

Warlord Politics In China 1916 1928

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the first comprehensive analytical treatment of warlordism in twentieth century China this book approaches regional militarism as a generic phenomenon of Chinese politics in the most complex and chaotic era of recent Chinese history after describing the emergence of militarist regimes after the death of Yuan Shih Kai in 1916 the author analyzes their membership goals capabilities and sources of cohesion in the process

presenting new information on their organization methods of recruitment quality of training types of weapons tactical and strategic concepts and means of financing on the strength of this information he offers a convincing explanation in balance of power terms for the baffling advances retreats clashes and changes of allegiance that have puzzled students of the era his analysis makes clear how the leading warlords viewed the state themselves and each other a concluding chapter presents an explanation based on systems theory for the kuomintang's triumph over the warlords who had sought to confine its domain to kwangtung included as appendixes are a chronology of events and lists of national leaders and provincial military authorities from 1916 to 1928

the study describes the military aspects of the political contest for control of the central government in the context of the disorganized sociopolitical structure of china from 1916 to 1928 it is a useful corrective to the popular image of the chinese warlords during this period of their greatest activity the study points out that the warlords were not merely military men exploiting china's condition for private gain in their various domains nor were they seeking to destroy or replace the central government in the classic pattern under which many chinese dynasties have historically emerged

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