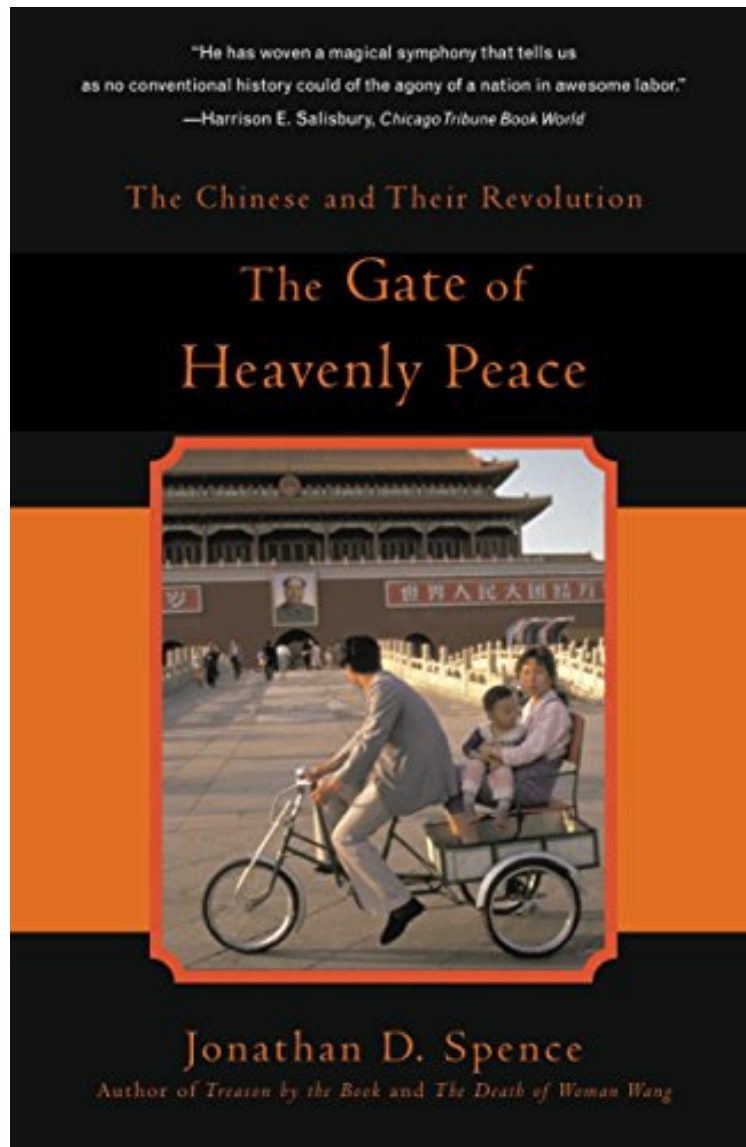


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# The Gate of Heavenly Peace: The Chinese and Their Revolution

Von Jonathan D. Spence

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**Von Jonathan D. Spence : The Gate of Heavenly Peace: The Chinese and Their Revolution** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gate of Heavenly Peace: The Chinese and Their Revolution:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A truly remarkable and unique bookVon ReaderThis book by Spence is a remarkable and unique description of the Chinese political and social revolution that took place from the end days of the Empire until decades into the PRC. Instead of

focusing on already well documented and researched historical figures such as Sun Yatsen and Mao Zedong, Spence provides us the opportunity to look at the "other" figures that greatly shaped the transformation of China yet never heard of by most people. Figures such as Lu Xun, Ding Ling, Hu Shi, Chen Duxiu, Li Dazhao, etc...Spence does focus a lot on names and dates as the reviewer below notes, but it's not something people should cringe about. Spence's main goal was to focus on individual ideas and the transformation of intellectual thought and this, I thought, was achieved very well. One thing I have a problem with is that Spence focuses almost exclusively from the 1890's to the early 1930's. The last 50 years of intellectual thought which this book claim to cover is very sparse and almost non-existent, and I guess either the author overextended himself or probably because possessing intellectual thought during the PRC era was not very conducive to one's health. Anyway, this book is nevertheless an excellent source for understanding Chinese political and social thought during the early 20th century.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A fascinating history of 20th century China.Von Yorkshire@earthlink.netContrary to its nomenclature, *The Gate of Heavenly Peace* is rather the proscenium for revolutionary dramas in the quest for that state of grace. Throughout this century it has been the stage for countless demonstrations, violent political struggles, bloodshed and victory parades. Jonathan Spence gives us a rare look at the political history of modern China from 1895 through the 20th century to 1980 through the eyes of scholars and philosophers. An extraordinary and interesting introduction to circumstances and conditions, revolutionary thought and actions evolving through the decades. From factors leading to the fall of the Qing dynasty, the restless struggles of leading revolutionary factions vying for cooperation of powerful warlords and foreign powers, and the inroads made by Japan into China--virtual industrial economic colonization with Japanese military support - to the eventual victory of Mao Zedong, the ingenious telling of China's turbulent history through the lives and thoughts of the leading philosophers and writers of the day makes for a refreshing initiation to Chinese history without being bombarded with political dogma and rhetoric. Well worth reading.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Moving BookVon SugunanSpanning the years 1895-1980, this is a splendid study of some prominent members of China's intellectual elite during a turbulent period of the country's history. China of the early years of the century is portrayed as a Dostoevskian world of anarchists and nihilists, poets and novelists, philosophers and artists, whose ideas and art are inextricably entwined with the political fortunes of the nation- through the years of Manchu rule, the Hundred Days Reform, the period of the warlords, and later through the many movements instituted after the Communist Revolution. Through it all the Chinese intellectual struggles with the tensions of his political, artistic and individual identities, and the book - with generous quotations of poems, novels and essays, and also some haunting photographs - brings home this tension in a poignant manner. This is history ennobled by literature and philosophy.

KurzbeschreibungA milestone in Western studies of China. (John K. Fairbank)In this masterful, highly original approach to modern Chinese history, Jonathan D. Spence shows us the Chinese revolution through the eyes of its most articulate participants: the writers, historians, philosophers, and insurrectionists who shaped and were shaped by the turbulent events of the twentieth century. By skillfully combining literary materials with more conventional sources of political and social history, Spence provides an unparalleled look at China and her people and offers valuable insight into the continuing conflict between the implacable power of the state and the strivings of China's artists, writers, and thinkers.PressestimmenPraise for *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*: Absolutely first rate; it is adventurous in form, scrupulous in content, passionate in its revelation of complex human drama.Saturday [Jonathan Spence] has woven a magical symphony that tells us as no conventional history could of the agony of a nation in awesome labor.Harrison E. Salisbury, *Chicago Tribune Book World* With a novelist's flair for life and a historian's grounding in fact . . . there is no other work to match this in sweep, vivacity, and humanity.Library Journal KurzbeschreibungA milestone in Western studies of China. (John K. Fairbank)In this masterful, highly original approach to modern Chinese history, Jonathan D. Spence shows us the Chinese revolution through the eyes of its most articulate participants: the writers, historians, philosophers, and insurrectionists who shaped and were shaped by the turbulent events of the twentieth century. By skillfully combining literary materials with more conventional sources of political and social history, Spence provides an unparalleled look at China and her people and offers valuable insight into the continuing conflict between the implacable power of the state and the strivings of China's artists, writers, and thinkers.