

Recent Books on China – April 2011

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Literature

The Birth of China Seen Through Poetry / Chan Hong-Mo
Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd., 2011
x. 254p. ; 23cm.
ISBN-13: 9789814335331
\$ 22.00

The book introduces Chinese culture to readers of English, using poetry from the various periods rendered into English verse to bring back to life past Chinese society as it developed from about 1000 B.C to the form we see today.

With China's increasing importance on the world stage today, many readers, no doubt, would want to learn more about its ancient culture. However, to learn about a culture from its history alone, especially one as long as that of China, is time-consuming and requires a historian's expert skill. This book offers the general reader a direct glimpse into the human core of it via the universally accessible channel of poetry.

It provides an outline of Chinese history from prehistoric times to the present printed mostly on left-hand pages, accompanied on the right by a selection of Chinese poems of the corresponding periods translated into English verse by the author. The poems total about eighty in number and come mostly from the classical phase dating from around 1000 B.C. to 1200 A.D.

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Economics

APEC and the Rise of China / Lok Sang Ho & John Wong (Editors)
Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd., 2011
xiii. 234p. ; 23cm.
ISBN-13: 9789814329408 (HB)
\$ 85.00

Intra-regional trade has been rising rapidly, especially after China's accession to the WTO in 2001. China's economy is expanding rapidly, and has already passed Japan in 2010 to become the world's second largest economy. It is clearly producing a huge impact on the world economy, and particularly on ASEAN countries. This is the appropriate time to take stock: what has APEC achieved so far? How is China's rapid growth shaping the course of economic integration and cooperation in the region? What is the future of APEC? This book is based on papers presented by scholars with expertise in the Asia Pacific region at a conference on "APEC at 20 and the Rise of China" organized by the APEC Centre of Lingnan University on 26–27 February 2010, and includes additional invited papers.

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Politics

China at 60: Global-Local Interactions / Chan Lai-Ha, Gerald Chan & Kwan Fung (Editors)
Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd., 2011
xxiv. 325p. ; 24cm.
ISBN-13: 9789814299299 (HB)
\$ 98.00

China at 60 explores the interactions between China and the world, over the course of 60 years of Communist Party rule since 1949 and the impact of these interactions on China's domestic development. To understand China's development experience and its transformation, it is necessary to examine the trajectory of development from pre-reform to post-reform periods. While the book may concur with previous findings on the changing development of China under economic reform, more importantly, it demonstrates the areas of continuity of the PRC's existence over the entire six decades. To that end, a dual theme — *change-and-continuity and global-local interactions* on China's development — is adopted to assess the historical development of China's policies in various issue areas over the past 60 years. The focus is chiefly on the domestic impacts of China's increasing engagement with the world, the global implications of China's reform efforts and growing power, and the long-lasting uniqueness of this rising non-European nation.

The book brings together a team of international experts to share their perspectives on global-local interactions within a range of different topics, including foreign policy, domestic politics, macroeconomic policy, the central-local relations, the People's Liberation Army, public health, energy security, finance and banking, foreign trade, and intellectual property rights, as well as changes in the state's policies towards interest groups such as ethnic minorities.

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