



The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin

By Robert Lawrence Kuhn

Download now

Read Online →

The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin By Robert Lawrence Kuhn

Jiang Zemin's life and leadership sweep through almost eighty tumultuous years of Chinese history: Japanese occupation, Civil War, Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution, Tiananmen Square, and, more recently, dramatic economic growth, tensions with Taiwan, and opportunities and confrontations with America. Jiang's story is an epic of war, deprivation, revolution, political turmoil, social convulsion, economic reform, national transformation, and international resurgence. To Robert Lawrence Kuhn, a longtime China observer, understanding the legacy of Jiang Zemin is essential for understanding the challenges of contemporary China. By examining Jiang's life, we observe the clash between China's traditional culture and chaotic history, and we appreciate how its changes impact the entire world.

In *The Man Who Changed China*, Kuhn, who was cited by the *Asian Wall Street Journal* for the "unprecedented access" he was given in the course of writing this book, has produced what the Journal called "probably the closest thing to an authorized biography that's possible in Communist China." Here a reader will find a complex and nuanced portrait of China's senior leader, whose policies continue to exert great influence over the course of his country. Kuhn offers insight into how the Japanese occupation during Jiang's teenage years imprinted his psyche for life, how he became a Communist, and how, decades later, he struggled to transform the Party in the face of withering criticism.

In a sense, Kuhn argues, Jiang's early skeptics got it right: He was a transitional figure—but not in the way they had meant. With unshakable if paternalistic vision, a lifelong love of Chinese civilization, and backroom political skills that no one had anticipated, Jiang Zemin became an unexpected agent of change, effecting the transition from a traumatized society to a confident, prosperous country rapidly ascending in the new world order. Kuhn shows how Jiang led China through an amazing metamorphosis—from a fretful country destabilized by the turmoil and crackdown in Tiananmen Square into a vibrant nation that became a primary engine of global economic growth. Above all Jiang is a Chinese patriot—and it is important to appreciate what that really means. In offering this unusually intimate and comprehensive personal and political

biography, Kuhn demonstrates that Jiang Zemin's life personifies the history of contemporary China, giving invaluable insight into what China is today and will become in the future.

 [Download The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy o
...pdf](#)

The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin

By Robert Lawrence Kuhn

The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin By Robert Lawrence Kuhn

Jiang Zemin's life and leadership sweep through almost eighty tumultuous years of Chinese history: Japanese occupation, Civil War, Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution, Tiananmen Square, and, more recently, dramatic economic growth, tensions with Taiwan, and opportunities and confrontations with America. Jiang's story is an epic of war, deprivation, revolution, political turmoil, social convulsion, economic reform, national transformation, and international resurgence. To Robert Lawrence Kuhn, a longtime China observer, understanding the legacy of Jiang Zemin is essential for understanding the challenges of contemporary China. By examining Jiang's life, we observe the clash between China's traditional culture and chaotic history, and we appreciate how its changes impact the entire world.

In *The Man Who Changed China*, Kuhn, who was cited by the *Asian Wall Street Journal* for the "unprecedented access" he was given in the course of writing this book, has produced what the Journal called "probably the closest thing to an authorized biography that's possible in Communist China." Here a reader will find a complex and nuanced portrait of China's senior leader, whose policies continue to exert great influence over the course of his country. Kuhn offers insight into how the Japanese occupation during Jiang's teenage years imprinted his psyche for life, how he became a Communist, and how, decades later, he struggled to transform the Party in the face of withering criticism.

In a sense, Kuhn argues, Jiang's early skeptics got it right: He was a transitional figure—but not in the way they had meant. With unshakable if paternalistic vision, a lifelong love of Chinese civilization, and backroom political skills that no one had anticipated, Jiang Zemin became an unexpected agent of change, effecting the transition from a traumatized society to a confident, prosperous country rapidly ascending in the new world order. Kuhn shows how Jiang led China through an amazing metamorphosis—from a fretful country destabilized by the turmoil and crackdown in Tiananmen Square into a vibrant nation that became a primary engine of global economic growth. Above all Jiang is a Chinese patriot—and it is important to appreciate what that really means. In offering this unusually intimate and comprehensive personal and political biography, Kuhn demonstrates that Jiang Zemin's life personifies the history of contemporary China, giving invaluable insight into what China is today and will become in the future.

The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin By Robert Lawrence Kuhn **Bibliography**

- Rank: #256523 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Crown
- Published on: 2005-01-11
- Released on: 2005-01-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.42" h x 2.21" w x 6.48" l, .0 pounds

- Binding: Hardcover
- 720 pages

 [Download The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy o ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online **The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin** By Robert Lawrence Kuhn

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This biography tries to counter the Western perception of Jiang Zemin (b. 1926) as a dictator of Communist China and emphasizes instead how far Chinese leadership has come since the days of Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping. A mild-mannered but patriotic grassroots organizer of protests during the Japanese occupation, Jiang matured into a good-natured technocrat who was, according to the author (host of PBS's series *Closer to Truth* and a former adviser to the Chinese government), without greater political ambition while serving as mayor of Shanghai. But he avoided political pitfalls in his dealings with student protesters in Shanghai in the period leading to the Tiananmen Square massacre—dealings Kuhn tries to portray as firm but not unkind. As China's head of state from 1993 to 2003, Jiang was, in Kuhn's view, a visionary who put a new face on China through his love of science and technology as well as a series of important foreign policy encounters; the author emphasizes Jiang's tension-fraught relationship with the Western press, his quirky style of winning over foreign leaders through bursting into song and his support of America's war on terror. Though detailed and readable, the book is at times cloying: the less flattering points in Jiang's career—his role in squelching mass movements seen as threatening stability and his power-amassing maneuvers—are glossed over. 32 pages of b&w photos.

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

The previous biography of Jiang Zemin dates to 1998 (*Tiger on the Brink: Jiang Zemin and China's New Elite*, by Bruce Gilley), justifying a refresher on the now-retired leader of China. Kuhn's portrait is positive, frequently laudatory, and liberally doses its chronicle of Jiang's life with anecdotes from his friends and family. His personal story echoes that of Communist-ruled China; during the Cultural Revolution, for example, Maoists compelled the university-educated Jiang to perform manual labor. Kuhn's work does not often criticize the official policies and actions of China under Jiang's leadership, seeming content with describing them. This approach gives the work a year-in-review hue—for each year of Jiang's political life, Kuhn paraphrases his speeches, gives details of his meetings with foreign leaders, and quotes at length his interviews with journalists. In presenting the avuncular, English-speaking Jiang's public persona, Kuhn pins his activities to the consensus-driven political mores of the Chinese Communist Party's top echelons and leverages the politics China watchers will demand from the author's info-packed biography. *Gilbert Taylor*
Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

From the Author

Bruce Gilley ("In China's Own Eyes," *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2005) is correct that my biography, *The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin*, portrays Jiang as he might see himself. My intention (as stated in the book itself, on pages 691–92) was to move beyond all the hype and bias about China so as to understand how Chinese leaders think.

Jiang didn't choose me; I chose Jiang. The book was my idea; I planned it, financed it, and wrote it to trace China's story through eight tumultuous decades of trauma and transformation. I had help—translators, researchers, editors—but I maintained absolute editorial control and made every editorial decision, and no one in China ever thought otherwise.

My rendition of events, such as the U.S. bombing of the Chinese embassy in Yugoslavia in 1999, differs markedly from that of the official Chinese media. In a publisher's note, Chinese readers are advised: "Certain

viewpoints and opinions of the author, as a Westerner, bear a definite distance from those of our own. Hopefully the reader will understand."

My book is unprecedented—the first biography of a living leader published on the mainland. Furthermore, there is inside information in it that Chinese media and officials aver that they never knew. One reporter complained publicly about the fact that this breakthrough was made by a foreigner.

What does Jiang himself think about the book? "He [Kuhn] wrote very objectively; he didn't beautify me," Jiang was quoted publicly as saying, "... but he got my wedding date wrong."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sharon Rowe:

Do you one of people who can't read satisfying if the sentence chained in the straightway, hold on guys this kind of aren't like that. This The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin book is readable by you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable studying experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to provide to you. The writer involving The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin content conveys objective easily to understand by most people. The printed and e-book are not different in the articles but it just different in the form of it. So , do you still thinking The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin is not loveable to be your top collection reading book?

Catherine Ng:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read the book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a e-book. The book The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book has high quality.

Sarah Farmer:

As we know that book is essential thing to add our know-how for everything. By a publication we can know everything we really wish for. A book is a list of written, printed, illustrated or maybe blank sheet. Every year has been exactly added. This e-book The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin was filled concerning science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your science competence. Some people has distinct feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big good thing about a book, you can feel enjoy to read a book. In the modern era like today, many ways to get book which you wanted.

Jason Davis:

Many people said that they feel fed up when they reading a guide. They are directly felt it when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose typically the book *The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin* to make your personal reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading proficiency is developing when you like reading. Try to choose simple book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the impression about book and reading through especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to open a book and examine it. Beside that the e-book *The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin* can to be your friend when you're feel alone and confuse with the information must you're doing of the time.

**Download and Read Online *The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin* By Robert Lawrence Kuhn
#OF8RXWHPJQ5**

Read The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin By Robert Lawrence Kuhn for online ebook

The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin By Robert Lawrence Kuhn Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin By Robert Lawrence Kuhn books to read online.

Online The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin By Robert Lawrence Kuhn ebook PDF download

The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin By Robert Lawrence Kuhn Doc

The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin By Robert Lawrence Kuhn Mobipocket

The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin By Robert Lawrence Kuhn EPub

OF8RXWHPJQ5: The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin By Robert Lawrence Kuhn