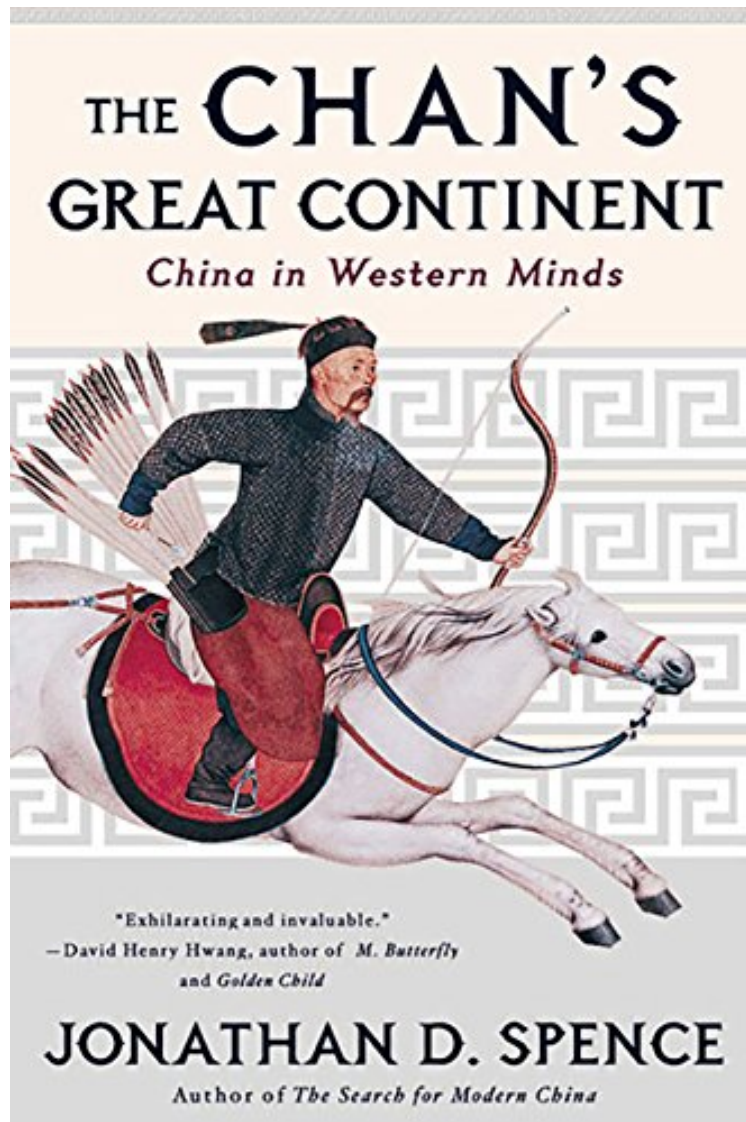


The Chan's Great Continent: China in Western Minds

Von Jonathan D. Spence

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Von Jonathan D. Spence : The Chan's Great Continent: China in Western Minds before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Chan's Great Continent: China in Western Minds:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Best of classVon N Zhou SmithThis book is a best-seller for one very good reason: it makes modern China interesting for people who might otherwise be appauled by the place. It's the best general introduction to the subjects, is very well written, and good enough to serve as a reference for non-Sinologists.So why the recent spate of negative reviews?

Young Sini-cle Yalies just got your poor grades back? Lesser-known China experts jealous of the doyen's popularity with the English-speaking masses? That some reviewers have gone down to one star on a generally respected title should be a hint that there's something amiss, and its not with the book itself.2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Spence Was My Companion In ChinaVon Ein KundeI just returned from a 15 day journey of The People's Republic of China with Spence's "The Search for Modern China" at my side. I read it before I left and I constantly read it during the trip. Not only is Spence THE authority on Chinese history in the U.S., but the Search for Modern China is THE authority of the last three hundred years of the Han. It excellently chronicles from the last Ming Emperor, through Qianlong and the Tiaping Rebellion, to Modern China starting with Dr. Sun Yat-Sen. His analysis of the successes and flaws of Mao Zedong and those in his wake such as Deng Xiaoping is tantalizing. It is brilliantly organized and told in an interesting and beautiful manor. Spence has outdone himself and topped various other hostorians. With this book he deserves to be ranked with William Shirer, Author Goldschmidt, Jr., and Stephen Ambrose.3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Word to the bitter: it's a great bookVon A.C.Unfortunately, some of my Yale brethren are unhappy with Mr. Spence's fabulous book. Well, it's their loss. The book offers wonderful insights into China and its history, revealing the deeper patters that underlie the eras of China's diverse leaders, from Kangxi to Mao. Read it. Love it.

Kurzbeschreibung"Like everything else written by Jonathan Spence, The Chan's Great Continent is an absolute must-read for anyone interested in China. Spence is one of the greatest Sinologists of our time, and his work is both authoritative and highly readable." Los Angeles Times Book China has transfixed the West since the earliest contacts between these civilizations. With his characteristic elegance and insight, Jonathan Spence explores how the West has understood China over seven centuries. Ranging from Marco Polo's own depiction of China and the mighty Khan, Kublai, in the 1270s to the China sightings of three twentieth-century writers of acknowledged genius-Kafka, Borges, and Calvino-Spence conveys Western thought on China through a remarkable array of expression. Peopling Spence's account are Iberian adventurers, Enlightenment thinkers, spinners of the dreamy cult of Chinoiserie, and American observers such as Bret Harte, Mark Twain, Ezra Pound, and Eugene O'Neill. Taken together, these China sightings tell us as much about the self-image of the West as about China. "Wonderful. . . . Spence brilliantly demonstrates [how] generation after generation of Westerners [have] asked themselves, 'What is it . . . that held this astonishing, diverse, and immensely populous land together?' "--New York Times Book .deDistinguished Yale historian Jonathan D. Spence examines the influence that China has long exercised on the Western imagination. Drawing on literary, historical, and travel writing from the 14th century to the present, he shows how the fabrications of medieval writers such as Marco Polo gave way to more factually minded reports from business travelers and diplomats. This then turned again to the exoticism of poets such as Ezra Pound and Charles Baudelaire, and in our time, returned to the realism of writers such as Pearl S. Buck and Edgar Snow. Spence's tour of these various ways of perceiving China yields a vigorous and interesting book that is of a piece with his many other studies of Chinese history. --Gregory MacNameeKurzbeschreibung"Like everything else written by Jonathan Spence, The Chan's Great Continent is an absolute must-read for anyone interested in China. Spence is one of the greatest Sinologists of our time, and his work is both authoritative and highly readable." Los Angeles Times Book China has transfixed the West since the earliest contacts between these civilizations. With his characteristic elegance and insight, Jonathan Spence explores how the West has understood China over seven centuries. Ranging from Marco Polo's own depiction of China and the mighty Khan, Kublai, in the 1270s to the China sightings of three twentieth-century writers of acknowledged genius-Kafka, Borges, and Calvino-Spence conveys Western thought on China through a remarkable array of expression. Peopling Spence's account are Iberian adventurers, Enlightenment thinkers, spinners of the dreamy cult of Chinoiserie, and American observers such as Bret Harte, Mark Twain, Ezra Pound, and Eugene O'Neill. Taken together, these China sightings tell us as much about the self-image of the West as about China. "Wonderful. . . . Spence brilliantly demonstrates [how] generation after generation of Westerners [have] asked themselves, 'What is it . . . that held this astonishing, diverse, and immensely populous land together?' "--New York Times Book