

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

interpreting the new culture movement in light of a new understanding of republican chinese society reached in the past two decades this book includes empirical studies of famous intellectuals like hu shi and chen duxiu of metropolitan and provincial newspapers student essays advertisements textbooks and diaries to analyze how the new culture movement as a buzzword changed the course of chinese cultural history

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

importantly china s change the greatest show on earth provides a

welcome contrast to such fashionable pessimism demolishes a series of popular urban myths and a very convincing case he makes this to my mind is a wholly original approach to understanding present day china and the book is well worth reading for this alone readers are likely to end up considerably wiser about how the chinese economy has developed and how it currently works it s difficult to do justice to the exceptionally wide ranging scope of the book it is furthermore well written as befits a former journalist and highly readable a useful corrective for the innate pessimism which has pervaded so much western economic and financial commentary in recent years the society of professional economists spe china s change injects timely original ideas into the world s most important if confused debate over how to manage the twin challenges of anaemic economic growth and accelerating global disruption change is the cry from the us to europe asia to australasia the snag is the west has no playbook to help china however to regain control of its future has regularly reinvented itself by understanding change s nature through traditional philosophy this is not idle conjecture it is what china has done time and again including most recently with covid 19 where it identified clear goals priorities and means to bring the coronavirus under control this book argues it is time to look at china but stresses china s approach to managing change only supplies the process not individual policies the how not the what policies have to be created locally in managing change traditional thought is china s x factor the key to china s record breaking economic transformation to grasp this china s change provides an understanding of china s past present and future through its philosophy history economics business politics prospects and impact in a way that no other book has done two big global questions are answered can other countries firms and individuals find paths out of their dim twilight by adapting china s change process can china continue to create one third of world growth more than the us eu and japan combined to help cure the last decade s global economic malaise china s roadmap for change enables anyone to navigate growing global disruption ironically china s process is built on such ignored in the west ideas as long term thinking clear priorities gradualism and non ideological pragmatism that earlier powered two centuries of western economic dominance if the west and rest of asia learn from china to manage change the next global surprise could be another turning of the tables there is no end to history only more turns of the wheel for now china s change is again the greatest show on earth related link s

the first study to systematically analyze the patterns of china s

foreign policy crisis behavior after the cold war

the spectacular economic growth experienced by china since 1978 has often been hailed as the china miracle many economists have tried to understand the forces behind china s phenomenal growth and the explanations can be divided into two broad schools of economic thought one school of thought which includes nobel laureate paul krugman explains that market mechanism and deregulation led to china s success while the other school of thought which include justin yifu lin the former chief economist and senior vice president of the world bank explains that china s growth miracle is a unique model to itself defined by the chinese government s prominent role the chinese government has been responsible in identifying and investing in industries that have contributed to economic growth some economists in the latter school even claim that the china miracle cannot be explained by mainstream economics this book examines both schools of thought and attempts to provide a synthesis of the two schools to explain the china miracle it looks at the solow swan growth model the harrod domar model and transaction cost theory it provides insights into whether and how china can sustain its growth and how developing countries may replicate china s success

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

museums international exhibitions and china s cultural diplomacy examines the role museums and more specifically international exhibitions have played in shaping china s international image to date drawing on theories and methods from museum studies and international relations the book evaluates the contribution international exhibitions make to china s cultural diplomacy strategy considering their impact on the country s international image kong also probes the mechanisms and processes involved examining in detail the policy of and international activities promoted by the chinese government the book also analyses the motives of the chinese and overseas museums that host these exhibitions taking some major exhibitions that were on show in the uk during the 21st century as a representative case study the book reveals the mechanisms by which these exhibitions were developed and shared overseas questioning who really shapes the image of china kong challenges western assumptions and looks ahead to

consider whether moving forward the chinese government and museums could work together in a mutually beneficial way museums international exhibitions and china s cultural diplomacy contributes to the growing literature on museums and diplomacy as such it will be of interest to academics and students engaged in the study of museums and heritage international relations culture politics china and wider asia

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