

Wealth and Power: Chinas Long March to the Twenty-First Century



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WEALTH AND POWER: CHINAS LONG MARCH TO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

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Random House Trade. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 496 pages. Dimensions: 8.2in. x 5.4in. x 1.0in.Through a series of lively and absorbing portraits of iconic modern Chinese leaders and thinkers, two of todays foremost specialists on China provide a panoramic narrative of this countrys rise to preeminence that is at once analytical and personal. How did a nation, after a long and painful period of dynastic decline, intellectual upheaval, foreign occupation, civil war, and revolution, manage to burst forth onto the world stage with such an impressive run of hyperdevelopment and wealth creationculminating in the extraordinary dynamism of China today Wealth and Power answers this question by examining the lives of eleven influential officials, writers, activists, and leaders whose contributions helped create modern China. This fascinating survey begins in the lead-up to the first Opium War with Wei Yuan, the nineteenth-century scholar and reformer who was one of the first to urge China to borrow ideas from the West. It concludes in our time with human-rights advocate and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo, an outspoken opponent of single-party rule. Along the way, we meet such titans of Chinese history as the Empress Dowager Cixi, public intellectuals Feng Guifen, Liang Qichao, and Chen Duxiu, Nationalist stalwarts Sun Yat-sen and Chiang Kai-shek, and Communist Party leaders Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, and Zhu Rongji. The common goal that unites all of these disparate figures is their determined pursuit of fuqiang, wealth and power. This abiding quest for a restoration of national greatness in the face of a century of humiliation at the hands of the Great Powers came to define the modern Chinese character. Its what drove both Mao and Deng to embark on root-and-branch transformations of Chinese society, first by means of Marxism-Leninism, then by authoritarian capitalism. And this determined quest remains...

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