

# BIG FIVE<sup>®</sup>

TOURS & EXPEDITIONS

*Enriching Lives Through Distinctive Journeys*

## Destination Information Guide

# China



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# Welcome to the World of Big Five!

*The following general outline offers practical information, suggestions and answers to some frequently asked questions. It is not intended to be the definitive guide for your trip.*

Big Five Tours & Expeditions is pleased to welcome you on this exciting adventure. We take great care to insure that your travel dreams and expectations are well met. Our distinctive journeys allow you to experience the finest aspects each destination has to offer. We also aim to provide you with a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the places you'll visit and the people you'll meet.



<b>Beijing</b> ~ Elevation: 180 feet Latitude: 39 56N Longitude: 116 17E												
<b>Average Temperature</b>												
°F	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	26	31	43	57	68	76	79	77	69	57	41	30
<b>Average Precipitation</b>												
In.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.7	1.3	3.1	8.8	6.7	2.3	0.7	0.4	0.1
<b>Shanghai</b> ~ Elevation: 23 feet Latitude: 31 10N Longitude: 121 26E												
<b>Average Temperature</b>												
°F	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	40	42	48	59	68	75	83	82	75	66	55	44
<b>Xian</b> ~ Elevation: 1306 feet Latitude: 34 18N Longitude: 108 55E												
<b>Average Temperature</b>												
°F	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	32	35	46	57	66	77	80	77	66	57	44	33
<b>Average Precipitation</b>												
In.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	0.3	0.4	1	1.8	2.4	2.1	3.7	3.3	4	2.3	1	0.3

## WEATHER

Spring (March-April) and autumn (Sept-Oct) are the best times to visit China. Daytime temperatures range from 68°-86°F in these seasons, but nights can be cold and wet. Temperatures in northern China can drop to -40°F in winter (December-March); and rise to 100.4°F in summer (May-August).

China lies mainly in the northern Temperate Zone but great climatic differences are between regions due to the country's sheer size. Hot, humid summers in the far south last from April to September, and coincide with the rainy season in the north. The northwest experiences dry, hot summers, with China's hottest place, Turpan, receiving maximum temperatures in the range of 116° F. Winters are formidably cold. The northern part of Heilongjiang Province in northeast China has no summer; Hainan Island has a long summer but no winter; Huaihe River valley features four distinct seasons; the western part of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is covered with snow year round; and the southern part of the Yunan-Guizhou Plateau is spring-like all year. The central Yangzi River valley experiences extreme seasonal temperatures.

Annual precipitation also varies greatly from region to region, from as high as 1,500 millimeters along the southeastern coast to less than 50 millimeters in northwest China. Typhoons can hit the southeast coast between July and September. From Sept and Oct to March and April, monsoons come from Siberia and the Mongolia Plateau into China. Summer monsoons blow into China from the ocean, bringing warm currents and rain.

## TIME ZONES & TRAVELING TIME

GMT + 8. Despite the vast size of the country, Beijing time is standard throughout China. China does not observe Daylight Savings Time.

## PASSPORTS & VISAS

**Passports:** For international travel, a passport valid for at least six months from date of departure, containing at least 3 blank pages are necessary.

**Visas:** Many countries require travelers to obtain visas prior to arrival. Big Five Tours & Expeditions has appointed Trivisa to process required visas for our passengers. You can find the necessary forms from Trivisa's website at: [www.trivisa.com](http://www.trivisa.com). Please use account code JP1551, and follow the directions.

**Important:** Even if you do not need a visa prior to departure, please check your passport well in advance of departure to insure:

- 1) It is valid for at least six months after the date of travel.
- 2) You have sufficient blank pages for visa/entry stamps that will be added as you travel in and out of various countries.

**Please note:** Pages reserved for amendments and endorsements cannot be used for visas.

## AIRPORT FORMALITIES

Beijing Capital International Airport is located 18 miles northeast of the center of Beijing.

**Airport Tax:** You need to pay airport tax when you depart from any cities in China via air. As of this writing, all the airport tax, international and domestic, are included in the airfare.

## CUSTOMS INTO CHINA

Upon arrival in China, visitors complete a luggage declaration form at customs, and have luggage inspected. Customs rules require an accounting of all valuables including watches, jewelry, cameras and currency that you bring into the country. It would be wise to keep all receipts with the correlating items. A copy of this form is turned in on departure. Anything not accounted for may be treated as imported, with duty applied accordingly. Make sure you obtain a police report for any goods stolen during your stay. Tourists are not allowed to take objects out of China for other people.

**Duty-Free Items:** Customs allows visitors to bring in 400 cigarettes and two, 75cl bottles of alcoholic beverages.

**Prohibited Items:** All narcotics (hemp, opium, cocaine, morphine, heroin, etc.), firearms, obscene literature, pictures or articles. Like most Asian nations, penalties for drug trafficking in China are severe.

## US CUSTOMS

**Duty-Free:** Returning U.S. residents are allowed to bring back \$800 worth of merchandise duty-free. Travelers 21 or older may bring back 1 liter of alcohol duty free, 100 non-Cuban cigars and 200 cigarettes. Regulations frequently change. For a list of exempt items & current regulations you can Contact the nearest Customs Office, write US Customs Service, Box 7407, Washington, DC 20044, or visit the website for US Customs & Border Protection at [www.customs.gov/xp/cgov/home.xml](http://www.customs.gov/xp/cgov/home.xml).

## HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

International travelers should be in generally good health. Talk with your personal physician about any

shots or boosters recommended depending on your personal health profile and your itinerary. Tetanus and polio vaccines should be up to date. Currently, there are no required vaccinations, unless you are coming from an infected area, in which case you will be required to have a yellow fever certificate.

**Yellow Fever:** Yellow fever inoculation is required if one of the following applies:

- If you are coming from any area other than the United States, Europe, or Canada.
- If you plan on visiting more than one African country.

**Note:** If you are on medication, be sure to bring enough for the duration of the trip, but not an excessive amount that would raise suspicion. Also, it's a good idea to ask your doctor for a note detailing the drugs you are taking. \*For Customs inspections, you must have medications in their original containers.

**Health insurance is strongly advised during any foreign travel.** Please check the latest regulations with your local health office or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747); fax: 1-888-CDC-FAXX (1-888-232-3299), or their main telephone number in Atlanta, 404-332-4559. Or, visit the CDC Internet home page at <http://www.cdc.gov>.

## CLOTHING

*For general clothing information, please review the **Travel Handbook** in your pre-departure materials. See pre-departure information for general packing check list.*

Pack light and leave your jewelry at home. Bring casual clothes. Wash-and-wear clothing is preferable. Hotels in China offer reliable laundry and dry cleaning services. Comfortable walking shoes are a must! For more formal dinners, please dress appropriately. Men may want to bring a coat and tie or a couple of nice polo shirts and slacks. Women can get by with a dress, skirt and top, or pant suits for most formal occasions. **Proper Attire:** Generally, casual clothing is acceptable for tourists. But please be sure to observe appropriate dress codes when visiting religious sanctuaries, buildings, sites, or palaces, where modesty is the rule. Please do not wear short shorts, halter-tops, cut-offs or muscle shirts. If you are inappropriately dressed, you may not be allowed to enter. In winter, be prepared for cold weather. Bring a couple of shirts, sweaters, and a jacket (depending on the season) that can be worn in layers to accommodate China's range of climates.

## LUGGAGE

*For general baggage information, please review the **Travel Handbook** in your pre-departure materials.*

Luggage restrictions change frequently for individual carriers as well as in the industry as a whole. In this security conscious era, they may change without notice. It is always best to call the specific airline prior to departure for the latest information. The information in the Travel Handbook is intended as a guideline.

**Internal China restrictions:** The luggage allowance on the inter-China flights is 20Kg/44lbs. per person in coach class and 30 Kg/66lbs. per person in Business class. No more than two pieces of checked luggage per person, with one carry-on. **Please note that they are very strict about luggage allowances on internal flights.**

## MONEY

1 Renminbi Yuan (CNY) = 10 chiao/jiao or 100 fen. Notes are in denominations of CNY100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1, and 5, 2 and 1 chiao/jiao. Coins are in denominations of CNY1, 5 and 1 chiao/jiao and 5, 2 and 1 fen.

Credit cards are gaining ground in China. Visa, MasterCard, American Express (with branches in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Xiamen), JCB, and Diners Club the most common. Cards can be used in most mid-to top-range hotels, and department stores, but cannot be used to finance your transportation costs. Cash advances can be made at head branches of the Bank of China (for 4% commission). ATMs are often limited. Foreign currency and travelers' checks can be changed at the main branches of the Bank of China, tourist hotels, Friendship Stores, and some department stores. Hotels usually charge the official rate. You will need to keep your exchange receipts if you want to change any remaining RMB at the end of your trip. Travelers' checks (in US dollars) are useful because the exchange rate is more favorable than for cash; Thomas Cook, American Express and Bank of America are most commonly accepted.

## Currency Restrictions

Import and export of local currency is limited to CNY 20,000. Import of foreign currency is up to US\$1000 (US\$5000 for non-residents). Higher amounts should be declared upon arrival. Export of foreign currency is limited to the amount imported and declared.

## LANGUAGE

The official language is Mandarin Chinese. Among the enormous number of local dialects, large groups speak Cantonese, Shanghaiese, Fuzhou, Hokkien-Taiwanese, Xiang, Gan and Hakka dialects in the south. Mongolia, Tibet and Xinjiang, which are autonomous regions, have their own languages. Translation and interpreter services are good. English is spoken by many guides.

## ELECTRICITY

220 volts AC, 50Hz. Two-pin sockets and some three-pin sockets are in use. However, most 4-5 star hotels are wired for the use of 110 volt appliances.

## FOOD & DRINK

**Drinking Water:** Only a few luxury hotels provide drinkable tap water. Most hotels supply boiled water in thermos bottles. Bottled water is widely available. To be safe, drink bottled water. Also use bottled water for brushing your teeth and for cleaning contacts. Eat well-cooked meat and fish, preferably served hot. Pork, salad and mayonnaise may carry increased risk. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled.

**Local Cuisine:** With the influence and energy of 56 ethnic minority groups, it's no wonder that authentic Chinese food is not only delicious but amazing for its variety. Variations on Chinese dishes can be found in nearly every corner of the world. Be sure to sample as many of China's regional creations as possible during the trip. Meals are often served family style so that you will have the opportunity to sample many dishes.

American, Italian, Japanese, Thai, Indian, Korean, German, and French restaurants can be found at many up-scale hotels and in shopping areas of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong.

**Note:** If you have food allergies or are on a special/restricted diet, please notify your travel agent or our office in advance, so that we may try to comply with your needs. Also, please advise your travel agent or our office if you have any mobility restrictions, so that we may inform our representatives accordingly. They will always strive to accommodate you to the best of their ability.

## TIPPING

Tipping should be done at your discretion and as a reward for good or exceptional service.

For general tipping guidelines please refer to:  
[www.cntraveler.com/travel-tips/travel-etiquette/2008/12/Etiquette-101-Tipping-Guide](http://www.cntraveler.com/travel-tips/travel-etiquette/2008/12/Etiquette-101-Tipping-Guide)

## SHOPPING

All consumer prices are set by the government, and there is no price bargaining in shops and department stores. You will find a vast selection of boutique shops, department stores and hotel shopping arcades that sell everything from silks and porcelains to antique screens and traditional Chinese herbal medicines. Bargaining is definitely acceptable in the local markets and from street vendors. Throughout China, shops offer unique ceramics, paintings, stone rubbings, embroideries, carpets, furniture, jade carvings, custom-carved signature chops, antiques, books, and much more. Shop personnel will often pack and arrange for shipping bulky purchases back home. Prices are usually clearly marked in stores and shops, and English is spoken in most tourist areas. Don't miss browsing through one of the state-run Friendship Stores; they are still some of the best places to find an excellent selection of quality merchandise, plus you'll find a complete supermarket of Chinese delicacies to bring to friends back home.

## A WORD ABOUT CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Cultural differences may create misunderstandings between local people and visitors. Following a few simple suggestions will go a long way to avoiding problems.

**Names:** The Chinese are quite formal and will use full title of guests during introductions. Chinese surnames precede given names. For example, "Wang Jianhua" would be addressed as "Mr. Wang". Do not address Chinese by their given names or nicknames, unless you have already developed a relationship based on first names.

The Chinese do not usually volunteer information and the visitor is advised to ask questions. They are not physically demonstrative and may misunderstand hugging, backslapping and other such behavior. A slight bow is appropriate when meeting someone. A handshake is also acceptable. Although handshaking may be sufficient, a visitor may be greeted by applause as a sign of welcome. The customary response is to applaud back.

Do not be offended by being followed by crowds, this is merely an open interest in visitors who are rare in the remoter provinces. The Chinese are generally reserved in manner, and prefer courtesy over familiarity. The full title of the country is 'The People's Republic of China', and this should be used in all formal communications. 'China' can be used informally, but there should never be any implication that another China exists. Visitors should avoid expressing political or religious opinions. Anger, if felt, is expected to be concealed and arguments in public may attract hostile attention.

Putting hands in ones mouth (biting fingernails, removing food from teeth, etc.) is offensive. Flirting and open displays of affection are also frowned upon. Staring, on the other hand, is common and acceptable, and reflects a natural curiosity.

**Dining:** It is customary to arrive a little early if invited out socially, and leave shortly after the meal. When dining, wait until your seat is allocated by a nod or subtle indication. You should not begin eating until indicated to do so. During the meal, be prepared with toasts expressing thanks, pleasure, and friendship. It is polite to sample every dish, and when eating rice, it is customary to hold the bowl close to your mouth. If using chopsticks do not position them upright in your rice bowl as the gesture symbolizes death. Toasting at a meal is very common.

**Gifts:** It is customary to take a treat when visiting someone's home, such as fruit, confectionery or a souvenir from a home country. If visiting a school or a factory, a gift from the visitor's home country, particularly something which would be unavailable in China (a text book if visiting a school, for example), would be much appreciated. Stamps are also very popular as gifts, as stamp-collecting is a popular hobby in China. A good gift for an official guide is a Western reference book on China. But, be aware, giving gifts of any great value can cause embarrassment and usually are not accepted by the Chinese.

**Religious Sites:** Remember to show respect when touring religious sites. For example, each image of Buddha, large or small, ruined or not, is regarded as a sacred object. **Never** climb onto one to take a photograph or do anything that might indicate lack of respect. Also, please note that Buddhist monks are forbidden to touch or be touched by a woman, or to accept anything from a woman's hand. If a woman must give anything to a monk, she first hands it to a man, who then presents it.

You may wear shoes when walking around the compound of a Buddhist temple, but not inside the chapel where the principal Buddha image is kept. In a Muslim mosque, men should wear hats and women should be well covered with slacks or a long skirt, a long-sleeved blouse buttoned to the neck, and a scarf over the hair. All should remove their shoes before entering the mosque and should not be present if there is a religious gathering.

## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA - OVERVIEW

The People's Republic of China is a land of vast contradictions and ancient history. China, one of the four oldest civilizations in the world, has a written history of 6,000 years and boasts rich cultural relics and historical sites. Its inventions include the compass, paper-making, gunpowder, and printing. The Great Wall, Grand Canal, and Karez irrigation system are three great ancient engineering projects built 2,000 years ago, now symbols of the rich culture of this nation.

China has all types of terrain from plains, deltas, and hills in the east to mountains, high plateaus, and deserts in the west. The Pacific Ocean forms its eastern border. It has an area of 9.6 million sq km, or one-fifteenth of the world's landmass. It begins from the confluence of the Heilong and Wusuli rivers in the east and runs about 5,200 kilometers to the Pamirs west of Wuqia County in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The northern boundary begins about the Heilong River north of Mohe and extends about 5,500 kilometers to the southernmost island of Zengmu'ansha in the South China Sea.

China's land borders stretch more than 22,000 kilometers, and its coastline extends well over 18,000 kilometers. Major cities include the capital of Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Shenyang, Wuhan, Guangzhou, Chongqing, Harbin, and Chengdu.

**Beijing:** Beijing is a capital of the Republic of China, and is home to 11 million people. Throughout China's history, it has often served as the main stage for events. Beijing has attracted people from all over the world to see its historical and cultural treasures.

In 1215 AD, Genghis Khan sacked Beijing, setting fire to and slaughtering everything in sight. Sixty-four years later, his grandson, Kublai Khan, made himself ruler of most of Asia. Zhu Yanhang, a mercenary, led a successful uprising in 1368 that ushered in the Ming Dynasty. His son, Yong Le, is responsible for many structures such as the Forbidden City and Tiantan.

But by the end of the 19th century, Beijing had begun to experience sometimes violent changes resulting from the fall of Qing Dynasty and the establishment of the Republic of China. In 1937, the Japanese occupied Beijing. This was followed by a civil war between the CCP and Kuomintang. Finally in 1949 the People's Republic of China was established.

The Forbidden City, which was the center of power in the Middle Kingdom for more than 500 years, was off-limits to everyone except royalty for nearly all of its history. Two dynasties of emperors -- the Ming and the Qing -- called the walled complex home. Tiantan Park, meaning the Temple of Heaven, personifies the

aura of the Ming architecture. Tiantan was considered highly sacred ground and it was there that the emperor performed the major ceremony of the year. The Summer Palace is also one of the finest sights in Beijing. The royal garden was enlarged and embellished by Emperor Qianling in 18th century, and Empress Dowager Cixi began rebuilding it in 1888. She used the palace as a summer resort.

Beijing is surely well known for "The Great Wall of China". The original walls began 2000 years ago during the Qin Dynasty, when China was unified under Emperor Qin Shihuang. He built it to keep out marauding nomads, using hundreds of thousands of workers, many of them political prisoners. It required 10 years of hard labor to build it. Because of the history, the wall has often been a symbol of tyranny. But the wall never did perform its function as a defense line. Instead, the wall worked as a kind of elevated highway, transporting men and equipment across mountainous terrain. But the wall was largely forgotten after that, and rescued mainly by the tourist industry.

Today, visitors enjoy local cultural events such as performances by the Beijing Opera or acrobatic troupes. Chinese acrobatic troupes are among the best in the world, and the best place to catch them is at the Chaoyang Theater.

**Wuhan:** Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province, is the largest city in Central China. It maintains a population of 7.3 million and covers more than 8,400 square kilometers. It is economic, cultural, and political heart of Central China. The city is actually a conglomeration of what were once three independent cities -- Wuchang, Hankou, and Hanyang. With the building of the Beijing-Wuhan railway in the 20s, Hankou really began to expand and became the first major industrial center in the interior.

Wuhan is a major port on the Yangtzi River. Today, two airports, two international harbors, several national railways, and a highway make Wuhan a transportation hub. It is third in the country in the field of Science and Technology with more than 500 research institutes and universities located in the region. In modern history, Wuhan served as occasional home to one of China's most legendary modern figures, Mao Zedong's villa, which consisted of living quarters, offices, private swimming pool, and meeting. Mao stayed here more than 20 times between 1960 and 1974, including nearly 18 months between 1966 and 1969.

In the Hubei Provincial Museum, there is an interesting exhibit of lacquer-ware and musical instruments, including a display of bronze bells. Various examples of musical recordings are sold in local shops.

**Xi'an:** Xi'an once vied with Rome and later Constantinople for the title of greatest city in the world. Over a period of 2000 years, Xi'an has seen the rise and fall of numerous Chinese dynasties. Archaeological sites in and around the city serve as reminders that Xi'an stood at the very center of the Chinese world.

Human habitation in the Xi'an area dates back 6,000 years. Xi'an is located in one of the oldest settled regions of China, Shaanxi Province. It was homeland to Qin, who ruled from their capital of Xianyang near modern-day Xi'an. He formed the first dynasty to rule over all of eastern China. The province remained the political heart of China until the 9th century. In those days, Xi'an was developed as one of the trade routes from eastern China to central Asia, noted at the famous Silk Road.

It is one of the few Chinese cities where old city walls are still visible. The walls reveal the chaotic history of the city as does the Bell Tower, a large building in the center of town that has an entrance through an underpass on the north side.

Xi'an is also home to the renowned 2000-year-old Army of Terracotta Warriors. In 1974, peasants digging a well uncovered what turned out to be one of the major archaeological finds of the 20th century. Every figure differs in facial features and expressions.

Xi'an has a large population of Muslim and its mosques are among the largest in China. The present buildings only date back to the middle of the 18th century, although the mosques might have been established several hundreds of years earlier.

In this area, much of the local food is of Islamic origin and include such dishes as fenerou, which is fried, chopped mutton with fine-ground wheat; heletiao, dark brown sorghum or buckwheat noodles; and fried pork or beef stuffed in pita bread, sometimes with green peppers and cumin.

One of the best places in China to pick up souvenirs such as name chops or chiming steel balls, Xi'an has Huajue Xiang, a narrow alley running beside the Great Mosque with many small souvenirs and antique shops. The City God's Temple, an old-style wooden structure that possibly dates back to the early Qing Period, is actually no longer a temple, but now houses a small market.

## SUGGESTED READING LIST

Many comprehensive and readily available guides are produced by Lonely Planet, Fodor, Insight, The Rough Guide, etc. Here are a few selections we thought might interest you. Barnes and Noble, [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com), and Longitude Books, [www.longitudebooks.com](http://www.longitudebooks.com), have collections of books, searchable by country.

### **CHINESE LESSONS: FIVE CLASSMATES AND THE STORY OF THE NEW CHINA**

by **John Pomfret**

A first-hand account of the remarkable transformation of China over the past forty years as seen through the life of an award-winning journalist and his four Chinese classmates. As a twenty-year-old exchange student from Stanford University, John Pomfret spent a year at Nanjing University in China. His fellow classmates were among those who survived the twin tragedies of Mao's rule—the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution—and whose success in government and private industry today are shaping China's future. Pomfret went on to a career in journalism, spending the bulk of his time in China. After attending the twentieth reunion of his class, he decided to reacquaint himself with some of his classmates. Chinese Lessons is their story and his own.

### **SNOW FLOWER AND THE SECRET FAN**

by **Lisa See**

Lily is haunted by memories-of who she once was, and of a person, long gone, who defined her existence. She has nothing but time now, as she recounts the tale of Snow Flower, and asks the gods for forgiveness.

In nineteenth-century China, when wives and daughters were foot-bound and lived in almost total seclusion, the women in one remote Hunan county developed their own secret code for communication: nu shu ("women's writing"). Some girls were paired with laotongs, "old sames," in emotional matches that lasted throughout their lives. They painted letters on fans, embroidered messages on handkerchiefs, and composed stories, thereby reaching out of their isolation to share their hopes, dreams, and accomplishments.

With the arrival of a silk fan on which Snow Flower has composed for Lily a poem of introduction in nu shu, their friendship is sealed and they become "old sames" at the tender age of seven. As the years pass, through famine and rebellion, they reflect upon their arranged marriages, loneliness, and the joys and tragedies of motherhood. The two find solace, developing a bond that keeps their spirits alive. But when a misunderstanding arises, their lifelong friendship suddenly threatens to tear apart.

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan is a brilliantly realistic journey back to an era of Chinese history that is as deeply moving as it is sorrowful. With the period detail and deep resonance of *Memoirs of a Geisha*, this lyrical and emotionally charged novel delves into one of the most mysterious human relationships: female friendship.

### **CHINA: THE BALANCE SHEET: WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT THE EMERGING SUPERPOWER**

by **C. Fred Bergsten, Bates Gill, Nicholas R. Lardy, Derek J. Mitchell**

China's emergence as a major international power is perhaps the most important development in world affairs of the 21st century. This book provides an indispensable survey of that country, the world's largest -- a vast land with 1.4 billion people and the world's most dynamic economy. Over the past year Dr. Bates Gill, holder of the Freeman Chair at CSIS, and C.Fred Bergsten, president of IIE, have led four task forces through a rigorous exercise of investigation and intelligence, compiling and analyzing the authoritative data on China's economy, foreign and domestic policy, and national security. Now that material has been shaped into an accessible narrative filled with facts, but written for the general reader. The expert judgments presented in *China: The Balance Sheet* will inform policymakers in Washington, scholars and the business community for years to come.

### **CHINA'S SON: GROWING UP IN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION**

by **Da Chen**

A candid memoir about growing up during the Chinese Cultural Revolution, adapted by the author from his *Colors of the Mountain*, published by Random House. Da Chen was born in China in 1962. The grandson of a landlord, he and his family were treated as outcasts in Communist China. In school, Da was an excellent student until a teacher told him that, because of his "family's crimes," he could never be more than a poor farmer. Feeling his fate was hopeless, Da responded by dropping out and hanging around with a gang. However, after Mao's death, Da realized that an education and college might be possible, but he had to make up for the time he'd wasted. His entire family rallied to help him succeed, working long hours in the rice fields and going into debt to ensure that Da would have an education. When the final exam results were posted, he had one of the highest scores in the region and had earned a place at prestigious Beijing University. Now his family's past would not harm their future.