

## *Introduction*

China's rise since the 1980s has shown contemporary and modern China in a new light. The reforms implemented after the passing of Mao Zedong have produced dramatic results. It is still too early to fully evaluate the overall impact of these reforms, but an economy with a sustained double-digit growth rate for some two decades cannot be brushed aside as an accident. Nor can China's rise be viewed narrowly as an economic phenomenon, for without the aggregate energy and ingenuity of the people, the leadership of the country, or even the structure of the political system, China would not be where it is today. To be sure, there is much to be desired in China's leadership and political system. Who can say that the nation would not have attained even greater achievements, or that the quality of life for its citizens would not have improved even more, had the mix of ingredients been somehow different? Furthermore, we must also factor in the historical and cultural contexts. There is much to describe, analyze, and understand about modern China. In these volumes, we have brought together nearly five hundred authors to write 936 entries and sidebars about this extraordinary country from 1800 to the present; topics range from the daily life of common folks to the ever-changing structure of the banking system that is part of the engine of China's recent transformation.

Overall assessment of China's modern development has shifted dramatically in the past generation, loosely defined as a thirty-year span. Upon Mao Zedong's death in 1976, the country's future was in a quandary. The Great Helmsman was gone, leaving the nation in the hands of a mediocre successor who, lacking vision or daring, could do no more than promise to carry on whatever Mao had laid down. This was hardly a comforting message, as the legacy of the late Mao was one of political upheaval. Although the country's leadership was soon passed on to abler hands, it was still wary of instability even as late as 1989. During June of that year, the outside world speculated on the breakup of the Communist regime as prodemocracy demonstrators brought matters to a head in Tiananmen Square. Today, China is still a country in search of a solution, one that would bring national dignity and a steady political course, as well as prosperity and security for its citizens. The nation's quest for these objectives in the past century and a half has been nothing short of a prolonged struggle with no end in sight. Deeply sensitive to this quest and to the tensions that inform China's past and shape its present, members of the editorial board set about selecting a rich and balanced collection of topics intended to describe the complexity of the country's history and culture as well as to elucidate its current successes and predicaments.

A little more than a year before Mao died, another Chinese leader across the Taiwan Strait had also passed on. Chiang Kai-shek, who had finally been given the opportunity to guide his regime's development under American protection and the benefits of American aid, had begun to produce a vibrant economy in Taiwan by the mid-1970s. Then, with martial law lifted in 1987, Taiwan emerged as a serious model of development, one of the four Asian Tigers. Coincidental with the opening up of the mainland's economy under Deng Xiaoping's new policies, Taiwan's new wealth found fertile ground for investment on the opposite shore. Yet political tensions between the two parties persist, even as their economic relations hum along. Cross-strait relations will surely continue to capture our attention. The *Encyclopedia of Modern China* explores these issues in a set of well-conceived entries that establish a firm foundation for readers as they continue monitoring future developments.

Still, the world's main focus must be trained on the People's Republic. Since the turn of the present century, the positive effects of the economic reforms have been sufficiently prolonged to generate confidence among the Chinese people and their political leaders. China's rise is not just propaganda hype; it is real. China is now a factor to be reckoned with in practically every aspect of international life. By the time of the April 2009 meeting of the G-20 nations in London, China had risen to star level, even as the world was dazzled by the freshness and the excitement of the new American president, Barack Obama. China's own new generation of leaders and the political and financial institutions that they helped to build are examined in numerous entries.

The "rise of China" perspective demands that we look at the history of the past two centuries in terms of whether China should be considered a "latecomer" or "late bloomer." Past attention has been focused on China's failures—losing its modernization race with Japan, fumbling in its quest for national unity, and taking the wrong turns in its search for political form, a record that makes for a checkered if interesting story. The recent history of China provides a fresh perspective, a new framework with which to view its past as not just a string of failures but also as building blocks or lessons learned on a path to big-power status. Insofar as material or economic transformation is concerned, China's past failures perhaps should no longer be perceived as such, for as long as there was progress, such failures were nonetheless steps, even if baby steps, toward a higher goal. China has been playing catch-up since the middle of the nineteenth century. It is still catching up, but the gap has narrowed and may even close in the foreseeable future. This is a possibility no one dared envision in times past except in ignorance, as a few did in the nineteenth century, or in moments of extreme euphoria, as when in 1958 Mao promised parity with the West in fifteen years. There are entries aplenty in these volumes that will help the reader reconstruct this fresh view of China's modern past.

Historically, the rise of latecomers has been accompanied by ugly episodes in their march toward modernity. The histories of Germany and Japan come readily to mind. These are stories laden with immense human costs inflicted on the peoples of Germany and Japan, but most importantly, on other peoples around them. China's rise is not unencumbered with unpleasant developments. What separates China from the examples just mentioned is that its rise took place initially under prolonged foreign encroachments and aggression, and then, after 1949, under extended periods of relative international isolation. The ugly episodes, other than several border wars and clashes, were ones in which the Chinese turned against themselves. The Great Leap Forward and Famine and the Cultural Revolution, each the subject of study in these volumes by a world-renowned authority, are perhaps the greatest examples. Were these human costs inseparable from China's path toward modernity? Could they have been avoided? From a moral standpoint, one could easily come up with a straightforward answer. But the world has never before witnessed the transformation of a country so extensive, involving a population so huge and a people so steeped in history and culture. China's modern trajectory has been and will be different. It goes without saying, therefore, that simple answers will not help us understand the complexity that is China.

China is expected to soon overtake Japan as the world's second-largest economy, though it still has some way to go before it is anywhere near where the U.S. economy is now. By the

end of the first decade of the twenty-first century, China's gross domestic product on a per capita basis, though improving, still ranks low in the world. China can best be characterized as an ongoing project. Its development has been pockmarked with contradictions and paradoxes. Its rise in economic power serves as a constant reminder that it is still in many ways a poor country, where the tallest buildings in the world are constructed by hordes of migrant workers from the countryside. Its capitalist practices serve to highlight its authoritarian rule as the government continues to regulate traffic on the information highway. Its growing military sector, often perceived as a threat to regional stability, seems only to undermine the nation's desire to provide statesmanlike leadership in global politics. And its fear of social turmoil is countered by policies that tend to provoke dissidence, especially in border regions such as Tibet and Xinjiang. Indeed, China has many dimensions. It is a country that begs to be understood, and yet its leaders are not often its best spokespersons. One needs only to read the entries on "Poverty" or "Dissidents" to peer into China's underside.

It is our hope that these volumes will provide reliable and sophisticated renditions of the myriad facets of China. If, for example, China's national-minority problems seem intractable, highlighted even more by the election of the first African-American president in the United States, it may behoove us to look at the nature of China's multiethnic communities. How do China's Muslims or Tibetans, each bound by a deep religious faith and firmly entrenched in a distinct geographical homeland, render China's problems different from those in a multiethnic society like the United States? And if China's ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor is somehow attributable to the nation's huge population, how should one approach the question of birth planning in China? And if its rampant capitalistic practices are to blame instead, how should such a large and populous society have strategized for development? Many of the country's contemporary issues have long historical roots. We invite the reader to not only use this encyclopedia to find intelligent answers to these and other questions, but also to explore the larger issues and to see the bigger picture using the bibliographies, primary sources, and other tools that are provided in these pages.

Modern and contemporary China is not only a rich mosaic in itself, but, like a diamond, it reveals different and ever-changing facets depending on the angle from which it is perceived. Different people see things differently, and people can disagree. As editor in chief for this encyclopedia, I come from the perspective that diversity itself can be a source of strength and excellence. This conviction, translated into a deliberate policy, has resulted in an editorial board of great diversity. To be sure, the associate editors on the board are great scholars in Chinese studies and are widely recognized as authorities in their own fields, but they also represent extremely varied backgrounds and origins. The five of them come from as many countries—Australia, Great Britain, China (Hong Kong), France, and the United States—and hail from four continents. This *Encyclopedia of Modern China* is as much the creation of a group of top scholars as it is the product of an international enterprise.

The importance of the international character of this encyclopedia project cannot be overstressed. Following in broad outline the procedures established with the publisher, the editorial board determined collectively a list of articles, composite entries, and sidebars, drafting scope outlines for each essay and suggesting scholars to write them. As a result of the board's truly diverse background, we managed to draw from a wide pool of talent around the world. We discussed the possibility of commissioning essays written in languages other than English, then translating them. This was the level of our commitment. In the end, only one entry written in French required this service, as other authors who were not fluent in English teamed up with scholars who possessed greater facility in the language.

### PUSHING BOUNDARIES

It is often said that encyclopedias are summations of existing scholarship; they do not produce new knowledge. There is an element of truth in this. Indeed, authors may not necessarily engage in firsthand or archival research in the course of writing an encyclopedia entry. Yet, in the process of putting these volumes together, we became aware that new

research was being introduced in the entries. Indeed, when we drafted our lists of entries and pondered what they might include, some editorial board members observed that for many topics on modern China, the research has not yet been done. In part, this is the function of a growing and dynamic field of scholarship, but equally important is the fact that we have included topics in new fields—for example, popular culture, race, ethnicity, identity, and gender, covering of course women but also sexuality and transgender issues. Many authors also infused their entries with various forms of consciousness introduced into the scholarly world by Orientalism, postcolonialism, and diaspora studies. As a result, we are not only providing a good reference but also, in many instances, pushing boundaries. We would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to the many authors who were generous with their unpublished research and were willing to share their insights with our readers.

An encyclopedia is a work presenting various branches of knowledge in discrete treatises; ours is a collection of entries on topics that span the spectrum of China's history, culture, and society from 1800 to the present. Opinion will differ as to how big such an encyclopedia should be. Weighing various considerations—usefulness, readership, accessibility, and cost—we started with a working framework of 1.2 million words in four volumes of approximately five hundred pages each. We also thought that we should have about six hundred entries, but this number soon became irrelevant as the members of the editorial board, each compiling a slate of topics in their respective “domains,” produced a list that was twice as long. By eliminating potential duplications and by consolidating related topics, we trimmed the number to just under 870 entries plus nearly 70 sidebars. A more important consideration was the proportion of biographies vis-à-vis the other entries. This was by no means an easy decision. One can imagine a biographical dictionary of modern China with the number of entries running literally into the thousands. However, we came to the conclusion that, given the space, the work would be more useful if it were made up largely of topical and thematic studies, with only the most important individuals given biographical treatment (especially since extensive biographical materials on many major figures from modern China are available from Gale in its Biography Resource Center and other printed and digital publications).

In sum, this *Encyclopedia of Modern China* presents up-to-date scholarship, pushing boundaries as it provides solid reference. It will definitely contribute to a synthesis of the field, and is thus poised to be of great significance in the years to come. The historical reassessment relating to China's role in world affairs and the reappraisal of the dynamics of political power, economic institutions, social and cultural developments, and the trajectory of China's development featured in this encyclopedia will certainly have a lasting impact on Chinese studies. The fact that this set will also be an accessible resource for the general public means that it will help shape new perspectives on China in the public arena.

The *Encyclopedia of Modern China* will enable readers to create their own picture of modern and contemporary China, generating their own interpretation of this or that event by reading one topic in the light of another. The section on primary sources contains a number of rare documents, including one titled “New Population Theory” that, to our knowledge, is the first English translation of the Chinese original. Cross-references and bibliographies, attached to the end of each entry, will help the reader navigate the volumes and locate additional information on the topics covered. We have also designed a “Thematic Outline of Contents” with more than two dozens categories, as well as a chronology, an annotated general bibliography, and a comprehensive glossary of Chinese characters. When combined with the subject index, these features add context for the reader, making the encyclopedia a very user-friendly set.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It would not be an exaggeration to say that credit goes first to the five associate editors, whose expertise and dedication are largely responsible for the excellent quality of this reference work. From the development of the table of contents and the writing of scope descriptions, to the careful review of submitted entries, all of the associate editors offered a great deal of

their time and energy. Operating from vastly different time zones and academic calendars, not to mention their personal research agendas, they often had to disrupt their work, vacation time, and weekends to keep the project moving forward. I am sure that sacrifices were made in their family and personal lives as well. I would like to introduce the associate editors to our readers:

- Julia F. Andrews is the Bliss M. & Mildred A. Wiant Designated Professor of Chinese Literature and Culture, in the Department of the History of Art, Ohio State University. She is also Associate Director of the East Asian Studies Center at the university, and author of *Painters and Politics in the People's Republic of China, 1949–1979* (University of California Press, 1994), which won the Joseph Levenson Prize. Her research interests are in Chinese painting and modern Chinese art.
- Jean-Philippe Béja is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Political Science, Centre d'études et de recherches internationales, Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Centre d'Études Français sur la Chine contemporaine (CNRS/CERI-Sciences-Po, CEFC), Hong Kong. His research topics are state-society relations, especially regarding intellectuals and the Communist Party, and the prodemocracy movement. Among his books is *A la recherche d'une ombre chinoise: Le mouvement pour la démocratie en Chine* (1919–2004), Editions du Seuil, 2004.
- Flemming Christiansen holds the Chair in Chinese Studies at the University of Leeds, United Kingdom, and is Director of the National Institute of Chinese Studies of the White Rose East Asian Centre. Among his authored and co-authored books are *Chinatown, Europe. An Exploration of Overseas Chinese Identity in the 1990s* (RoutledgeCurzon, 2003) and *Village Inc. Chinese Rural Society in the 1990s* (Curzon, 1998). His research interests include urban-rural issues, social and political change, and social stratification in China.
- David Faure, Professor, Department of History, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, focuses his research in Chinese business history, lineages in South China, local history, and the history of Hong Kong. Among his numerous publications are *Emperor and Ancestor: State and Lineage in South China* (Stanford University Press, 2007) and *China and Capitalism: A History of Business Enterprise in Modern China* (Hong Kong University Press, 2006).
- Antonia Finnane, Professor, School of Historical Studies, University of Melbourne, Australia, is the author of *Speaking of Yangzhou: A Chinese City, 1550–1850* (Harvard University Press, 2004), which won the Levenson Prize, and *Changing Clothes in China: Fashion, History, Nation* (Columbia University Press, 2008).

In addition, I would also like to mention the contributions from Professor Marianne Bastid-Bruguère of Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (Paris) and Professor Xiaobo Lu of Columbia University, New York, who made valuable suggestions in the early planning stages. Delia Davin, Emeritus Professor of Chinese Studies, University of Leeds, is also worthy of special mention. Davin contributed more than twenty entries to this set, and wrote the introductions to each of the primary source documents that appear collectively in volume 4. Special thanks also to Carsten Herrmann-Pillath, Professor at the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, who contributed nearly thirty articles on important economic concepts. My colleague at the University of Delaware, Associate Professor Jianguo Chen, has provided invaluable advice on matters related to Chinese literature. I would also like to thank Robert Gardella, Professor Emeritus of History at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, for putting together such a useful Chronology for our readers.

No effort has been spared to produce this reference work. Starting with a target of 2,000 pages in 4 volumes, we finished with about 2,500 pages, though still in 4 tomes. Throughout the process, the staff at Gale has worked closely with us. My thanks go first to Ms. Hélène Potter, Director of Publishing, Gale / Charles Scribner's Sons, who developed this project, and has given me free hand in shaping the work. What was envisaged to be a reference with 600 entries became one with 936, including the sidebars. In the section of

primary source documents, which, like everything else, turns out to be bigger and richer than originally planned, we have included not only some unusual pieces, but also, for the first time, rendered into English the interesting and important essay “New Population Theory” (*Xin renkoulun*) by the economist and one-time President of Peking University, Ma Yinchu, which is reproduced in its entirety here.

Hélène was certainly generous in her support of such enhancements, but her main contribution was in the overall guidance she provided from beginning to end. To someone unfamiliar with the world of large-scale commercial publishing, Hélène provided indispensable insight and guidance. Her great personal interest in this project and its subject matter was a major reason for the quality of these volumes. From the time she invited me to serve as editor in chief in October 2006, she has never stopped being a cheerleader and an adviser.

Since around July 2007, Alan Hedblad, a senior editor at Gale / Charles Scribner’s Sons, has worked with me on a regular basis, exchanging e-mails several times a day, shunting entries back and forth, in an endless quest for perfection. His ability to manage such a large project, organize its materials and resources, is most impressive. And he goes about his job with such equanimity, wisdom, and poise!

In the earlier stages, I had the good fortune to work with Melissa McDade, managing editor. Melissa guided us patiently through the first learning stages, familiarizing the editorial board with databases, scopes, and the like. Her hard work took us through the first eight months or so, until the first draft of the scopes was done. All the while, she had the able assistance of editor Douglas Dentino.

For the style and readability of the work, we must thank primarily copyeditors Judy Culligan and Alan Thwaites. Trained in Chinese studies, Alan Thwaites also compiled and edited the large glossary of Chinese characters.

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful art work, which is under the purview of Scot Peacock, who handled all the images, including the selection of hundreds of photographs, artwork, maps, tables, and graphs. For the research, review and editing of the primary sources, we would like to extend our appreciation to my student-assistant Kevin Impellizeri and to Gale’s Andrew Specht, and likewise to Jennifer Wisinski who researched and edited the fact boxes that go with the entries on provinces. Jason Everett helped to finalize the fact boxes and handled all file preparation and coding for typesetting. I am sure that many more at Gale’s Farmington Hills offices have had a contributing hand in producing this wonderful project. They are listed on the “Editorial and Production Staff” page.

In closing, I would like to thank my dearest wife, Barbara, without whose encouragement, good cheer, understanding, and support throughout the past two-and-a-half years, I would not have been able to complete this titanic undertaking. Our children, Amanda, Cynthia, and Myra have not only been great cheerleaders, but their own resourcefulness in building their young careers has been nothing short of inspiring. I dedicate these volumes to them.

*David Pong*  
Newark, Delaware  
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