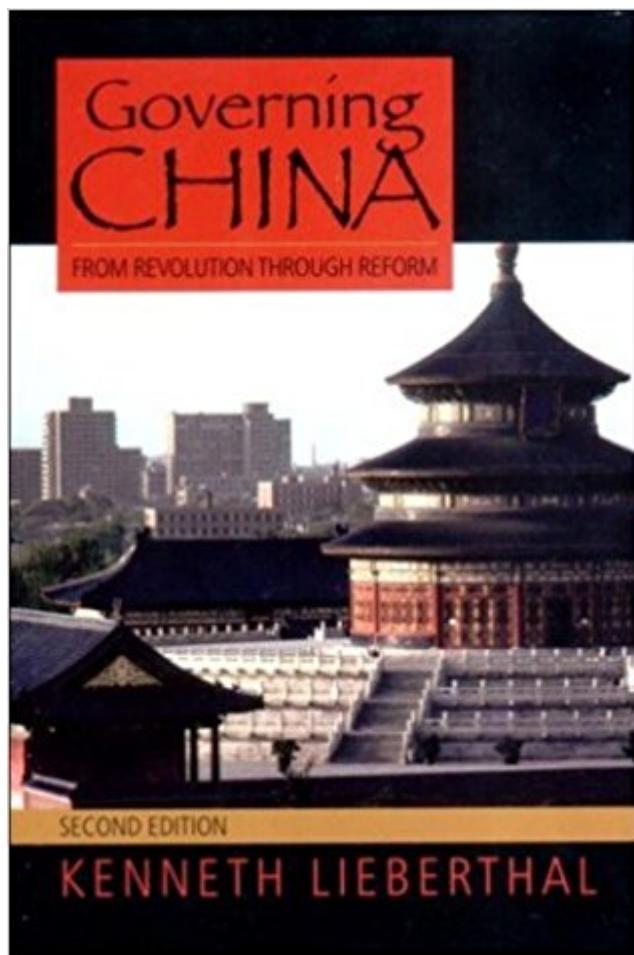


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# Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform, 2nd Edition



## **Synopsis**

Governing China: From Revolution to Reform, the leading text for courses on Chinese politics has been thoroughly revised and updated. The new Second Edition includes discussions of: The consumer revolution that has brought China's major urban areas to the forefront of the developed world and created a new middle class An expanding private sector that has become the major generator of new employment in the overall economy as the state sector has shed jobs The increase in foreign direct investment which has set China on track to becoming the manufacturing center of the world. An enormous population migration from rural to urban areas and from the interior to the coast that is becoming one of the most massive movements of people in human history, and its significant impact on the environment The unprecedented integration into the international economic system as China has joined virtually every major multilateral regime The reactions of the top and the bottom of the political system to these recent developments and the continuing struggles between the government's large bureaucratic structures and sporadic popular political movements.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

University of Michigan political science professor Lieberthal here presents a devastating critique of Mao's rule and its disastrous legacy. In the Maoist movement's peasant-based, military path to power, he perceives the roots of many characteristics of post-1949 China--for example, the close interlocking of party and army, repeated attacks on intellectuals, and mass political campaigns. Lieberthal credits Deng Xiaoping of the late 1970s and early '80s as an innovative reformer, an

improvisational genius who effected a conscious reduction in the government's control of social and economic activity. This engrossing text also provides an amazingly detailed blueprint of modern China's power elite, their propaganda and coercive systems. Lieberthal, an adviser to the State Department and the World Bank, details the clash of China's new generation of technocrats and its stagnant gerontocracy as he discusses such issues as political succession, managing the economy and limiting environmental damage. China, which now has the world's largest armed forces, will remain authoritarian in the foreseeable future, he believes, even as it makes enormous economic advances. Copyright 1995 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In the past decade, China's dramatic economic growth has captured the world's attention. But there is still lingering uncertainty about its future, emerging from the inconsistencies of China's current political situation. The long history of periodic political turmoil has revealed some fundamental and inherent weaknesses of the Chinese political system. Lieberthal, an experienced China scholar, provides a systematic approach toward an understanding of the complex governing organizations of China from its imperial past, through the 20th-century revolutions, both Nationalist and Communist, until the current regime. Unlike many other China experts, Lieberthal doesn't make any predictions. Through a close look at the largest bureaucratic structures, the actual allocations of power in front and behind the organizational facade, he illuminates the difficult issues and challenges facing contemporary China. Highly recommended.?Mark Meng, St. John's Univ. Lib., New YorkCopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is a re-order. I bought it years ago and referred to it on a regular basis in the course of my research. Then, I lent it to someone who must have loved it too because I never got it back! Since she moved away, I assume I never will - hence, the re-order of this great overview of the Chinese governing issues and practices that is both readable and informative.

Was just what I needed for my 200 level poli sci class on Chinese politics. Very concise, easy to read. It also included a great pronunciation key at the beginning...it prevented me from making a fool of myself when speaking in class! The only poorly organized chapter was the one on CCP vs. Chinese government structure. The charts still don't make sense, and good luck Googling it. Very confusing. Still have no clue. Don't tell my professor.

Lieberthal strikes a good balance between detailed history and scholarly analysis. He doesn't just overload you with the details and leave it up to you to think about what it all means. Great book for the budding China scholar.

Of course, I could not expect less from Mr. Lieberthal. Once again, grabs the reader at once, one of the best book I have read so far. It helps to develop critical thinking.

A very interesting and accurate overview of Chinese modern history and the themes which have shaped the current century. While many seem to idealize and criminalize the characters representing ideology, Lieberthal does a wonderful job describing them as the people they were, the conflicts they inspired, and their motivations to drive the country in the bizarre manner of China through the last century. The reason I docked it a star was because I felt the section on Women and China, while somewhat accurate, missed the point of the positives that came out of the Maoist period. I won't use this forum to discuss this unrelated topic other than to say the alternative argument is actually equally as compelling. His treatment of this one topic in this manner is striking in a book that is more fair than most in its depiction of the weirdness that was China during the last century. I would definitely consider assigning this book for a classroom, but would consider adding alternative opinion pieces to certain sections.

People who have read other books on China will get a lot out of this, because so much of it focuses on the way China's government functions and the way different areas of the government interact with one another (which is missed in other books). Other reviews have rightly stated that China's foreign policy and other areas are left out of the discussion. Books by Andrew Nathan ("Great Wall & Empty Fortress" for foreign policy), Nicholas Lardy ("Integrating China into the Global Economy"), and John Bryan Starr ("Understanding China" for a general overview) should be read first in my opinion before picking up this book.

This is a very good book on how China actually works. For those of us who did not know a thing about this country it really sums it up nicely. This book tells how Mao and Deng pushed China to make it better. It goes in depth on how those two pushed the cadres into early retirement to bring in younger workers who knew about the modern technology and who were also more highly educated. I also really enjoyed how the author made clear how China is and can affect the future of the U.S.

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