Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China

Ezra F. Vogel
“This is an impressive and important biography of one of the most important men of the twentieth century. Deng Xiaoping transformed China economically, politically, and socially. One of the most significant achievements for his and my country was the establishment of diplomatic relations between us. The book provides an excellent account of this historic event.”

—President Jimmy Carter

“Not just a definitive biography of a world-class leader, but also the most authoritative and riveting account of the secretly contrived U.S.-Chinese strategic accommodation of 1978 and of how that in turn facilitated China’s domestic transformation.”

—Zbigniew Brzezinski

“Deng could be tough, but he was direct and engaged. He was a person we could do business with, and I liked him a lot. He played an extraordinary role, bringing the world’s largest nation into the modern world. We are fortunate that Vogel, one of our foremost China scholars, has now brought the man alive in this uniquely researched biography.”

—Brent Scowcroft

“A multilayered study of change and adaptability. At the core is one man’s response to the dangers of a complex revolution. Around him is the transformation of the largest political entity in history from rural disarray and helplessness to an industrial and manufacturing giant. Vogel has made Deng Xiaoping’s vision convincing, the Chinese maze comprehensible, and even the bit actors come alive.”

—Wang Gungwu, National University of Singapore

“Vogel offers a nuanced portrait of China’s great reform leader Deng Xiaoping and a shrewd analysis of the political maneuvers by which he made such a large mark on history. And he shows how a major leader can steer a huge country in a new historical direction. A terrific accomplishment.”

—Andrew J. Nathan, Columbia University

“Deng’s skill, vision, and courage in overcoming seemingly insuperable obstacles and guiding China onto the path of sustained economic development rank him with the great leaders of history. And yet, too little is known about the life and career of this extraordinary man. In this superbly researched and highly readable biography, Vogel has definitively filled this void.”

—J. Stapleton Roy, former U.S. Ambassador to China
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