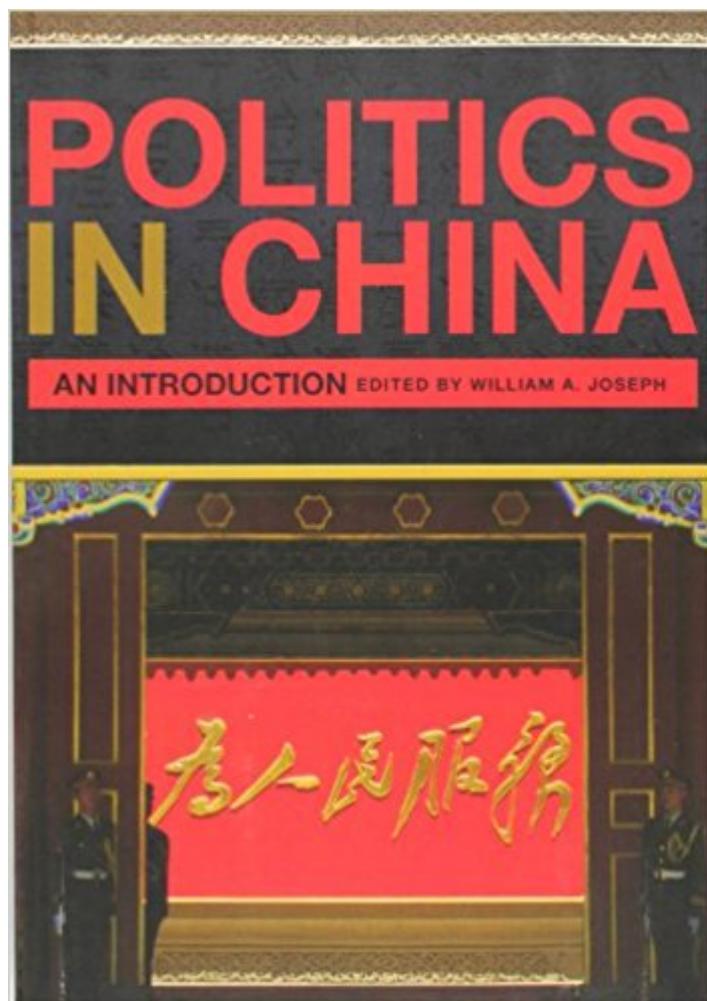


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Politics In China: An Introduction



Synopsis

Sixty years ago, China was one of the poorest countries in the world, populated mostly by rural peasants, and still suffering from more than a century of internal turmoil and international humiliation. Today, China is a rapidly modernizing economic dynamo with growing global influence. Politics in China is an authoritative introduction to how this transformation occurred, and how China is governed today. Written by an international team of highly-regarded China scholars, each chapter offers an accessible overview of a key topic in Chinese politics. The opening section provides readers with a firm grounding in China's modern political history, from the fall of the last imperial dynasty through era of communist rule under Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, and their successors. The next section covers the political system, with chapters on Communist Party ideology, the structure of the political system, and the policies behind the country's spectacular economic performance. The book then focuses on several major issues in China today: politics in the countryside and the cities; the arts; the environment; public health; and population policy. The final chapters cover politics in four important areas located on China's geographic periphery: Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Comprehensive and fully up to date in its coverage, Politics in China is essential not only for students studying contemporary China, but for any reader interested in learning how this rising power has evolved in recent times and the workings of its current political system.

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Customer Reviews

"If this reviewer were teaching a survey course on China, he would probably adopt this as a required text...The contributors are all well qualified. Materials are current and presented clearly with a minimum of jargon...Summing Up: Recommended."--CHOICE."..both a useful 'introduction' to Chinese politics (as it is modestly subtitled) and 'unique book', as William A. Joseph contends more boldly in his preface. It is useful because it provides a quite comprehensive and up-to-date overview of nearly every dimension of Chinese politics that one might deem pertinent, yet it is also unique (or at least unusual) in at least two respects. First, its coverage is really quite comprehensive, ranging from the Guangxu emperor to Hu Jintao and his likely successor Xi Jinping, and from public health and the environmental crisis to the future of electoral democracy in Hong Kong. Second, the selection of contributing chapter writers is excellent: thus, we have Keith Schoppa on the fall of the Qing, Frederick Teiwes on the Maoist era, Tyrene Whyte on population planning, Robert Barnett on Tibet, David Zweig on political economy, Richard Kraus on the arts, Shelley Rigger on Taiwan, and so forth."--The China Journal

William A. Joseph is Professor of Political Science at Wellesley College and an Associate in Research of the John King Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University.

This is a good introductory text for an overview course on China. Its chapters cover almost every important issue except the military. If the editors put out a new edition, I hope they would rectify that and perhaps add a bit more detail on pre-1840s history to give the student a bit better grounding in the importance and relevance of history to today's Chinese.

Excellent condition - exactly as described

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