

maos little red

maos little red is a phrase deeply associated with a pivotal era in Chinese history. Known formally as the "Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung," this pocket-sized book became a symbol of communist ideology and mass movement during the Cultural Revolution. In this comprehensive article, we will explore the origins, content, and lasting impact of Mao's Little Red Book. You will learn about its historical context, the reasons behind its creation, its role in Chinese society, and how it continues to affect both Chinese and global culture today. The article also delves into the book's physical characteristics, its dissemination, and the controversies it sparked. Whether you are a student of history, political science, or simply interested in iconic artifacts, this guide provides a thorough and SEO-optimized overview of Mao's Little Red Book. Continue reading to discover all facets of this influential text.

- Origins and Historical Context of Mao's Little Red Book
- Content and Structure of Mao's Little Red Book
- Role in the Cultural Revolution
- Distribution and Physical Characteristics
- Impact on Chinese Society and Global Influence
- Controversies and Criticisms
- Legacy of Mao's Little Red Book

Origins and Historical Context of Mao's Little Red Book

The creation of Mao's Little Red Book is rooted in the mid-twentieth century, a period marked by significant political upheaval in China. The book was compiled under the direction of Lin Biao, a prominent military leader and close ally of Mao Zedong. First published in 1964, the book aimed to promote Mao's ideology and consolidate his authority within the Communist Party of China. The historical context surrounding its release includes the aftermath of the Great Leap Forward and the onset of the Cultural Revolution, which sought to purge capitalist and traditional elements from Chinese society.

Mao's Little Red Book was designed to be accessible and portable, ensuring ordinary citizens, soldiers, and party members could carry it at all times. Its mass production reflected the broader strategy of ideological indoctrination and the establishment of a cult of personality around Mao. The book quickly became an emblem of loyalty to the

Communist cause and a tool for political education across China.

Content and Structure of Mao's Little Red Book

At its core, Mao's Little Red Book contains selected quotations from Mao Zedong, organized by thematic categories. The content covers a wide range of topics, including class struggle, revolution, leadership, and philosophy. Each quotation is concise, direct, and intended to encapsulate Mao's ideological principles.

Main Themes and Topics

- Class Struggle and Revolution
- Role of the Communist Party
- Socialist Construction
- Anti-Imperialism and Nationalism
- Self-Reliance and Unity
- Education and Youth
- Women's Liberation

The structure is straightforward, with headings for each topic followed by Mao's statements. This organization made it easy for readers to reference specific ideas and apply them to daily life or political activities. The language is often simple yet forceful, designed to resonate with people from diverse backgrounds.

Notable Quotations

Some quotations from Mao's Little Red Book have achieved iconic status, such as, "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun," and "Serve the people." These phrases reflect the militaristic and populist elements of Mao's thought, emphasizing collective action and loyalty to revolutionary ideals.

Role in the Cultural Revolution

Mao's Little Red Book played a central role during the Cultural Revolution (1966–1976). It became a mandatory text for millions of Chinese citizens, especially the Red Guards—a youth movement mobilized to enforce Mao's policies. The book functioned as both a manual for revolutionary conduct and a litmus test for political allegiance.

Public readings, organized study sessions, and recitations of the book's quotations were common. Possessing and quoting from Mao's Little Red Book demonstrated loyalty and could shield individuals from political persecution. Conversely, failure to follow its teachings could result in suspicion or punishment. The book was also used to justify radical actions, including the destruction of cultural artifacts and the targeting of intellectuals.

Distribution and Physical Characteristics

Mao's Little Red Book was distributed on an unprecedented scale. Between 1964 and 1976, hundreds of millions of copies were printed and disseminated throughout China. The book's small size and distinctive red cover made it instantly recognizable and easy to carry.

Features of Mao's Little Red Book

- Pocket-sized dimensions
- Bright red vinyl or paper cover
- Portrait of Mao Zedong on the title page (in some editions)
- Simple, bold typography
- Published in multiple languages for international distribution

The physical design contributed to its symbolic power. The red color represented revolution and communism, while the compact format facilitated widespread usage. The book was often issued free of charge to students, workers, and soldiers, further ensuring its ubiquity.

Impact on Chinese Society and Global Influence

The impact of Mao's Little Red Book on Chinese society was profound. It shaped the political discourse, influenced education, and altered the daily lives of millions. The book's teachings permeated every aspect of society, from government policies to family

relationships. Its influence extended beyond China's borders, inspiring leftist movements in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Internationally, the Little Red Book became a symbol of revolutionary fervor and anti-imperialist sentiment. It was studied by activists, cited by political leaders, and even referenced in artistic and intellectual circles. The global reach of Mao's ideology contributed to debates about communism, authoritarianism, and social change.

Long-term Social Effects

While the immediate impact of Mao's Little Red Book was significant, its long-term effects are mixed. In China, the period associated with the book saw widespread upheaval, including economic disruption and cultural loss. However, the book also played a role in shaping modern Chinese identity and political thought. Globally, its legacy is visible in the continued interest in revolutionary literature and the analysis of mass political movements.

Controversies and Criticisms

Mao's Little Red Book has been the subject of numerous controversies and criticisms. Scholars and observers have debated its role in promoting authoritarianism, suppressing dissent, and inciting violence during the Cultural Revolution. The book's simplistic and dogmatic approach has been criticized for discouraging independent thought and encouraging blind obedience.

Some argue that the mass distribution of the book contributed to the creation of a personality cult around Mao Zedong, distorting historical realities and stifling alternative viewpoints. Others point to the social and cultural damage inflicted during the era in which the book was most influential, including the persecution of intellectuals and the destruction of traditional values.

Legacy of Mao's Little Red Book

The legacy of Mao's Little Red Book is complex and multifaceted. As both a historical artifact and a symbol of political ideology, it continues to attract scholarly attention and public debate. In contemporary China, the book is often viewed as a relic of the past, studied for its historical significance rather than its practical guidance.

Outside China, Mao's Little Red Book remains a subject of fascination for historians, political theorists, and collectors. Its influence on revolutionary movements and authoritarian politics is still referenced in academic and cultural discussions. The enduring presence of the book in museums, libraries, and literary studies underscores its importance as a global cultural icon.

Overall, Mao's Little Red Book represents a unique intersection of literature, politics, and history, reflecting both the ambitions and contradictions of a transformative era in China.

Q: What is Mao's Little Red Book?

A: Mao's Little Red Book, formally known as "Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung," is a collection of Mao Zedong's statements and writings, widely distributed during the Cultural Revolution to promote communist ideology in China.

Q: Why was Mao's Little Red Book created?

A: The book was created to reinforce Mao Zedong's ideological leadership and unify the Chinese Communist Party and society around his principles, especially during periods of political upheaval.

Q: How was Mao's Little Red Book used during the Cultural Revolution?

A: It was used as a tool for political indoctrination, required reading for citizens and Red Guards, and served as a symbol of loyalty to Mao and the Communist Party.

Q: What are the main themes found in Mao's Little Red Book?

A: Key themes include class struggle, revolution, socialist construction, anti-imperialism, self-reliance, education, and the role of youth and women in society.

Q: How many copies of Mao's Little Red Book were distributed?

A: It is estimated that hundreds of millions of copies were printed and distributed across China and internationally, making it one of the most published books in history.

Q: What controversies are associated with Mao's Little Red Book?

A: The book has been criticized for fostering a personality cult, suppressing dissent, and contributing to violence and persecution during the Cultural Revolution.

Q: Does Mao's Little Red Book still influence Chinese

society today?

A: While its direct influence has diminished, the book remains significant as a historical artifact and is studied for insights into China's political and cultural history.

Q: Was Mao's Little Red Book translated into other languages?

A: Yes, the book was translated into numerous languages to promote Maoist ideology internationally and support leftist movements worldwide.

Q: What physical characteristics distinguish Mao's Little Red Book?

A: It is known for its small, pocket-sized format, bright red cover, and often features Mao's portrait or signature on the title page.

Q: How is Mao's Little Red Book viewed by historians?

A: Historians regard it as a significant symbol of the Cultural Revolution, representing both the ambitions and excesses of Maoist China, and an important artifact for understanding revolutionary movements.

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Mao's Little Red Book: A Deep Dive into its Propaganda and Enduring Legacy

Mao Zedong's Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung, popularly known as the "Little Red Book," remains a potent symbol of the Cultural Revolution and a fascinating case study in political propaganda. This post delves into the book's creation, its impact on China and the world, and its enduring legacy, providing a comprehensive overview for those seeking to understand this pivotal piece of 20th-century history. We'll explore its content, its role in shaping Chinese society, and its continued relevance in discussions of political ideology and power.

The Genesis of Mao's Little Red Book: From Compilation to Cultural Icon

The Little Red Book wasn't conceived as a cohesive work. Instead, it emerged as a compilation of Mao's pronouncements, speeches, and writings selected and edited by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Its initial publication in 1964 aimed to consolidate Mao's authority within the party, which was facing internal dissent and challenges to its revolutionary zeal. The carefully chosen quotations, often presented out of context, served as a powerful tool for shaping public opinion and reinforcing Mao's image as an infallible leader.

The Strategic Dissemination of Mao's Thought

The CCP cleverly orchestrated the book's distribution, ensuring its widespread availability throughout China. It was translated into numerous languages and distributed globally, furthering its reach and impact. The small, pocket-sized format made it easily portable, becoming an ubiquitous symbol of unwavering loyalty to Mao and his revolutionary ideology. Carrying the Little Red Book was not merely a sign of political alignment; it was often a prerequisite for social acceptance and advancement.

The Little Red Book and the Cultural Revolution: A Weapon of Ideological Warfare

The Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) saw the Little Red Book become a central weapon in the CCP's campaign to purge perceived enemies of the revolution. Red Guards, fanatical young followers of Mao, used the book as a justification for their violent actions, interpreting its pronouncements to sanction the persecution of intellectuals, political opponents, and anyone deemed "counter-revolutionary." The book's simple, highly emotive language fueled mass mobilization and contributed to the widespread chaos and violence that characterized this turbulent period.

The Power of Simplified Language and Emotional Appeal

The book's success lay partly in its simple, easily digestible language. Complex political concepts were reduced to slogans and pronouncements that resonated with the masses, regardless of their level of political sophistication. This masterful simplification of complex ideologies, coupled with its emotionally charged rhetoric, helped to mobilize support for Mao's policies and silence dissenting voices. It was propaganda at its most effective.

The Enduring Legacy of Mao's Little Red Book: A Continued Source of Debate

Even after Mao's death, the Little Red Book continues to be a source of debate and analysis. Its legacy is complex, encompassing both its role in mobilizing the Chinese population and its contribution to the horrors of the Cultural Revolution. Some view it as a symbol of totalitarian control and the dangers of unchecked power, while others recognize its influence on shaping a national identity and mobilizing revolutionary fervor.

The Little Red Book in the Modern Era: Reinterpretations and Reassessments

Today, the Little Red Book serves as a powerful reminder of the potent force of political propaganda and the dangers of ideological extremism. While its influence on contemporary Chinese politics might be less direct, its historical significance remains undeniable. The study of the Little Red Book remains crucial for understanding not only the history of China but also the broader dynamics of political power, propaganda, and social control.

Conclusion

Mao's Little Red Book remains a complex and controversial artifact of the 20th century. Its impact on Chinese history is undeniable, serving as a powerful tool for political control and social mobilization, yet also contributing to a period of widespread violence and upheaval. Its legacy continues to spark debate and encourages a critical examination of the relationship between political ideology, propaganda, and societal impact.

FAQs

1. Was Mao's Little Red Book actually written by Mao Zedong himself? No, the book is a compilation of Mao's speeches, writings, and pronouncements, edited and selected by the CCP. Many quotations are taken out of context or significantly shortened.
2. How many copies of the Little Red Book were printed? Precise figures are unavailable, but billions of copies were printed in numerous languages, making it one of the most widely distributed books in history.
3. Is the Little Red Book still available today? While less widely distributed than during the Cultural Revolution, it can still be found online and in some specialized bookstores.
4. What are some of the key criticisms of the Little Red Book? Critics argue that it promoted personality cults, encouraged violence and extremism, and distorted historical events to serve a political agenda.
5. How does the Little Red Book relate to modern-day Chinese politics? While not an official text anymore, its historical influence is still felt in some aspects of Chinese political discourse and ideology, albeit often implicitly. Understanding it remains crucial to understanding contemporary Chinese politics.

maos little red: Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung Mao Tse-Tung, Mao Zedong, 2013-04-16 *Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung* is a volume of selected statements taken from the speeches and writings by Mao Tse-Tung, published from 1964 to 1976. It was often printed in small editions that could be easily carried and that were bound in bright red covers, which led to its western moniker of the 'Little Red Book'. It is one of the most printed books in history, and will be of considerable value to those with an interest in Mao Tse-Tung and in the history of the Communist Party of China. The chapters of this book include: 'The Communist Party', 'Classes and Class Struggle', 'Socialism and Communism', 'The Correct Handling of Contradictions Among The People', 'War and Peace', 'Imperialism and All Reactionaries are Paper Tigers', 'Dare to Struggle and Dare to Win', et cetera. We are republishing this antiquarian volume now complete with a new prefatory biography of Mao Tse-Tung.

maos little red: Mao's Little Red Book Alexander C. Cook, 2014-03-06 On the fiftieth anniversary of *Quotations from Chairman Mao*, this pioneering volume examines the book as a global historical phenomenon.

maos little red: Quotations from Chairman Mao Tsetung Zedong Mao, 1990

maos little red: On Guerrilla Warfare Mao Tse-tung, 2012-03-06 The first documented, systematic study of a truly revolutionary subject, this 1937 text remains the definitive guide to guerrilla warfare. It concisely explains unorthodox strategies that transform disadvantages into benefits.

maos little red: Mao Cult Daniel Leese, 2011-10-31 Although many books have explored Mao's posthumous legacy, none has scrutinized the massive worship that was fostered around him during the Cultural Revolution. This book is the first to do so. By analyzing secret archival documents, Daniel Leese traces the history of the cult within the Communist Party and at the grassroots level. The party leadership's original intention was to develop a prominent brand symbol, which would compete with the nationalists' elevation of Chiang Kai-shek. However, they did not anticipate that Mao would use this symbolic power to mobilize Chinese youth to rebel against party bureaucracy itself. The result was anarchy and when the army was called in it relied on mandatory rituals of worship such as daily reading of the Little Red Book to restore order. Such fascinating detail sheds light not only on the personality cult of Mao, but also on hero-worship in other traditions.

maos little red: Mao's Little Red Book Alexander C. Cook, 2014-03-06 Mao Zedong's Little Red Book (*Quotations from Chairman Mao*) - a compilation of the Chinese leader's speeches and writings - is one of the most visible and ubiquitous symbols of twentieth-century radicalism. Published for the first time in 1964, it rapidly became the must-have accessory for Red Guards and revolutionaries from Berkeley to Bamako. Yet, despite its worldwide circulation and enduring presence there has, until now, been no serious scholarly effort to understand this seminal text as a global historical phenomenon. *Mao's Little Red Book* brings together a range of innovative scholars from around the world to explore the fascinating variety of uses and forms that *Mao's Quotations* has taken, from rhetoric, art and song, to talisman, badge, and weapon. The authors of this pioneering volume use *Mao's Quotations* as a medium through which to re-examine the history of the twentieth-century world, challenging established ideas about the book to reveal its remarkable global impact.

maos little red: The Cultural Revolution Frank Dikötter, 2017-06-06 The concluding volume--following *Mao's Great Famine* and *The Tragedy of Liberation*--in Frank Dikötter's award-winning trilogy chronicling the Communist revolution in China. After the economic disaster of the Great Leap Forward that claimed tens of millions of lives from 1958-1962, an aging Mao Zedong launched an ambitious scheme to shore up his reputation and eliminate those he viewed as a threat to his legacy. The Cultural Revolution's goal was to purge the country of bourgeois, capitalistic elements he claimed were threatening genuine communist ideology. Young students formed the Red Guards, vowing to defend the Chairman to the death, but soon rival factions started fighting each other in the streets with semiautomatic weapons in the name of revolutionary purity. As the country descended into chaos, the military intervened, turning China into a garrison state marked by bloody purges that crushed as many as one in fifty people. *The Cultural Revolution: A People's History*,

1962-1976 draws for the first time on hundreds of previously classified party documents, from secret police reports to unexpurgated versions of leadership speeches. After the army itself fell victim to the Cultural Revolution, ordinary people used the political chaos to resurrect the market and hollow out the party's ideology. By showing how economic reform from below was an unintended consequence of a decade of violent purges and entrenched fear, *The Cultural Revolution* casts China's most tumultuous era in a wholly new light.

maos little red: *The Little Red Book* Anonymous, 2021-03-03 Designed as an aid for the study of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, *The Little Red Book* contains many helpful topics for discussion meetings. This is the original study guide to the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Filled with practical information for those first days of sober living, this little book: offers newcomers advice about the program, how long it takes, and what to look for in a sponsor; provides in-depth discussions of each of the Twelve Steps and related character defects; poses common questions about AA and helping others, identifying where to find answers in the Big Book; and features non-sexist language.

maos little red: *The Little Red Book* Mao Tse Tung, 2017-01-20 This is the first in the series of Political History Texts, texts that have had major impact on how we think and our social and political environment. Chairman Mao's Little Red book continues to influence a generations of Chinese Communists and the repercussions of this man's leadership have unimaginable far reaching impact. How the book has influenced modern thinking in the west I will leave to modern pundits to comment on but you cannot deny the impact that the 5bn copies printed had on the Chinese nation. References have been added to explain historical context, translation of foreign phrases and definitions of uncommon words.

maos little red: *Mao* Alexander V. Pantsov, Steven I. Levine, 2013-10-29 Originally published in a different version in 2007 in Russian by Molodaia Gvardiia as *Mao Tzedun*--Title page verso.

maos little red: *Out of the Gobi* Weijian Shan, 2019-01-17 Foreword by Janet Yellen Weijian Shan's *Out of the Gobi* is a powerful memoir and commentary that will be one of the most important books on China of our time, one with the potential to re-shape how Americans view China, and how the Chinese view life in America. Shan, a former hard laborer who is now one of Asia's best-known financiers, is thoughtful, observant, eloquent, and brutally honest, making him well-positioned to tell the story of a life that is a microcosm of modern China, and of how, improbably, that life became intertwined with America. *Out of the Gobi* draws a vivid picture of the raw human energy and the will to succeed against all odds. Shan only finished elementary school when Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution tore his country apart. He was a witness to the brutality and absurdity of Mao's policies during one of the most tumultuous eras in China's history. Exiled to the Gobi Desert at age 15 and denied schooling for 10 years, he endured untold hardships without ever giving up his dream for an education. Shan's improbable journey, from the Gobi to the "People's Republic of Berkeley" and far beyond, is a uniquely American success story - told with a splash of humor, deep insight and rich and engaging detail. This powerful and personal perspective on China and America will inform Americans' view of China, humanizing the country, while providing a rare view of America from the prism of a keen foreign observer who lived the American dream. Says former Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen: "Shan's life provides a demonstration of what is possible when China and the United States come together, even by happenstance. It is not only Shan's personal history that makes this book so interesting but also how the stories of China and America merge in just one moment in time to create an inspired individual so unique and driven, and so representative of the true spirits of both countries."

maos little red: *My Little Red Book* Rachel Kauder Nalebuff, 2009-02-26 MY LITTLE RED BOOK is an anthology of stories about first periods, collected from women of all ages from around the world. The accounts range from light-hearted (the editor got hers while water skiing in a yellow bathing suit) to heart-stopping (a first period discovered just as one girl was about to be strip-searched by the Nazis). The contributors include well-known women writers (Meg Cabot, Erica Jong, Gloria Steinem, Cecily von Ziegesar), alongside today's teens. And while the authors differ in

race, faith, or cultural background, their stories share a common bond: they are all accessible, deeply honest, and highly informative. Whatever a girl experiences or expects, she'll find stories that speak to her thoughts and feelings. Ultimately, MY LITTLE READ BOOK is more than a collection of stories. It is a call for a change in attitude, for a new way of seeing periods. In a time when the taboo around menstruation seems to be one of the few left standing, it makes a difficult subject easier to talk about, and helps girls feel proud instead of embarrassed or ashamed. By revealing what it feels like to undergo this experience first hand, and giving women the chance to explain their feelings in their own words, it aims to provide support, entertainment, and a starting point for discussion for mothers and daughters everywhere. It is a book every girl should have. Period.

maos little red: *The Private Life of Chairman Mao* Li Zhi-Sui, 2011-06-22 "The most revealing book ever published on Mao, perhaps on any dictator in history."—Professor Andrew J. Nathan, Columbia University From 1954 until Mao Zedong's death twenty-two years later, Dr. Li Zhisui was the Chinese ruler's personal physician, which put him in daily—and increasingly intimate—contact with Mao and his inner circle. In *The Private Life of Chairman Mao*, Dr. Li vividly reconstructs his extraordinary experience at the center of Mao's decadent imperial court. Dr. Li clarifies numerous long-standing puzzles, such as the true nature of Mao's feelings toward the United States and the Soviet Union. He describes Mao's deliberate rudeness toward Khrushchev and reveals the actual catalyst of Nixon's historic visit. Here are also surprising details of Mao's personal depravity (we see him dependent on barbiturates and refusing to wash, dress, or brush his teeth) and the sexual politics of his court. To millions of Chinese, Mao was more god than man, but for Dr. Li, he was all too human. Dr. Li's intimate account of this lecherous, paranoid tyrant, callously indifferent to the suffering of his people, will forever alter our view of Chairman Mao and of China under his rule. Praise for *The Private Life of Chairman Mao* "From now on no one will be able to pretend to understand Chairman Mao's place in history without reference to this revealing account."—Professor Lucian Pye, Massachusetts Institute of Technology "Dr. Li does for Mao what the physician Lord Moran's memoir did for Winston Churchill—turns him into a human being. Here is Mao unveiled: eccentric, demanding, suspicious, unregretful, lascivious, and unfailingly fascinating. Our view of Mao will never be the same again."—Ross Terrill, author of *China in Our Time* "An extraordinarily intimate portrait of Mao. [Dr. Li] portrays [Mao's imperial court] as a place of boundless decadence, licentiousness, selfishness, relentless toadying and cutthroat political intrigue."—Richard Bernstein, *The New York Times* "One of the most provocative books on Mao to appear since the publication of Edgar Snow's *Red Star Over China*."—Paul G. Pickowicz, *The Wall Street Journal*

maos little red: *China in the 21st Century* Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom, 2013-05-31 The need to understand this global giant has never been more pressing: China is constantly in the news, yet conflicting impressions abound. Within one generation, China has transformed from an impoverished, repressive state into an economic and political powerhouse. In the fully revised and updated second edition of *China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know*, China expert Jeffrey Wasserstrom provides cogent answers to the most urgent questions regarding the newest superpower, and offers a framework for understanding its meteoric rise. Focusing his answers through the historical legacies—Western and Japanese imperialism, the Mao era, and the massacre near Tiananmen Square—that largely define China's present-day trajectory, Wasserstrom introduces readers to the Chinese Communist Party, the building boom in Shanghai, and the environmental fall-out of rapid Chinese industrialization. He also explains unique aspects of Chinese culture such as the one-child policy, and provides insight into how Chinese view Americans. Wasserstrom reveals that China today shares many traits with other industrialized nations during their periods of development, in particular the United States during its rapid industrialization in the 19th century. He provides guidance on the ways we can expect China to act in the future vis-à-vis the United States, Russia, India, and its East Asian neighbors. The second edition has also been updated to take into account changes China has seen in just the past two years, from the global economic shifts to the recent removal of Chongqing Party Secretary Bo Xilai from power. Concise and insightful, *China in the 21st Century* provides an excellent introduction to this significant global power.

maos little red: The World Turned Upside Down Yang Jisheng, 2021-01-19 Yang Jisheng's *The World Turned Upside Down* is the definitive history of the Cultural Revolution, in withering and heartbreaking detail. As a major political event and a crucial turning point in the history of the People's Republic of China, the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) marked the zenith as well as the nadir of Mao Zedong's ultra-leftist politics. Reacting in part to the Soviet Union's revisionism that he regarded as a threat to the future of socialism, Mao mobilized the masses in a battle against what he called bourgeois forces within the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). This ten-year-long class struggle on a massive scale devastated traditional Chinese culture as well as the nation's economy. Following his groundbreaking and award-winning history of the Great Famine, *Tombstone*, Yang Jisheng here presents the only history of the Cultural Revolution by an independent scholar based in mainland China, and makes a crucial contribution to understanding those years' lasting influence today. *The World Turned Upside Down* puts every political incident, major and minor, of those ten years under extraordinary and withering scrutiny, and arrives in English at a moment when contemporary Chinese governance is leaning once more toward a highly centralized power structure and Mao-style cult of personality.

maos little red: *Mao: A Very Short Introduction* Delia Davin, 2013-04-25 As a giant of 20th century history, Mao Zedong played many roles: peasant revolutionary, patriotic leader against the Japanese occupation, Marxist theoretician, modernizer, and visionary despot. This *Very Short Introduction* chronicles Mao's journey from peasant child to ruler of the most populous nation on Earth. He was a founder of both the Chinese Communist Party and the Red Army, and for many years he fought on two fronts, for control of the Party and in an armed struggle for the Party's control of the country. His revolution unified China and began its rise to world power status. He was the architect of the Great Leap Forward that he hoped would make China both prosperous and egalitarian, but instead ended in economic disaster resulting in millions of deaths. It was Mao's growing suspicion of his fellow leaders that led him to launch the Cultural Revolution, and his last years were dogged by ill-health and his despairing attempts to find a successor whom he trusted. Delia Davin provides an invaluable introduction to Mao, showing him in all his complexity; ruthless, brutal, and ambitious, a man of enormous talent and perception, yet a leader who is still detested by some and venerated by others. ABOUT THE SERIES: The *Very Short Introductions* series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

maos little red: *The Cultural Revolution: A Very Short Introduction* Richard Curt Kraus, 2012-01-06 China's decade-long Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution shook the politics of China and the world. Even as we approach its fiftieth anniversary, the movement remains so contentious that the Chinese Communist Party still forbids fully open investigation of its origins, development, and conclusion. Drawing upon a vital trove of scholarship, memoirs, and popular culture, this *Very Short Introduction* illuminates this complex, often obscure, and still controversial movement. Moving beyond the figure of Mao Zedong, Richard Curt Kraus links Beijing's elite politics to broader aspects of society and culture, highlighting many changes in daily life, employment, and the economy. Kraus also situates this very nationalist outburst of Chinese radicalism within a global context, showing that the Cultural Revolution was mirrored in the radical youth movement that swept much of the world, and that had imagined or emotional links to China's red guards. Yet it was also during the Cultural Revolution that China and the United States tempered their long hostility, one of the innovations in this period that sowed the seeds for China's subsequent decades of spectacular economic growth.

maos little red: *The Red Guard Generation and Political Activism in China* Guobin Yang, 2016-05-17 Raised to be flowers of the nation, the first generation born after the founding of the People's Republic of China was united in its political outlook and at first embraced the Cultural Revolution of 1966, but then split into warring factions. Investigating the causes of this fracture,

Guobin Yang argues that Chinese youth engaged in an imaginary revolution from 1966 to 1968, enacting a political mythology that encouraged violence as a way to prove one's revolutionary credentials. This same competitive dynamic would later turn the Red Guard against the communist government. Throughout the 1970s, the majority of Red Guard youth were sent to work in rural villages, where they developed an appreciation for the values of ordinary life. From this experience, an underground cultural movement was born. Rejecting idolatry, these relocated revolutionaries developed a new form of resistance that signaled a new era of enlightenment, culminating in the Democracy Wall movement of the late 1970s and the Tiananmen protest of 1989. Yang's final chapter on the politics of history and memory argues that contemporary memories of the Cultural Revolution are factionalized along these lines of political division, formed fifty years before.

maos little red: Maoism Julia Lovell, 2019-09-03 *** WINNER OF THE 2019 CUNDILL HISTORY PRIZE SHORTLISTED FOR THE BAILLIE GIFFORD PRIZE FOR NON-FICTION 2019 SHORTLISTED FOR THE NAYEF AL-RODHAN PRIZE FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING SHORTLISTED FOR DEUTSCHER PRIZE LONGLISTED FOR THE 2020 ORWELL PRIZE FOR POLITICAL WRITING*** 'Revelatory and instructive... [a] beautifully written and accessible book' The Times For decades, the West has dismissed Maoism as an outdated historical and political phenomenon. Since the 1980s, China seems to have abandoned the utopian turmoil of Mao's revolution in favour of authoritarian capitalism. But Mao and his ideas remain central to the People's Republic and the legitimacy of its Communist government. With disagreements and conflicts between China and the West on the rise, the need to understand the political legacy of Mao is urgent and growing. The power and appeal of Maoism have extended far beyond China. Maoism was a crucial motor of the Cold War: it shaped the course of the Vietnam War (and the international youth rebellions that conflict triggered) and brought to power the murderous Khmer Rouge in Cambodia; it aided, and sometimes handed victory to, anti-colonial resistance movements in Africa; it inspired terrorism in Germany and Italy, and wars and insurgencies in Peru, India and Nepal, some of which are still with us today – more than forty years after the death of Mao. In this new history, Julia Lovell re-evaluates Maoism as both a Chinese and an international force, linking its evolution in China with its global legacy. It is a story that takes us from the tea plantations of north India to the sierras of the Andes, from Paris's fifth arrondissement to the fields of Tanzania, from the rice paddies of Cambodia to the terraces of Brixton. Starting with the birth of Mao's revolution in northwest China in the 1930s and concluding with its violent afterlives in South Asia and resurgence in the People's Republic today, this is a landmark history of global Maoism.

maos little red: Afterlives of Chinese Communism Christian Sorace, Ivan Franceschini, Nicholas Loubere, 2019-06-25 Afterlives of Chinese Communism comprises essays from over fifty world-renowned scholars in the China field, from various disciplines and continents. It provides an indispensable guide for understanding how the Mao era continues to shape Chinese politics today. Each chapter discusses a concept or practice from the Mao period, what it attempted to do, and what has become of it since. The authors respond to the legacy of Maoism from numerous perspectives to consider what lessons Chinese communism can offer today, and whether there is a future for the egalitarian politics that it once promised.

maos little red: *Dancing Girl and the Turtle* Karen Kao, 2017-04-01 A rape. A war. A society where women are bought and sold but no one can speak of shame. Shanghai 1937. Violence throbs at the heart of *The Dancing Girl and the Turtle*. Song Anyi is on the road to Shanghai and freedom when she is raped and left for dead. The silence and shame that mark her courageous survival drive her to escalating self-harm and prostitution. From opium dens to high-class brothels, Anyi dances on the edge of destruction while China prepares for war with Japan. Hers is the voice of every woman who fights for independence against overwhelming odds. *The Dancing Girl and the Turtle* is one of four interlocking novels set in Shanghai from 1929 to 1954. Through the eyes of the dancer, Song Anyi, and her brother Kang, the Shanghai Quartet spans a tumultuous time in Chinese history: war with the Japanese, the influx of stateless Jews into Shanghai, civil war and revolution. How does the love of a sister destroy her brother and all those around him?

maos little red: Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung Mao Tse-Tung, 2017-06-07

Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung is a book of statements from speeches and writings by Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung), the former Chairman of the Communist Party of China, published from 1964 to about 1976 and widely distributed during the Cultural Revolution. The most popular versions were printed in small sizes that could be easily carried and were bound in bright red covers, becoming commonly known in the West as the Little Red Book. Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung was originally compiled by an office of the PLA Daily (People's Liberation Army Daily) as an inspirational political and military document. The initial publication covered 23 topics with 200 selected quotations by the Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, and was entitled 200 Quotations from Chairman Mao. It was first given to delegates of a conference on 5 January 1964 who were asked to comment on it. In response to the views of the deputies and compilers of the book, the work was expanded to address 25 topics with 267 quotations, and the title was changed simply to Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung.

maos little red: Revolution Goes East Tatiana Linkhoeva, 2020-03-15 Revolution Goes East is an intellectual history that applies a novel global perspective to the classic story of the rise of communism and the various reactions it provoked in Imperial Japan. Tatiana Linkhoeva demonstrates how contemporary discussions of the Russian Revolution, its containment, and the issue of imperialism played a fundamental role in shaping Japan's imperial society and state. In this bold approach, Linkhoeva explores attitudes toward the Soviet Union and the communist movement among the Japanese military and politicians, as well as interwar leftist and rightist intellectuals and activists. Her book draws on extensive research in both published and archival documents, including memoirs, newspaper and journal articles, political pamphlets, and Comintern archives. Revolution Goes East presents us with a compelling argument that the interwar Japanese Left replicated the Orientalist outlook of Marxism-Leninism in its relationship with the rest of Asia, and that this proved to be its undoing. Furthermore, Linkhoeva shows that Japanese imperial anticommunism was based on geopolitical interests for the stability of the empire rather than on fear of communist ideology. Thanks to generous funding from New York University and its participation in TOME (Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem), the ebook editions of this book are available as Open Access (OA) volumes from Cornell Open (cornellpress.cornell.edu/cornell-open) and other repositories.

maos little red: Marxist Theory and Revolutionary Tactics Anton Pannekoek, 2020-07-09 For several years past, profound tactical disagreement has been developing on a succession of issues amongst those who had previously shared common ground as Marxists and together fought against Revisionism in the name of the radical tactic of class struggle. It first came into the open in 1910, in the debate between Kautsky and Luxemburg over the mass strike; then came the dissension over imperialism and the question of disarmament; and finally, with the conflict over the electoral deal made by the Party Executive and the attitude to be adopted towards the liberals, the most important issues of parliamentary politics became the subject of dispute.

maos little red: Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party Ying Chang Compestine, 2009-09-29 The summer of 1972, before I turned nine, danger began knocking on doors all over China. Nine-year-old Ling has a very happy life. Her parents are both dedicated surgeons at the best hospital in Wuhan, and her father teaches her English as they listen to Voice of America every evening on the radio. But when one of Mao's political officers moves into a room in their apartment, Ling begins to witness the gradual disintegration of her world. In an atmosphere of increasing mistrust and hatred, Ling fears for the safety of her neighbors, and soon, for herself and her family. For the next four years, Ling will suffer more horrors than many people face in a lifetime. Will she be able to grow and blossom under the oppressive rule of Chairman Mao? Or will fighting to survive destroy her spirit—and end her life? Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party is a 2008 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

maos little red: Mao's Last Revolution Roderick MACFARQUHAR, Michael Schoenhals, 2009-06-30 Explains why Mao launched the Cultural Revolution, and shows his Machiavellian role in masterminding it. This book documents the Hobbesian state that ensued. Power struggles raged among Lin Biao, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, and Jiang Qing - Mao's wife and leader of the Gang of

Four - while Mao often played one against the other.

maos little red: China's New Red Guards Jude Blanchette, 2019 In China's New Red Guards, Jude Blanchette illuminates two trends in contemporary China that point to its revival of Mao Zedong's legacy-a development that he argues will result in a more authoritarian and more militaristic China. This book not only will reshape our understanding of the political forces driving contemporary China, it will also demonstrates how ideologies can survive and prosper despite pervasive rumors of their demise.

maos little red: A Madman's Diary Lu Lu Xun, 2016-06-02 This edition of Lu Xun's Chinese classic A Madman's Diary features both English and Chinese side by side for easy reference and bilingual support. The Lu Xun Bilingual Study Series includes a study guide and additional materials for each book in the series. Published in 1918 by Lu Xun, one of the greatest writers in 20th-century Chinese literature. This short story is one of the first and most influential modern works written in vernacular Chinese and would become a cornerstone of the New Culture Movement. It is the first story in Call to Arms, a collection of short stories by Lu Xun. The story was often referred to as China's first modern short story. The diary form was inspired by Nikolai Gogol's short story Diary of a Madman, as was the idea of the madman who sees reality more clearly than those around him. The madman sees cannibalism both in his family and the village around him, and he then finds cannibalism in the Confucian classics which had long been credited with a humanistic concern for the mutual obligations of society, and thus for the superiority of Confucian civilization. The story was read as an ironic attack on traditional Chinese culture and a call for a New Culture. The English translation is provided courtesy of the Marxists Internet Archive.

maos little red: Technological Slavery (Large Print 16pt) Theodore J. Kaczynski, David Skrbina, 2011-02 Theodore Kaczynski saw violent collapse as the only way to bring down the techno-industrial system, and in more than a decade of mail bomb terror he killed three people and injured 23 others. One does not need to support the actions that landed Kaczynski in supermax prison to see the value of his essays disabusing the notion of heroic technology while revealing the manner in which it is destroying the planet. For the first time, readers will have an uncensored personal account of his anti-technology philosophy, including a corrected version of the notorious "Unabomber Manifesto," Kaczynski, s critique of anarcho-primitivism, and essays regarding "the Coming Revolution."

maos little red: *Selected Works of Mao Tse-Tung* Zedong Mao, 1965

maos little red: *Revolution in the Air* Max Elbaum, 2018-04-10 The first in-depth study of the long march of the US New Left after 1968 The sixties were a time when radical movements learned to embrace twentieth-century Marxism. *Revolution in the Air* is the definitive study of this turning point, and examines what the resistance of today can learn from the legacies of Lenin, Mao and Che. It tells the story of the "new communist movement" which was the most racially integrated and fast-growing movement on the Left. Thousands of young activists, radicalized by the Vietnam War and Black Liberation, and spurred on by the Puerto Rican, Chicano and Asian-American movements, embraced a Third World oriented version of Marxism. These admirers of Mao, Che and Amilcar Cabral organized resistance to the Republican majorities of Nixon and Ford. By the 1980s these groups had either collapsed or become tiny shards of the dream of a Maoist world revolution. Taking issue with the idea of a division between an early "good sixties" and a later "bad sixties," Max Elbaum is particularly concerned to reclaim the lessons of the new communist movement for today's activists who, like their sixties' predecessors, are coming of age at a time when the Left lacks mass support and is fragmented along racial lines. With a new foreward by Alicia Garza, cofounder of #BlackLivesMatter.

maos little red: *The Bletchley Girls* Tessa Dunlop, 2015-01-08 'Lively...in giving us the daily details of their lives in the women's own voices Dunlop does them and us a fine service' New Statesman 'Dunlop is engaging in her personal approach. Her obvious feminine empathy with the venerable ladies she spoke to gives her book an immediacy and intimacy.' Daily Mail 'An in-depth picture of life in Britain's wartime intelligence centre...The result is fascinating, and is made all the

more touching by the developing friendships between Dunlop and her interviewees.' Financial Times

The Bletchley Girls weaves together the lives of fifteen women who were all selected to work in Britain's most secret organisation - Bletchley Park. It is their story, told in their voices; Tessa met and talked to 15 veterans, often visiting them several times. Firm friendships were made as their epic journey unfolded on paper. The scale of female involvement in Britain during the Second World War wasn't matched in any other country. From 8 million working women just over 7000 were hand-picked to work at Bletchley Park and its outstations. There had always been girls at the Park but soon they outnumbered the men three to one. A refugee from Belgium, a Scottish debutante, a Jewish 14-year-old, and a factory worker from Northamptonshire - the Bletchley Girls confound stereotypes. But they all have one common bond, the war and their highly confidential part in it. In the middle of the night, hunched over meaningless pieces of paper, tending mind-blowing machines, sitting listening for hours on end, theirs was invariably confusing, monotonous and meticulous work, about which they could not breathe a word. By meeting and talking to these fascinating female secret-keepers who are still alive today, Tessa Dunlop captures their extraordinary journeys into an adult world of war, secrecy, love and loss. Through the voices of the women themselves, this is a portrait of life at Bletchley Park beyond the celebrated code-breakers, it's the story of the girls behind Britain's ability to consistently out-smart the enemy, and an insight into the women they have become.

maos little red: Mao's Great Famine Frank Dikötter, 2010-10-01 Winner of the Samuel Johnson Prize An unprecedented, groundbreaking history of China's Great Famine that recasts the era of Mao Zedong and the history of the People's Republic of China. Between 1958 and 1962, China descended into hell. Mao Zedong threw his country into a frenzy with the Great Leap Forward, an attempt to catch up to and overtake Britain in less than 15 years The experiment ended in the greatest catastrophe the country had ever known, destroying tens of millions of lives. So opens Frank Dikötter's riveting, magnificently detailed chronicle of an era in Chinese history much speculated about but never before fully documented because access to Communist Party archives has long been restricted to all but the most trusted historians. A new archive law has opened up thousands of central and provincial documents that fundamentally change the way one can study the Maoist era. Dikötter makes clear, as nobody has before, that far from being the program that would lift the country among the world's superpowers and prove the power of Communism, as Mao imagined, the Great Leap Forward transformed the country in the other direction. It became the site not only of one of the most deadly mass killings of human history,--at least 45 million people were worked, starved, or beaten to death--but also of the greatest demolition of real estate in human history, as up to one-third of all housing was turned into rubble). The experiment was a catastrophe for the natural world as well, as the land was savaged in the maniacal pursuit of steel and other industrial accomplishments. In a powerful meshing of exhaustive research in Chinese archives and narrative drive, Dikötter for the first time links up what happened in the corridors of power--the vicious backstabbing and bullying tactics that took place among party leaders--with the everyday experiences of ordinary people, giving voice to the dead and disenfranchised. His magisterial account recasts the history of the People's Republic of China.

maos little red: The Long March Shuyun Sun, 2006 Recounts the events of China's Long March, describing the odyssey of thousands of Chinese Communists from their bases to the remote north of China and discussing stories behind the March, including ruthless purges, hunger and disease, and mistreatment of women.

maos little red: The Communist Manifesto and Other Revolutionary Writings Bob Blaisdell, 2012-03-05 Concise anthology presents broad selection of writings: Declaration of Independence, Declaration of the Rights of Man, Communist Manifesto, plus works by Lenin, Trotsky, Marat, Danton, Rousseau, Gandhi, Mao, other leading figures in revolutionary thought.

maos little red: The Poems of Mao Zedong Zedong Mao, 2008-06-14 Mao Zedong, leader of the revolution and absolute chairman of the People's Republic of China, was also a calligrapher and a poet of extraordinary grace and eloquent simplicity. The poems in this beautiful edition (from the

1963 Beijing edition), translated and introduced by Willis Barnstone, are expressions of decades of struggle, the painful loss of his first wife, his hope for a new China, and his ultimate victory over the Nationalist forces. Willis Barnstone's introduction, his short biography of Mao and brief history of the revolution, and his notes on Chinese versification all combine to enrich the Western reader's understanding of Mao's poetry.

maos little red: The Commanding Heights Daniel Yergin, 1998

maos little red: Red Star Over China Edgar Snow, 1939

maos little red: Pol Pot's Little Red Book Henri Locard, 2004 This handbook of slogans, interspersed with historical commentary and contextual analysis, describes the Khmer Rouge regime and exposes the horrific foundation upon which it constructed its reign of terror. On April 17, 1975, the Khmer Rouge seized power in Phnom Penh. In the three years, eight months, and twenty days of their government, they made a tabula rasa of Cambodian society and culture, forcing the people to evacuate the cities and move to the countryside. They instituted a total collectivism based on the doctrine of Pol Pot-ism, the Cambodian version of fundamentalist Maoism. Assembled in this collection are the sayings that make up a newspeak uttered by the Khmer Rouge cadres: slogans, maxims, advice, instructions, watchwords, orders, warnings, and threats. All were spoken in the name of the ominous Angkar--a faceless and lawless Organization--in order to indoctrinate, control, and terrorize the populace. These sayings have been collected from survivors throughout Cambodia between 1991 and 1995. They form the macabre, bare-bones skeleton of Khmer Rouge ideology.

maos little red: Mao Zedong Maurice Meisner, 2006-12-22 Revolutionary and ruler, Marxist and nationalist, liberator and despot, Mao Zedong takes a place among the iconic leaders of the twentieth century. In this book, Maurice Meisner offers a balanced portrait of the man who defined modern China. From his role as leader of a communist revolution in a war-torn and largely rural country to the disasters of the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, the relationship between Mao's ideas and his political action is highly disputed. With unparalleled authority, Meisner shows how Mao's unique sinification of Marxism provides the key to looking at this extraordinary political career. The first part of the book is devoted to Mao's revolutionary leadership before 1949, in particular the influence of the liberal and anarchist ideas of the May Fourth era, his discovery of Marxism, Leninism and his conviction that peasants held the potential for revolution. In the second part, Meisner analyses Mao's early successes as a nationalist unifier and modernizer, the failure of his socialism and his eventual transformation into a tyrant.

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