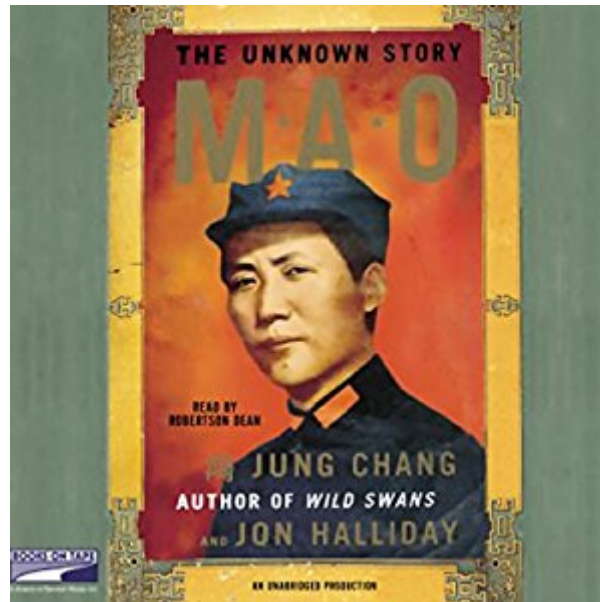




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Mao: The Unknown Story



Synopsis

“Ever since the spectacular success of *Chang and Wild Swans* we have waited impatiently for her to complete with her husband this monumental study of China’s most notorious modern leader. The expectation has been that she would rewrite modern Chinese history. The wait has been worthwhile and the expectation justified. This is a bombshell of a book.”

Chris Patten, the last governor of Hong Kong, in *The Times* (London)

Based on a decade of research and on interviews with many of Mao’s close circle in China who have never talked before and with virtually everyone outside China who had significant dealings with him, this is the most authoritative life of Mao ever written. It is full of startling revelations, exploding the myth of the Long March, and showing a completely unknown Mao: he was not driven by idealism or ideology; his intimate and intricate relationship with Stalin went back to the 1920s, ultimately bringing him to power; he welcomed Japanese occupation of much of China; and he schemed, poisoned and blackmailed to get his way. After Mao conquered China in 1949, his secret goal was to dominate the world. In chasing this dream he caused the deaths of 38 million people in the greatest famine in history. In all, well over 70 million Chinese perished under Mao’s rule in peacetime. Combining meticulous research with the story-telling style of *Wild Swans*, this biography offers a harrowing portrait of Mao’s ruthless accumulation of power through the exercise of terror: his first victims were the peasants, then the intellectuals and, finally, the inner circle of his own advisors. The reader enters the shadowy chambers of Mao’s court and eavesdrops on the drama in its hidden recesses. Mao’s character and the enormity of his behavior toward his wives, mistresses and children are unveiled for the first time. This is an entirely fresh look at Mao in both content and approach. It will astonish historians and the general reader alike.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Not since the gossipy-hearsay-rumor plagued "Tragedy and Hope" has there been a book that challenges so many assumptions about 20th century Asian history. The Amount of documentation is seriously impressive and presented in a very user-friendly way that doesn't detract from the easy-reading style. If you were ever curious about how Mao created his mystique and starved tens of millions of his own countrymen, you will find it here, in detail.

I have long enjoyed Jung Chang's writing. This biography of Mao doesn't have to kowtow to the guardians of his legacy, and gives a much clearer view of the personality of the man who shaped modern China. It's a great read as well as an eminent scholarly work. I recommend it to all who would understand a bit about how modern China evolved.

The authors strong bias comes out at times making it difficult to swallow some of her assertions. But overall informative.

Really nice thank you.

great read!!!

For anyone who thinks that communism, socialism, or anything that resembles either of these is a viable means of governance, this book should be a must. While it is quite obvious that the author does not follow the Maoist line of political thinking, it is extremely well researched and includes first hand account of the dictator's rise to power and the turmoil that was to follow after he attained that power. This work is also necessary for anyone who despises the idea of an overbearing government because it spells out in detail, using actual events in recent history, that provides an explanation as to why one would be so distrustful of an all powerful and unchecked government. Well worth the read.

Very entertaining book that is full of details. I sometimes found it hard to keep up with the names of

people and places because the subject matter is so vast and the time period is so long. In spite of this, I found reading about a man who, in my lifetime, ruled one quarter of the population of the world too irresistible to ignore. The book moves along quickly and was over too soon.

Too long for my personal 30-minute attention span. Fantastic journey into a history untold. Who do you believe? These historical recounts are unverifiable. History is all through the eyes of the storyteller. This one is quite good.

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