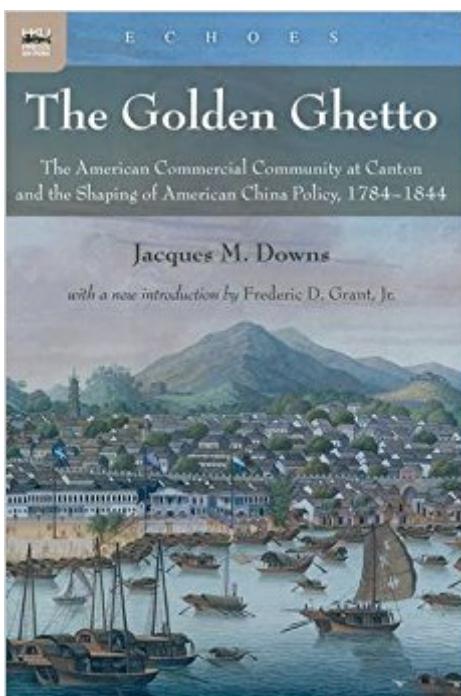


The book was found

The Golden Ghetto: The American Commercial Community At Canton And The Shaping Of American China Policy, 1784-1844 (Echoes: Classics Of Hong Kong Culture And History)



Synopsis

Before the opening of the treaty ports in the 1840s, Canton was the only Chinese port where foreign merchants were allowed to trade. The Golden Ghetto takes us into the world of one of this city's most important foreign communities—the Americans—during the decades between the American Revolution of 1776 and the signing of the Sino-US Treaty of Wanghia in 1844. American merchants lived in isolation from Chinese society in sybaritic, albeit usually celibate luxury. Making use of exhaustive research, Downs provides an especially clear explanation of the Canton commercial setting generally and of the role of American merchants. Many of these men made fortunes and returned home to become important figures in the rapidly developing United States. The book devotes particular attention to the biographical details of the principal American traders, the leading American firms, and their operations in Canton and the United States. Opium smuggling receives special emphasis, as does the important topic of early diplomatic relations between the United States and China. Since its first publication in 1997, *The Golden Ghetto* has been recognized as the leading work on Americans trading at Canton. Long out of print, this new edition makes this key work again available, both to scholars and a wider readership.

Book Information

Series: Echoes: Classics of Hong Kong Culture and History

Hardcover: 504 pages

Publisher: Hong Kong University Press; Reissue edition (March 31, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9888139096

ISBN-13: 978-9888139095

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 1.3 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,314,222 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in Books > History > Asia > Hong Kong #2070 in Books > Business & Money > International > Economics #2712 in Books > History > Asia > China

Customer Reviews

The fullest exposition on the subject thus far and as the final word on extant, previously untapped, English-language sources. (Eileen Scully The China Quarterly)

Jacques M. Downs ([1927–2006]) was Professor of History at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine. Frederic D. Grant, Jr. is the author of *The Chinese Cornerstone of Modern Banking: The Canton Guaranty System and the Origins of Bank Deposit Insurance 1780-1933*.

Many readers--not just history buffs--will find *The Golden Ghetto: The American Commercial Community at Canton and the Shaping of American China Policy, 1784-1844* fascinating and enlightening. Jacques M. Downs' comprehensive study of American merchants involved in the China trade during the first sixty years of U.S.-China relations, published in 1997 after a lifetime of exhaustive research, is now the definitive work on this topic. The Golden Ghetto is divided into three sections: (1) an account of the American community at Canton [or Guangzhou] under the restrictive Canton System established by Chinese officialdom to buffer the Central Kingdom from the potential harm of foreign activity and influence; (2) a detailed study of American firms and some 200 merchants involved in the China trade over six decades; and (3) an exploration of the path to the first Sino-American treaty--the 1844 Treaty of Wanghsia [Wangxia] negotiated by lawyer, politician, and diplomat Caleb Cushing after the Opium War (1839-42). Focusing on individual actions and attitudes--which Downs has culled from a wealth of sources including letters, diaries, and company histories--his presentation takes on a personal tone, occasionally reading more like a novel than a work of history. At the heart of his account is American trade in tea and silk, and increasingly in opium in the early 19th century. Downs does not mince words in condemning opium traders regardless of their nationality and the deleterious effects of the opium enterprise, but at the same time he explains how opium trade profits came to form the financial bedrock of the foreign community at Canton. He argues persuasively that American merchants with direct personal experience in China, and to a lesser extent missionaries, had a significant influence on official U.S. China policy. Readers familiar with U.S.-China relations in the 20th and early 21st centuries, and in particular with the proliferation of American business interests in China in the past two decades and with the political implications thereof, will find that Downs' study resonates with contemporary as well as historical relevance.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Golden Ghetto: The American Commercial Community at Canton and the Shaping of American China Policy, 1784-1844 (Echoes: Classics of Hong Kong Culture and History) Highlights of China & Hong Kong - A visitor's guide to Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Greater China International Travel Maps China, Scale 1:3,800,000: Changchun, Beijing, Xian, Wuhan, Shanghai, Hong Kong,

Taipei, Yellow Sea, East China Sea, South China Sea, Seoul, Delhi, Calcutta, Hanoi: Itmb China
2008 China: Where To Go, What To See - A China Travel Guide
(China,Shanghai,Beijing,Xian,Peking,Guilin,Hong Kong) (Volume 1) China: Where To Go, What To See - A China Travel Guide (China,Shanghai,Beijing,Xian,Peking,Guilin,Hong Kong Book 1)
Travellers' tales of the South China coast: Hong Kong, Canton, Macao City of Protest: A Recent History of Dissent in Hong Kong (Penguin Specials: The Hong Kong Series) Forgotten Souls: A Social History of the Hong Kong Cemetery (Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies Series) China: China Travel Guide: 101 Coolest Things to Do in China (Shanghai Travel Guide, Beijing Travel Guide, Backpacking China, Budget Travel China, Chinese History) The Single Guy's First Trip to Macau and Hong Kong: Helping guys have the perfect first vacation to Macau and Hong Kong East River Column: Hong Kong Guerrillas in the Second World War and After (Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies Series) Lonely Planet Hong Kong, Macau & Guangzhou (Hong Kong Macau and Guangzhou, 9th ed) Hong Kong: Including Macau and Guangzhou (Moon Handbooks Hong Kong) Hong Kong in 3 Days: The Definitive Tourist Guide Book That Helps You Travel Smart and Save Time (Hong Kong Travel Guide) Amazing Pictures and Facts About Hong Kong: The Most Amazing Fact Book for Kids About Hong Kong (Kid's U) MICHELIN Guide Hong Kong & Macau 2017: Hotels & Restaurants (Michelin Red Guide Hong Kong & Macau: Restaurants & Hotels () (Chinese and English Edition) Frommers Touring Guides Hong Kong Singa (Frommer's Touring Guide to Hong Kong, Macau, and Singapore) The Treasures and Pleasures of Hong Kong: Best of the Best (Treasures & Pleasures of Hong Kong) Hong Kong Noodle Recipes :101. Delicious, Nutritious, Low Budget, Mouth watering Hong Kong Noodle Recipes Cookbook Moving to Hong Kong: A comprehensive guide for living in Hong Kong

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)