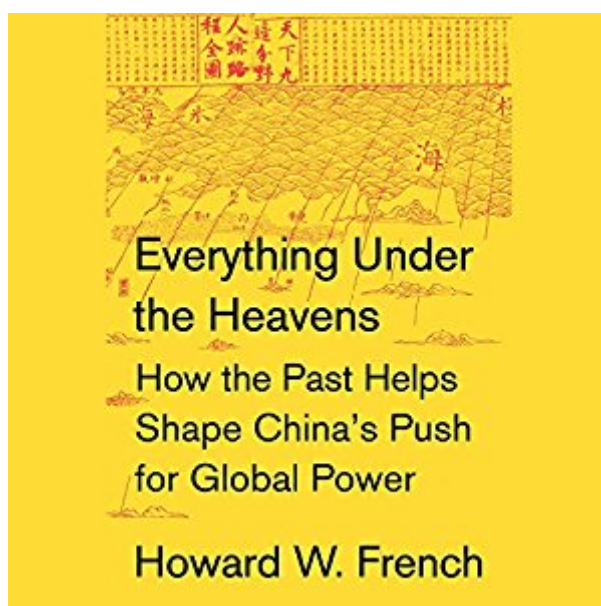


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Everything Under The Heavens: How The Past Helps Shape China's Push For Global Power



Synopsis

From the former New York Times Asia correspondent and author of *China's Second Continent*, an incisive investigation of China's ideological development as it becomes an ever more aggressive player in regional and global diplomacy. For many years after its reform and opening in 1978, China maintained an attitude of false modesty about its ambitions. That role, reports Howard French, has been set aside. China has asserted its place among the global heavyweights, revealing its plans for pan-Asian dominance by building its navy, increasing territorial claims to areas like the South China Sea, and diplomatically bullying smaller players. Underlying this attitude is a strain of thinking that casts China's present-day actions in decidedly historical terms, as the path to restoring the dynastic glory of the past. If we understand how that historical identity relates to current actions, in ways ideological, philosophical, and even legal, we can learn to forecast just what kind of global power China stands to become - and to interact wisely with a future peer. Steeped in deeply researched history as well as on-the-ground reporting, this is French at his revelatory best.

Book Information

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Nationalism

Customer Reviews

An important book for anybody trying to understand the underlying guiding principles behind China's actions in Asia. It outlines the Chinese understanding of self and their assumed inherent leadership of their sphere based on a sense of cultural superiority. This is the organizing principle that interprets their quest for economic and cultural dominance among its ancient tributary states. To accomplish their aim, they seek to exclude the United States from the region and reassert

primacy. The book is a bit long on a hard to follow history which sets the context for the present but because of its unfamiliarity, is a bit dense. The takeaway is that China is reassuming and reasserting its role as a great power, and in doing so will inevitably attempt to push aside all others in Southeast Asia, including the United States. Whether it succeeds depends on the staying power of each great power in the struggle.

Howard French has written an outstanding book that examines Chinese notions that continue to affect the way it conducts its foreign policy. I only wished he had written more about its internal challenges.

The historical background was clean and correct. But the final conclusions were startling. And interesting.

Should add a map index and a few other normal reader considerations. Apart from this an important book the US faces N Korea.

great book, interesting framework, easy read....

slow going but informative...

Excellent book for helping all Americans to understand China. Our President should read this.

The book ties China's hyper-drive present to its intricate past, combining deep scholarship, hard-reality reporting and elegant writing. "China's conceptualization of power" is one phrase the author uses, and in many ways it sums up this brilliant book. It has a superb analysis of the history and current status of the Ryukyu Islands, formerly a kingdom, now the Okinawa islands of Japan. The small island kingdom kept its quasi-independence for centuries, even as it exhibited loyalty to both Chinese and Japanese emperors. The Ryukyu/Okinawa Islands are in focus again today, as they are part of the militarizing fault line between China under Xi Jinping and the middle kingdom's neighbors-- but the Ryukyus are just one part of a larger and ominous fault line that is exposed and investigated in this book. If you have any interest in East Asia, today's global power shifts, or the rise and fall and rise of nations, this is a must-read.

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