scholar-Artist and Literati Culture During the Song and Ming dynasties, a class of scholar-artists emerged who prioritized personal expression over court patronage: - Literati painting emphasized spontaneity, individual style, and philosophical depth. - Calligraphy and poetry often accompanied paintings, creating a synthesis of literary and visual arts. - The Four Gentlemen (plum blossom, orchid, bamboo, and chrysanthemum) symbolize virtues like resilience and humility. --- Artistic Exchanges and Influence While China developed a highly distinctive style, it also interacted with neighboring cultures: - Silk Road facilitated the exchange of motifs, techniques, and ideas. - Contact with Central Asia, India, and later Europe influenced certain periods and styles. - The introduction of Western techniques in the 19th and 20th centuries led to new artistic experiments and modern movements. --- Contemporary Chinese Art The 20th and 21st centuries have seen dramatic shifts: - Political Art: Propaganda posters and revolutionary art during the Mao era. - Avant-Garde Movements: Experimentation with abstraction, installation, and conceptual art. - Global Influence: Chinese artists like Ai Weiwei have gained international acclaim, blending traditional motifs with contemporary critiques. --- Key Themes and Motifs in Chinese Art - Harmony with Nature: A dominant philosophical theme. - Symbolism: Use of motifs like dragons, phoenixes, and lotus flowers to convey virtues. - Imperial Power: Art as a reflection of authority and divine right. - Spirituality: Depictions of Buddhist, Daoist, and Confucian ideals. --- Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of Art in China The art in China documented within the Oxford History of Art underscores the depth and diversity of Chinese artistic achievement. From ancient ritual objects to contemporary Art In China Oxford History Of Art 7 installations, Chinese art continues to evolve while rooted in centuries-old traditions. Its unique blend of spiritual symbolism, technical mastery, and philosophical depth offers invaluable insights into China's cultural identity and historical resilience. Whether exploring the delicate brushwork of Song landscape paintings or the revolutionary statements of modern artists, understanding Chinese art enriches our appreciation of its profound influence on global artistic heritage. As China continues to forge new artistic pathways, its historic legacy

remains a testament to the enduring power of art as a reflection of human experience. Chinese art, Oxford history of art, Chinese painting, Asian art, Chinese sculpture, Ming Dynasty art, Qing Dynasty art, Chinese calligraphy, traditional Chinese art, Chinese ceramics

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excellent Ise review of books china is the world s most populous country and newest superpower whose place on the international stage can only be understood through the lens of its modern history the oxford history of modern china is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand this rising power in what promises to be the chinese century covering the period of dramatic shifts and surprising transformations which comprise china s modern history the book spans from the founding of the qing dynasty 1644 1912 to the present day it introduces readers to important but often overlooked events in china s past such as the bloody taiping civil war 1850 1864 and also sheds new light on more familiar landmarks in chinese history such as the opium war 1839 1842 the boxer uprising of 1900 the rise to power of the chinese communist party in 1949 the tiananmen protests and beijing massacre of 1989 and china s rise to economic superpower status in the 21st century a new chapter for this edition brings the story into the era of xi jinping

this lavishly illustrated volume explores the history of china during a period of dramatic shifts and surprising transformations from the founding of the qing dynasty 1644 1912 through to the present day the oxford illustrated history of modern china promises to be essential reading for anyone who wants to understand this rising superpower on the verge of what promises to be the chinese century introducing readers to important but often overlooked events in china s past such as the bloody taiping civil war 1850 1864 which had a death toll far higher than the roughly contemporaneous american civil war it also helps readers see more familiar landmarks in chinese history in new ways such as the opium war 1839 1842 the boxer uprising of 1900 the rise to power of the chinese

communist party in 1949 and the tiananmen protests and beijing massacre of 1989 this is one of the first major efforts and in many ways the most ambitious to date to come to terms with the broad sweep of modern chinese history taking readers from the origins of modern china right up through the dramatic events of the last few years the beijing games the financial crisis and china s rise to global economic pre eminence which have so fundamentally altered western views of china and china s place in the world

china can boast a history of art lasting 5 000 years and embracing a huge diversity of images and objects jade tablets painted silk handscrolls and fans ink and lacquer painting porcelain ware sculptures and calligraphy they range in scale from the vast terracotta army with its 7 000 or so life size figures to the exquisitely delicate writing of fourth century masters such as wang xizhin and his teacher lady wei but this rich tradition has not until now been fully appreciated in the west where scholars have focused their attention on sculpture downplaying art more highlyprized by the chinese themselves such as calligraphy art in china marks a breakthrough in the study of the subject drawing on recent innovative scholarship and on newly accessible studies in china itself craig clunas surveys the full spectrum of the visual arts in china he ranges from the neolithic period to the art scene of the 1980s and 1990s examining art in a variety of contexts as it has been designed for tombs commissioned by rulers displayed in temples created for the men and women of the educated ilite and bought and sold in the marketplace many of the objects illustrated in this book have previously been known only to a few specialists and will be totally new to a general audience

the oxford handbook on early china brings 30 scholars together to cover early china from the neolithic through warring states periods ca 5000 500bce the study is chronological and incorporates a multidisciplinary approach covering topics from archaeology anthropology art history architecture music and metallurgy to literature religion paleography cosmology religion prehistory and history

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using archival materials newly available in china and records in britain and the us robert bickers paints a detailed portrait of the traders missionaries businessmen diplomats and settlers who constituted britain in china bickers argues that the british presence in china was dominated by urban settlers whose primary allegiance lay not with any grand imperial design but with their own communities and precarious livelihoods this brought them into growing conflict with the chinese population and the british imperial government bickers goes on to examine how the british state and its allies brought an end to the reign of freelance settler imperialism on the china coast at the same time other british sectors missionary and business renegotiated their own relationship with their chinese markets and the chinese state and distanced themselves from the settler british

providing an indispensable resource for students educators businessmen and officials investigating the transformative experience of modern china this book provides a comprehensive summary of the culture institutions traditions and international relations that have shaped today s china in modern china author

xiaobing li offers a resource far beyond a conventional encyclopedia providing not only comprehensive coverage of chinese civilization and traditions but also addressing the values issues and critical views of china as a result readers will better understand the transformative experience of the most populous country in the world and will grasp the complexity of the progress and problems behind the rise of china to a world superpower in less than 30 years written by an author who lived in china for three decades this encyclopedia addresses 16 key topics regarding china such as its geography government social classes and ethnicities gender based identities arts media and food each followed by roughly 250 short entries related to each topic all the entries are placed within a broad sociopolitical and socioeconomic contextual framework the format and writing consistency through the book reflects a chinese perspective and allows students to compare chinese with western and american views

winner 2023 toshihide numata book award numata center for buddhist studies at the university of california berkeley since the early days of buddhism in china monastics and laity alike have expressed a profound concern with the past in voluminous historical works they attempted to determine as precisely as possible the dates of events in the buddha s life seeking to iron out discrepancies in varying accounts and pinpoint when he delivered which sermons buddhist writers chronicled the history of the dharma in china as well compiling biographies of eminent monks and nuns and detailing the rise and decline in the religion s fortunes under various rulers they searched for evidence of karma in the historical record and drew on prophecy to explain the past john kieschnick provides an innovative expansive account of how chinese buddhists have sought to understand their history through a buddhist lens exploring a series of themes in mainstream buddhist historiographical works from the fifth to the twentieth century he looks not so much for what they reveal about the people and events they describe as for what they tell us about their compilers understanding of history kieschnick examines how buddhist doctrines influenced the search for the underlying principles driving history the significance of genealogy in buddhist writing and the transformation of buddhist historiography in the twentieth century this book casts new light on the intellectual history of chinese buddhism and on buddhists understanding of the past

this unique book brings a fresh interdisciplinary approach to the analysis of ancient chinese history creating a historical model for the emergence of cultural mainstays by applying recent dramatic findings in the fields of neuroscience and cultural evolution the centrality in chinese culture of a deep reverence for the lives of preceding generations filial piety is conventionally attributed to confucius 551 479 b c who viewed hierarchical family relations as foundational for social order here porter argues that confucian conceptions of filiality themselves evolved from a systemized set of behaviors and thoughts a mental structure which descended from a specific neolithic mindset and that this psychological structure was contoured by particular emotional conditions experienced by china s earliest farmers using case study analysis from neolithic sky observers to the dynastic cultures of the shang and western zhou the book shows how filial piety evolved as a structure of feeling a legacy of a cultural predisposition toward particular moods and emotions that were inherited from the ancestral past porter also brings new urgency to the topic of ecological grief linking the distress central to the evolution of the filial structure to its catalyst in an environmental crisis with a blended multidisciplinary approach combining social neuroscience cultural evolution cognitive archaeology and historical analysis this book is ideal for

students and researchers in neuropsychology religion and chinese culture and history

splendid and fascinating teltscher has made remarkable use of her source material aided by the constantly perceptive and witty tone of bogle s own writings patrick french sunday times it is hard to imagine this fascinating story being told with greater sensitivity or skill sunday telegraph teltscher is a remarkable new historian wholly original william dalrymple thrilling and fascinating letters journals and documents are woven into the flowing narrative which is wonderfully vivid and evocative jenny uglov an unlikely meeting between a young scotsman and the panchen lama gives birth to a remarkable friendship in 1774 british traders longed to open relations with china so they sent a young scotsman george bogle as an envoy to tibet bogle became smitten by what he saw there and struck up a remarkable friendship with the panchen lama this gripping book tells the story of their two extraordinary journeys across some of the harshest and highest terrain in the world bogle s mission and the panchen lama s state visit to china on which british hopes were hung piecing together extracts from bogle s private papers tibetan biographies of the panchen lama the account of a wandering hindu monk and the writings of the emperor himself kate teltscher deftly reconstructs the momentous meeting of these very different worlds

china today is never out of the news from human rights controversies and the continued legacy of tiananmen square to global coverage of the beijing olympics and the chinese economic miracle it seems a country of contradictions a peasant society with some of the world s most futuristic cities heir to an ancient civilization that is still trying to find a modern identity this very short introduction offers the reader with no previous knowledge of china a variety of ways to understand the world s most populous nation giving a short integrated picture of modern chinese society culture economy politics and art about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

now substantially revised and updated this balanced and lively history of the people s republic of china offers a narrative and interpretive appraisal of this great nation since its post world war ii beginnings examining first the historical circumstances of the chinese revolution and the cast of characters who seized power in 1949 after decades of national disintegration and defeat the author then goes on to illuminate such epic events as the great leap forward the cultural revolution and the post mao reforms addressing the bold economic reform of the 1980s this new edition critically analyzes the cry for democracy which tragically led to the 1989 bloodshed in tiananmen square taking full account of the confrontation s aftermath looking at the 90s the text examines the efforts of china s aging leadership to regain control and to find a place in a radically changed international environment complete with illustrative biographies of major figures since 1949 this book tells the essential story of contemporary china the background the ideology the massive campaigns the bureaucratization the blunders and the achievements

synthesizing exceptional cartography and impeccable scholarship this edition traces 12 000 years of history with 450 maps and over 200 000 words of text 200 illustrations

china is now poised to take a key role on the world stage but in the early twentieth century the situation could not have been more different rana mitter goes back to this pivotal moment in chinese history to uncover the origins of the painful transition from a premodern past into a modern world by the 1920s the seemingly civilized world shaped over the last two thousand years by the legacy of the great philosopher confucius was falling apart in the face of western imperialism and internal warfare chinese cities still bore the imprints of its ancient past with narrow lanes and temples to long worshipped gods but these were starting to change with the influx of foreign traders teachers and missionaries all eager to shape china s ancient past into a modern present mitter takes us through the resulting social turmoil and political promise the devastating war against japan in the 1940s communism and the cultural revolution of the 1960s and the new era of hope in the 1980s ended by the tian anmen uprising he reveals the impetus behind the dramatic changes in chinese culture and politics as being china s new culture a strain of thought which celebrated youth individualism and the heady mixture of strange and seductive new cultures from places as far apart as america india and japan

this text covers chinese history since the 17th century and analyses the return of hong kong and macao the author also explores china s emergence as a regional and global superpower chinese american rivalry and the unification with taiwan

here is a fascinating compact history of chinese political economic and cultural life ranging from the origins of civilization in china to the beginning of the 21st century historian paul ropp combines vivid story telling with astute analysis to shed light on some of the larger questions of chinese history what is distinctive about china in comparison with other civilizations what have been the major changes and continuities in chinese life over the past four millennia offering a global perspective the book shows how china s nomadic neighbors to the north and west influenced much of the political military and even cultural history of china ropp also examines sino indian relations highlighting the impact of the thriving trade between india and china as well as the profound effect of indian buddhism on chinese life finally the author discusses the humiliation of china at the hands of western powers and japan explaining how these recent events have shaped china s quest for wealth power and respect today and have colored china s perception of its own place in world history

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