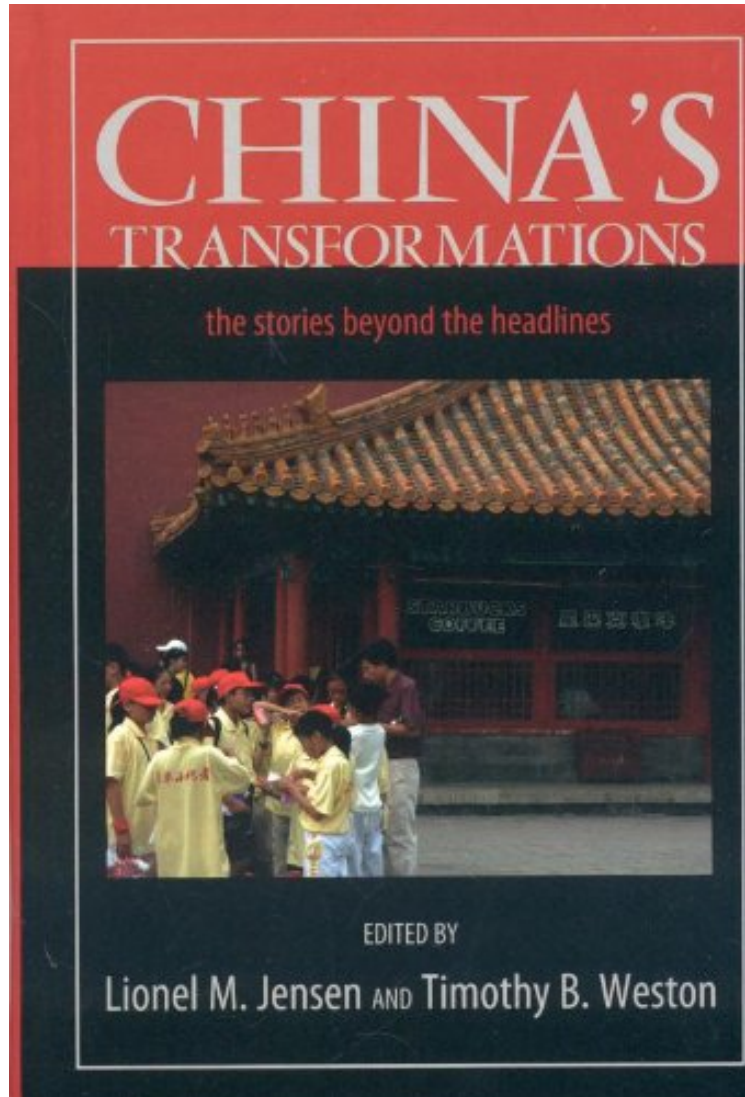


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## China's Transformations: The Stories beyond the Headlines

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**From Rowman Littlefield Publishers :** **China's Transformations: The Stories beyond the Headlines** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised China's Transformations: The Stories beyond the Headlines:

2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Modern China in a nutshell By J. Hartig This book is comprehensive without being dull as dust. The chapters are complete unto themselves. My reactions: frowning, eye brows raised, goosebumps, laughter, and high interest.

This successor volume to China beyond the Headlines takes the reader even farther beyond the "front stage" to explore a China few Westerners have seen. The contributors argue that the great gap between what specialists understand and

the general public believes has led to distorted and potentially dangerous misunderstandings of the most powerful emerging player on the global stage. Seeking to bridge that gap, a group of prominent scholars, journalists, and activists challenge readers to move past the typical images of China presented by the media and to think about the common problems shared by China and the United States. In an entirely new set of essays, they explore such critical issues as environmental degradation, nationalism, unemployment, film and literature, news reporting, the Internet, sex tourism, and the costs of the economic boom to vividly portray the complexity of life in contemporary China and how surprisingly often it speaks to the American experience. Contributions by: Bei Dao, Susan D. Blum, Timothy Cheek, Martin Fackler, John Gittings, Howard Goldblatt, Peter Hays Gries, Sandra Teresa Hyde, Lionel M. Jensen, Tong Lam, Sylvia Li-chun Lin, Jonathan Noble, Tim Oakes, David Ownby, Judith Shapiro, Timothy B. Weston, and Xiao Qiang

A re-engagement with the editors' *China beyond the Headlines* (2000), with new insights and contributing authors, this compelling work is at once a critical assessment of contemporary Sino-U.S. relations and an appraisal of myriad social, political, and economic shifts within the PRC. Esteemed scholars, journalists, and activists engage in topics as diverse as the environment, eating habits, the Internet, film and literature, coal mining, Falun Gong, and journalism. . . . The book is highly accessible: all authors use a narrative writing style; a brief chronology and note on Chinese pronunciation preface the work; and each chapter includes a short list of recommended readings. This volume and its 2000 precursor address the editors' desire to contextualize China in an era when the U.S. is increasingly less distinct from the once exotic and mythologized 'middle kingdom.' Essential. (CHOICE) The authors in this book provide the detailed information needed to understand the relationship of the Chinese regime with its citizens, making it essential reading for a general audience. . . . The authors are a group of prominent scholars and practitioners cutting across standard social science and humanities boundaries. . . . Each chapter is distinguished by a thorough understanding of its subject and . . . each goes beyond a mere descriptive account, placing the analysis in a political, historical, cultural, social and/or economic context. . . . It would make an excellent textbook and should provoke exciting classroom discussions. (Stanley Rosen, University of Southern California *The China Journal*) The major contribution of the book is that it addresses the basic yet most critical issues in contemporary China in a comprehensive way. It provides a fresh and timely look at a changing China. Students and scholars of contemporary China will certainly benefit from reading the book. (*Journal of Chinese Political Science*) *China's Transformations* succeeds in providing an array of chapters on interesting topics that draw the reader in and stimulate thinking about both China and the ongoing dialogue between American and Chinese society. Having used this book twice in my undergraduate class on Chinese politics, I can report that studentseven those who have little natural interest in Chinaenjoy reading it and gain a great deal from it. Yet even while *China's Transformations* is well-suited for use in the undergraduate classroom, China specialists and members of the general public alike will also find the chapters engaging and thought-provoking. . . . A rare find: an edited volume on China that is fun to read, accessible to a variety of audiences, and full of highly insightful and interesting analyses. (*Pacific Affairs*) Clear, readable, and compellingan excellent collection of essays that I will certainly use myself. (Rana Mitter, University of Oxford) I intend to adopt this terrific book. It's the perfect blend of accessible prose and rigorous scholarship on important but seldom-covered topics. (Karl Gerth, University of South Carolina) About the AuthorLionel M. Jensen is associate professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at the University of Notre Dame. Timothy B. Weston is associate professor of history at the University of Colorado at Boulder.