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# China In The 21st Century: What Everyone Needs To Know



## Synopsis

The need to understand this global giant has never been more pressing: China is constantly in the news, yet conflicting impressions abound. Within one generation, China has transformed from an impoverished, repressive state into an economic and political powerhouse. In the fully revised and updated second edition of *China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know*, China expert Jeffrey Wasserstrom provides cogent answers to the most urgent questions regarding the newest superpower, and offers a framework for understanding its meteoric rise. Focusing his answers through the historical legacies--Western and Japanese imperialism, the Mao era, and the massacre near Tiananmen Square--that largely define China's present-day trajectory, Wasserstrom introduces readers to the Chinese Communist Party, the building boom in Shanghai, and the environmental fall-out of rapid Chinese industrialization. He also explains unique aspects of Chinese culture such as the one-child policy, and provides insight into how Chinese view Americans. Wasserstrom reveals that China today shares many traits with other industrialized nations during their periods of development, in particular the United States during its rapid industrialization in the 19th century. He provides guidance on the ways we can expect China to act in the future vis-à-vis the United States, Russia, India, and its East Asian neighbors. The second edition has also been updated to take into account changes China has seen in just the past two years, from the global economic shifts to the recent removal of Chongqing Party Secretary Bo Xilai from power. Concise and insightful, *China in the 21st Century* provides an excellent introduction to this significant global power.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

**WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW About This Series** Who it's for: Busy people with diverse interests, ranging from college students to professionals, who wish to inform themselves in a succinct yet authoritative manner about a particular topic. What's inside: An incisive approach to a complex and timely issue, laid out in a straight-forward, question-and-answer format. Meet Our Authors Top experts in their given fields, ranging from an Economist correspondent to a director at the Council on Foreign Relations, you can trust our authors' expertise and guidance. Popular Topics in the "What Everyone Needs to Know" Series International Politics Environmental Policies World History Sciences & Math Religion & Spirituality

Praise for the first edition: "Wasserstrom has accomplished a remarkable feat: melding the insights from deep scholarly immersion in history with an up-to-the-minute grasp on contemporary developments in China and beyond. Written in a crisp prose,...questions big and small, alarmingly complex and deceptively simple--from who Confucius was to how the Communists defeated the Nationalists and whether China was bent on world domination--are answered with aplomb and precision.... I for one am grateful to have this little book in hand when I greet the next round of fresh-faced undergraduates coming to my classes wishing to know something about 'China.'"--Haiyan Lee, Stanford University "Wasserstrom is a sure-footed guide through the thickets of China's history and the turbo-driven landscape of its current affairs. Indispensable reading."--Andrew Ross, author of *Fast Boat to China: Lessons from Shanghai* "Readers who know a fair bit about China already will be left better informed, looking at what they already knew in another light. Readers new to the subject couldn't start in a better place."--Urbanatomy.com "Wasserstrom, a preeminent scholar of Chinese history, here provides a useful resource for those who want a greater understanding of the how and why of China's emergence as a global power."--Library Journal

An informative book. I was a bit put off, though, by the question and answer format of the book (the whole thing is like that). It reads too much like the FAQ page of a website.

Very informative for those striving to understand In a more comprehensive overview of China ( the

differences and similarities) between China, the U.S. and countries and political and social/economic systems of the past, present and future possible reactions.

I read this for a class and it's a good Cliff's Notes sort of summary of recent Chinese history. It's good if you want get up to speed quickly.

Well written. I would have enjoyed his class. I hope there is an update.

An excellent and History of China's Dynasty period and how it influences China in the 21st Century. The discussion of Mao was revealing as was how we (West) view China today and how they view us. Our similarities are very thought provoking

Good summary of all things China. Not terribly detailed, but enough information so you know the basics. I recommend it.

Good primer for everyone wanting to understand China

Required for a course- easy to read; nice intro to modern China.

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