



The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom: America and China, 1776 to the Present

By John Pomfret

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Our relationship with China remains one of the most complex and rapidly evolving, and is perhaps one of the most important to our nation's future. Here, John Pomfret, the author of the bestselling *Chinese Lessons*, takes us deep into these two countries' shared history, and illuminates in vibrant, stunning detail every major event, relationship, and ongoing development that has affected diplomacy between these two booming, influential nations. We meet early American missionaries and chart their influence in China, and follow a group of young Chinese students who enroll in American universities, eager to soak up Western traditions. We witness firsthand major and devastating events like the Boxer Rebellion, and the rise of Mao. We examine both nations' involvement in world events, such as World War I and II. Pomfret takes the myriad historical milestones of two of the world's most powerful nations and turns them into one fluid, fascinating story, leaving us with a nuanced understanding of where these two nations stand in relation to one another, and the rest of the world.

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Editorial Review

Review

Praise for "Chinese Lessons"

"A compelling account of China's evolution. The communist country's emergence from isolation and impoverishment has been told before, but rarely in such intimate, and occasionally heart-rending detail."
David J. Lynch, "USA Today"

"Almost every page offers a new observation or insight, and thankfully, Pomfret's lucid style makes the book a pleasure to reread." Chris Ulbrich, "San Francisco Chronicle"

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"John Pomfret has given us the most encompassing, vivid, and fair-minded account of the world's most important diplomatic relationship, with a warning on the risk of getting it wrong and a belief in the ability to get it right. A triumph of writing, research, and, above all, judgment." **Evan Osnos, National Book Award-winning author of *Age of Ambition***

"A tour de force. Beautifully written, sweeping in scope, learned, lively, and filled with fascinating stories, *The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom* is a timely and important book written by one of the most brilliant and insightful China experts of our day." --**Amy Chua, Yale Law Professor and author of *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* and *The Triple Package: How Three Unlikely Traits Explain the Rise and Fall of Cultural Groups in America***

If you are going to read one book on US-China relations, make it John Pomfret's *The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom*. Superbly researched and historically grounded, this book soars on its rich narrative filled with fascinating vignettes. No one is more equipped than Pomfret by intellect, by experience, and by passion to attempt such an ambitious work and he has skillfully delivered a masterpiece. **Karl W. Eikenberry, Ambassador and Lieutenant General, United States Army, Retired**

"This is the best single book on the two-century-old history of Sino-American relations. Pomfret tells this colorful story through intriguing tales of individuals Americans, Chinese, and Chinese-Americans. At the

same time, he ably explains the transformations, tensions, and tragedies that have defined governmental ties. Pomfret has researched with care and weighed various interpretations with a keen eye and deft touch."

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Praise for *The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom*

"Donald Trump (or his next secretary of state) would be well advised to read this timely and comprehensively informative book...very good and important." --**Simon Winchester for *The New York Times Book Review***

..".exhaustively researched and vigorously told...If the new administration in Washington wishes to get a sense of the broad sweep of American history with China, I can think of few better places to start than this book." --**Howard W. French for *The Wall Street Journal***

"[An] absorbing new book...[Pomfret] weaves a lively tale, peppered with a cast of adventurers, spies, preachers, communists and McCarthyites who have boosted and sabotaged the relationship in turn over the years." --***The Economist***

"One thing that John Pomfret does very effectively in *The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom* is help us appreciate just how long Chinese views of America have been shaped, as they are now, by a mix of feelings including admiration, attraction, disappointment and disdain. Pomfret, a veteran journalist and author of the well-received *Chinese Lessons: Five Classmates and the Story of the New China* (2006), reminds us that we are dealing with a love-hate relationship that dates back to the years following the American Revolution... *The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom*, though containing clear arguments, including the idea that there is a related love-hate dynamic in American views of China, is ultimately a biographically driven work. Its strength lies in the cumulative effect of seeing recurring patterns revealed via skilfully drawn character sketches." --***Financial Times***

"Trump must learn more about the history of U.S.-China relations ... A new book by veteran journalist John Pomfret, titled *The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom*, would be a good start as it details the two century love-hate relationship between the two powers."--***The Diplomat***

"The book is particularly timely because it takes readers on a grand, historic adventure that shows the cyclical love-hate relationship, when current politicians in both countries are sometimes fond of focusing on the hate...[it] fleshes out the dual U.S.-China narrative through stories of people, without losing sight of the larger context...well-researched."--**NPR.org**

"The book is sweeping in scope but nonetheless manages to paint a vivid picture of personal interactions, adventures and misadventures... a deeply informative work. Examining the relationship between two countries as vast and complicated as the US and China takes stamina, yet as the world increasingly revolves around the interactions of these two superpowers, it is important to understand how their relationship has developed, succeeded and failed over the past 240 years. Pomfret does a masterful job of presenting the good, the bad and the ugly from generations of interactions." --***South China Morning Post***

"Takes the myriad historical milestones of two of the world's most powerful nations and turns them into one fluid, fascinating story, leaving us with a nuanced understanding of where these two nations stand in relation to one another and the rest of the world." --***Publishers Weekly***

"[F]ormer *Washington Post* foreign correspondent Pomfret, who was recently a Fulbright Senior Scholar in Beijing, delves into the historical relations between the two and offers a fresh appraisal of each nation's contributions to the other... [an] impressively wide-ranging history demonstrating that the U.S.-China relationship began decades before Richard Nixon arrived on the scene." --***Kirkus Reviews***

"John Pomfret has given us the most encompassing, vivid, and fair-minded account of the world's most important diplomatic relationship, with a warning on the risk of getting it wrong and a belief in the ability to get it right. A triumph of writing, research, and, above all, judgment." --**Evan Osnos, *National Book Award-winning author of *Age of Ambition****

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About the Author

John Pomfret served as a correspondent for the Washington Post for many years, and is currently on a Fulbright Senior Scholar's grant, living in Beijing. He is the author of the acclaimed book, *Chinese Lessons*, and has won several awards for his coverage of Asia, including the Osborne Elliot Prize.

An award-winning audio engineer for over forty years, Tom Perkins has expanded his skills to narrating and has more than sixty titles to his credit. He learned by working with the world's best voice talent during his career, and he continues to engineer a variety of projects.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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This *The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom: America and China, 1776 to the Present* book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is definitely information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This *The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom: America and China, 1776 to the Present* without we realize teach the one who studying it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't become worry *The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom: America and China, 1776 to the Present* can bring when you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even telephone. This *The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom: America and China, 1776 to the Present* having excellent arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

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