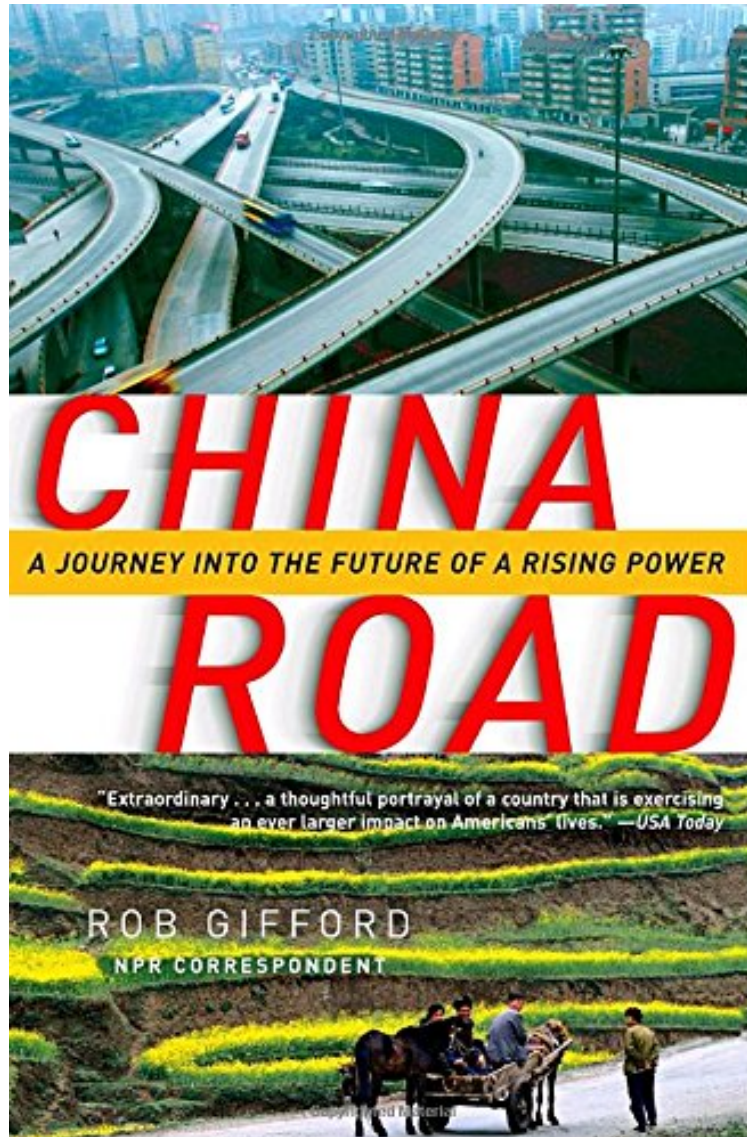


(Download) China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power

China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power

Rob Gifford

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#519255 in Books Gifford, Rob 2008-06-03 2008-06-03 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .80 x 5.20l, .65 #File Name: 0812975243368 pages | File size: 44.Mb

Rob Gifford : China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thorough look at sleeping giantBy Gretchen E. GallWith a journey from east to west China, the author gets a multiple perspective of the people who live under a government that takes from its people but does not deliver. How long before these millions of people revolt and seek better living conditions? While asking key questions as a journalist should, the author offers an opinion as to where this sleeping giant nation

may end up in the coming years. Very insightful observances of China. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. China from one side to the other By Kid Kyoto NPR reporter Robert Grifford travels the length of China overland meeting interesting people and seeing the sharp contrasts in this emerging power. From the ultra-modern skyscrapers of Shanghai to farms unchanged in centuries Grifford seeks out the state of modern China in each. Grifford's style is clear and patient, he explains the history and background of each destination and even a pronunciation guide for Chinese names. Both neophytes and veteran China scholars will find things of interest. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Still up to date By BW This book was written a number of years ago, (pre-Olympics) but I read it last month while traveling through China and I felt that it was really helpful and still very accurate about what I was experiencing. It was nice to have some background information and to see whether the author's predictions had come true. Generally, yes! The author interviewed lots of "average" Chinese as he crossed China. I think that Chinese are generally more open now about their personal opinions than what he experienced, but his observations reinforced many of the situations that I came into contact with. I highly recommend this book, especially if you are going toward Xian, Yunnan province, etc.

Route 312 is the Chinese Route 66. It flows three thousand miles from east to west, passing through the factory towns of the coastal areas, through the rural heart of China, then up into the Gobi Desert, where it merges with the Old Silk Road. The highway witnesses every part of the social and economic revolution that is turning China upside down. In this utterly surprising and deeply personal book, acclaimed National Public Radio reporter Rob Gifford, a fluent Mandarin speaker, takes the dramatic journey along Route 312 from its start in the boomtown of Shanghai to its end on the border with Kazakhstan. Gifford reveals the rich mosaic of modern Chinese life in all its contradictions, as he poses the crucial questions that all of us are asking about China: Will it really be the next global superpower? Is it as solid and as powerful as it looks from the outside? And who are the ordinary Chinese people, to whom the twenty-first century is supposed to belong? Gifford is not alone on his journey. The largest migration in human history is taking place along highways such as Route 312, as tens of millions of people leave their homes in search of work. He sees signs of the booming urban economy everywhere, but he also uncovers many of the countrys frailties, and some of the deep-seated problems that could derail Chinas rise. The whole compelling adventure is told through the cast of colorful characters Gifford meets: garrulous talk-show hosts and ambitious yuppies, impoverished peasants and tragic prostitutes, cell-phone salesmen, AIDS patients, and Tibetan monks. He rides with members of a Shanghai jeep club, hitchhikes across the Gobi desert, and sings karaoke with migrant workers at truck stops along the way. As he recounts his travels along Route 312, Rob Gifford gives a face to what has historically, for Westerners, been a faceless country and breathes life into a nation that is so often reduced to economic statistics. Finally, he sounds a warning that all is not well in the Chinese heartlands, that serious problems lie ahead, and that the future of the West has become inextricably linked with the fate of 1.3 billion Chinese people. Informative, delightful, and powerfully moving . . . Rob Giffords acute powers of observation, his sense of humor and adventure, and his determination to explore the wrenching dilemmas of Chinas explosive development open readers eyes and reward their minds. Robert A. Kapp, president, U.S.-China Business Council, 1994-2004 From the Hardcover edition.

From Booklist National Public Radio China correspondent Gifford journeyed for six weeks on China's Mother Road, Route 312, from its beginning in Shanghai for nearly 3,000 miles to a tiny town in what used to be known as Turkestan. The route picks up the old Silk Road, which runs through the Gobi Desert to Central Asia to Persia and on to Europe. Along the way, Gifford meets entrepreneurs hoping to cash in on China's growing economy, citizens angry and frustrated with government corruption, older people alarmed at changes in Chinese culture and morality, and young people uncertain and excited about the future. Gifford profiles ordinary Chinese people coping with tumultuous change as development and commerce shrink a vast geography, bringing teeming cities and tiny towns into closer commercial and cultural proximity; the lure of wealth is changing the Chinese character and sense of shared experience, even if it was common poverty. Gifford notes an aggressive sense of competition in the man-eat-man atmosphere of a nation that is likely to be the next global superpower. Vanessa Bush Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Advance praise for China Road How I envy Rob Gifford and his journey along China Road. How grateful I am to him for allowing me to share the trip through his vivid writing and his deep knowledge of and great love for China. As vicarious enjoyment goes, this ones a ten. Ted Koppel, managing editor, Discovery Channel Rob Gifford has found the perfect road trip. His years in China have given him a keen eye and a deep understanding of the countrys contradictions; hes the perfect guide to this magnificent road from Shanghai to the Kazakhstan border. Peter Hassler, author of River Town and Oracle Bones My gosh, I loved Rob Giffords book. His journey along Route 312 is a great road story from Hooters in Shanghai to the Iron House of Confucianism. China Road is insightful, funny, analytical, anecdotal, full of humble humor and magnificent discoveries. Scott Simon, host of NPRs Weekend Edition and author of Pretty Birds Here is China end to end, told from its equivalent of Route 66 as Gifford journeys from Shanghai to the distant west, talking to truck drivers, merchants, hermits, and whores. Gifford portrays China with affection and humor, in all its complexity, energy, hopefulness, and risk. Andrew J. Nathan, Class

of 1919 Professor of Political Science, Columbia UniversityEqual parts Bill Bryson and Jonathan Spence. Gifford is great company and great fun, and China Road is a terrific, highly readable book. Jim Yardley, Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times Beijing correspondentA great book, a terrific read. Rob Gifford's story is as engaging as any travel writing, but it is equally full of historical and philosophical wisdom about the future of the world's largest country. Joseph S. Nye, Jr., former assistant secretary of defense, Distinguished Service Professor, Harvard UniversityAfter six years in Beijing, NPR's Rob Gifford has written a wonderfully reflective but also well-informed account of his road trip across China. His knowledge and insight about China's past and present do a marvelous job in helping the reader understand all the challenges that confront this very dynamic country's future. Orville Schell, director, the Asia Society's Center on U.S.-China RelationsFrom the Hardcover edition. About the AuthorRob Gifford first went to China in 1987 as a twenty-year-old language student. He has spent much of the last twenty years studying and reporting there. From 1999 to 2005, he was the Beijing correspondent of National Public Radio, and he traveled all over China and the rest of Asia reporting for Morning Edition and All Things Considered. He is now NPR's London bureau chief. From the Hardcover edition.