



China: A New History, Second Enlarged Edition

By John King Fairbank, Merle Goldman

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John King Fairbank was the West's doyen on China, and this book is the full and final expression of his lifelong engagement with this vast ancient civilization. It remains a masterwork without parallel. The distinguished historian Merle Goldman brings the book up to date, covering reforms in the post-Mao period through the early years of the twenty-first century, including the leadership of Hu Jintao. She also provides an epilogue discussing the changes in contemporary China that will shape the nation in the years to come.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

No American scholar of China was better known to the public and academia alike than Fairbank. This history of China, completed two days before his death in 1991, is a fitting final work. In covering the breadth of the country's history, from the earliest archaeological records to the present, the author is occasionally short on details, but lay readers and undergraduate students will appreciate the perceptive analysis and explanation throughout, leading to a better understanding of this complex nation, its people, and its importance in the world. Furthermore, Fairbank's command of recent research, along with an excellent bibliography, will appeal to the scholarly audience. Highly recommended. History Book Club selection.

- Kenneth W. Berger, *Duke Univ. Lib., Durham, N.C.*

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Review

Manages to tell its sprawling, turbulent, 4,000-year story in a single volume without either losing clarity or oversimplifying its subject...Rich and fascinating. (Arnold R. Isaacs *San Francisco Chronicle*)

Will serve for decades to come as a standard reference and textbook. (Robert L. Worden *Washington Post Book World*)

Review

This new edition is superb. The interpretative themes structuring Goldman's concluding chapter are strong and convincing. Illuminating comparisons are drawn between the Deng Xiaoping and earlier eras. Although not soft-pedaling the insistently authoritarian character of China's leadership in the political realm, Goldman takes due note of the impressive gains in personal freedom that marked the Deng years. A compelling history. Authoritative, cogent, and skillful.

--Paul A. Cohen, Wellesley College

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