

Mao The Unknown Story

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the most authoritative life of mao ever written by the bestselling author of wild swans jung chang and her husband historian jon halliday based on a decade of research and on interviews with many of mao s close circle in china who have never talked before and with virtually everyone outside china who had significant dealings with him this is the most authoritative life of mao ever written it is full of startling revelations exploding the myth of the long march and showing a completely unknown mao he was not driven by idealism or ideology his intimate and intricate relationship with stalin went back to the 1920s ultimately bringing him to power he welcomed japanese occupation of much of china and he schemed poisoned and blackmailed to get his way after mao conquered china in 1949 his secret goal was to dominate the world in chasing this dream he caused the deaths of 38 million people in the greatest famine in history in all well over 70 million chinese perished under mao s rule in peacetime combining meticulous history with the story telling style of wild swans this biography makes immediate mao s roller coaster life as he intrigued and fought every step of the way to force through his unpopular decisions mao s character and the enormity of his behaviour towards his wives mistresses and children are unveiled for the first time this is an entirely fresh look at mao in both content and approach it will astonish historians and the general reader alike this a bombshell of a book chris patten the times the first great political biography of the twenty first century spectator

mao the unknown story by jung chang and jon halliday was published in 2005 to a great fanfare the book portrays mao as a monster equal to or worse than hitler and stalin and a fool who won power by native cunning and ruled by terror it received a rapturous welcome from reviewers in the popular press and rocketed to the top of the worldwide bestseller list few works on china by writers in the west have achieved its impact reviews by serious china scholars however tended to take a different view most were sharply critical questioning its authority and the authors methods arguing that chang and halliday s book is not a work of balanced scholarship as it purports to be but a highly selective and even polemical study that sets out to demonise mao this book brings together sixteen reviews of mao the unknown story all by internationally well regarded specialists in modern chinese history and published in relatively specialised scholarly journals taken together they demonstrate that chang and halliday s portrayal of

mao is in many places woefully inaccurate while agreeing that mao had many faults and was responsible for some disastrous policies they conclude that a more balanced picture is needed

winner of the 2010 w j m mackenzie prize for best political science book of the year 2010 the relentless rise of communism was the most momentous political development of the first half of the twentieth century no political change has been more fundamental than its demise in europe and its decline elsewhere in this hugely acclaimed book archie brown provides an indispensable history that examines the origins of the ideology its development in different countries its collapse in many states following the soviet perestroika and its current incarnations around the globe the rise and fall of communism explains how and why communists came to power how they were able in a variety of countries on different continents to hold on to power for so long and what brought about the downfall of so many communist systems a groundbreaking work from an internationally renowned specialist this is the definitive study of the most remarkable political and human story of our times

a compelling expansive history of the relationship between china and russia from the seventeenth century to the present russia and china the largest and most populous countries in the world respectively have maintained a delicate relationship for four centuries in addition to a four thousand kilometer border they have periodically shared a common outlook on political and economic affairs but they are in essence profoundly different polities and cultures and their intermittent alliances have proven difficult and at times even volatile philip snow provides a full account of the relationship between these two global giants looking at politics religion economics and culture snow uncovers the deep roots of the two nations alignment we see the shifts in the balance of power from the wealth and strength of early qing china to the tsarist and soviet ascendancies and episodes of intense conflict followed by harmony he looks too at the experiences and opinions of ordinary people which often vastly differed from those of their governments and considers how long the countries current amicable relationship might endure

this book based upon a series of psychological research studies examines sierra leone as a case study of a constructivist and narrative perspective on psychological responses to warfare telling the stories of a range of survivors of the civil war the authors explore previous research on psychological responses to warfare while providing background information on the sierra leone civil war and its context chapters consider particular groups of survivors including former child soldiers as well as amputee footballers mental health service users and providers and refugees implications of the themes emerging from this research are considered with respect to how new understandings can inform current models of trauma and work with its survivors amongst the issues concerned will be post traumatic stress and post traumatic growth resilience mental health service provision perpetration of atrocities and forgiveness the book also provides a critical consideration of the appropriateness of the use of western concepts and methods in an african context drawing upon psychological theory and rich narrative research trauma survival and resilience in war zones will appeal to researchers and academics in the field of clinical psychology as well as those studying post war conflict zones

an incisive examination into the pairing of psychology and situation that creates despotic leaders from the author of murderous minds not everyone can become a tyrant it requires a particular confluence of events to gain absolute control over entire nations first you must be born with the potential to develop brutal personality traits often this is a combination of narcissism psychopathy machiavellianism paranoia and an extraordinary ambition to achieve control over others second your dangerous personality must be developed and strengthened during childhood you might suffer physical and or psychological abuse finally you must come of age when the political system of your country is unstable together these events establish a basis to rise to power one that stalin hitler mao zedong saddam hussein and muammar qaddafi all used to gain life and death control over their countrymen and women it is how the leaders of the islamic state hoped to gain such power though these men lived in different times and places and came from vastly different backgrounds many of them felt respect for each other they often seemed to recognize their shared dark personality traits and viewed them as strengths only in rare cases did they show signs of mental disorders getting inside the heads of foreign leaders and terrorists is one way governments try to understand predict and influence their actions psychological profiles

can help us understand the urges of tyrants to dominate subjugate torture and slaughter tyrannical minds reveals how recognizing their psychological traits can provide insight into the motivations and actions of dangerous leaders potentially allow to us predict their behavior and even how to stop them as strongmen and authoritarian leaders around the world increase in number understanding the most extreme examples of tyrannical behavior should serve as a warning to anyone indifferent to the threats posed by political extremism

during world war ii the special relationship between the united states and great britain cemented the alliance that won the war but the ultimate victory of that partnership has obscured many of the conflicts behind franklin roosevelt s grins and winston churchill s victory signs the clashes of principles and especially personalities between and within the two nations synthesizing an impressive variety of sources from memoirs and letters to histories and biographies lewis lehrman explains how the anglo american alliance worked and occasionally did not work by presenting portraits and case studies of the men who worked the back channels and back rooms the secretaries and under secretaries ambassadors and ministers responsible for carrying out roosevelt s and churchill s agendas while also pursuing their own and thwarting others this was the domain of joseph kennedy american ambassador to england often at odds with his boss spymasters william donovan and william stephenson secretary of state cordell hull whom fdr frequently bypassed in favor of under secretary sumner welles british ambassadors lord lothian and lord halifax and above them all roosevelt and churchill who had the difficult task not always well performed of managing their subordinates and who frequently chose to conduct foreign policy directly between themselves scrupulous in its research and fair in its judgments lehrman s book reveals the personal diplomacy at the core of the anglo american alliance

an epic collection of fantasy tales in the grand tradition including a never before published a song of ice and fire story by george r r martin and an introduction by gardner dozois

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