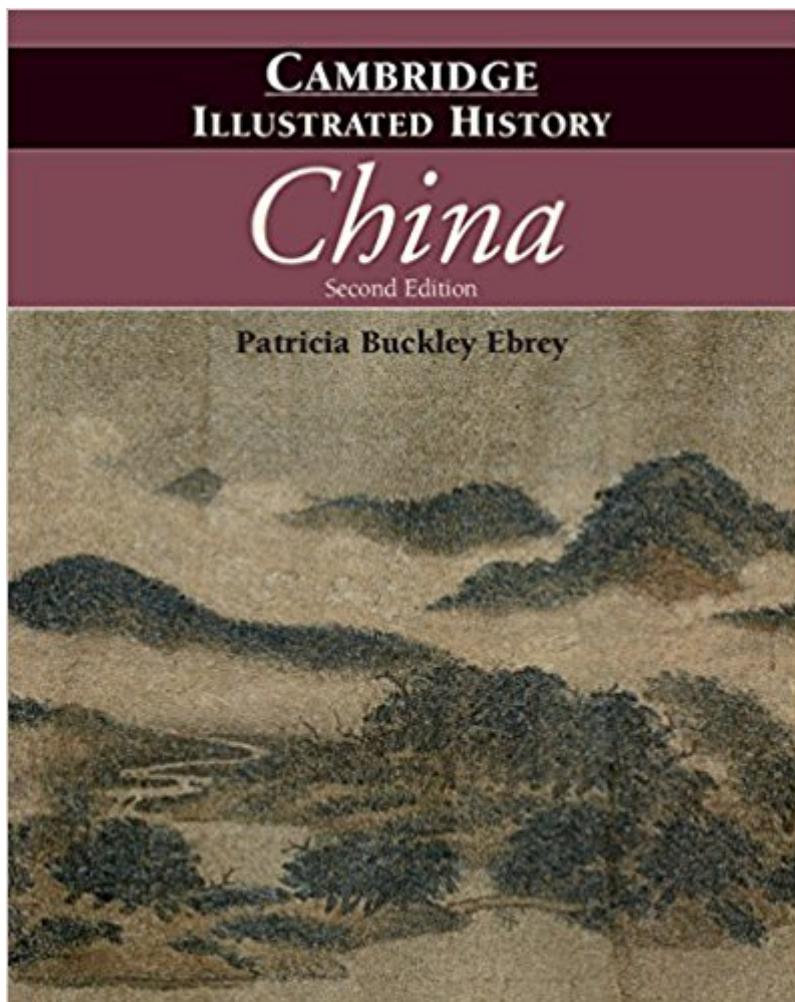


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# The Cambridge Illustrated History Of China



## Synopsis

More populous than any other country on earth, China also occupies a unique place in our modern world for the continuity of its history and culture. In this sumptuously illustrated single-volume history, now in its second edition, noted historian Patricia Buckley Ebrey traces the origins of Chinese culture from prehistoric times to the present. She follows its development from the rise of Confucianism, Buddhism, and the great imperial dynasties to the Mongol, Manchu, and Western intrusions and the modern communist state. Her scope is phenomenal - embracing Chinese arts, culture, economics, society and its treatment of women, foreign policy, emigration, and politics, including the key uprisings of 1919 and 1989 in Tiananmen Square. Both a comprehensive introduction to an extraordinary civilization and an expert exploration of the continuities and disjunctions of Chinese history, Professor Ebrey's book has become an indispensable guide to China past and present. This second edition includes a new chapter on China's recent opening to the world and a fully revised guide to further reading.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In this sumptuously illustrated single-volume history, now in its second edition, noted historian Patricia Buckley Ebrey traces the origins of Chinese culture from prehistoric times to the present. Both a comprehensive introduction to an extraordinary civilization and an expert exploration of the continuities and disjunctions of Chinese history, Professor Ebrey's book has become an indispensable guide to China past and present.

Patricia Buckley Ebrey is Professor of History at the University of Washington and the author of multiple books and articles.

This is a truly helpful and stimulating introduction to Chinese History, an ideal companion volume to more structured, non-illustrated histories: clear, highly explanatory maps; excellent choice of images and visual documents that bring to life China's bygone ages. Although the book focusses on broad historical trends across China's pre-dynastic and imperial ages up to modern times, it also offers boxes that deal with iconic figures of their times and with cultural issues that defined each historic period. I use this book as one of my sources to teach a Chinese Cultural History course and it has never let me down. Its only weakness lies in the dearth of parallel text translations: unfortunately a very common feature of books dealing with Chinese culture, history, literature etc. written in the English language. Offering access to the original in Chinese can be a bonus, as some of the poems or documents quoted in English are not always to be found easily in Chinese over the net or elsewhere. Still, a wonderful Chinese History book, highly recommended.

the book was brand new, printing was great and arrived within two days

Very interesting

item as expected

When offering criticism one can (a) show off one's own knowledge by accusing an author of failing to cover some aspect, that a closer reading shows they never set out to cover; (b) be spiky and aggressive under the illusion this is being polemical; and (c) try to be objective, which is less entertaining but more generally useful. I shall try to do (c). With some experience in academic reading and none in Chinese history I wanted an up to date introductory overview by an authority on the subject so I could quickly get to grips with the basics. I don't expect an introductory overview to deal in depth with all areas, or follow anything but a general path, trying to precis current knowledge. This book did the job for me and my knowledge and enthusiasm about Chinese history has grown. It was concise and articulated central ideas comfortably and memorably. The unexpected jewel for this novice however is the guide to further reading. It is not a dry list of authors and titles, but a whole after-chapter. It sets out the best available reading in English on the subject and breaks it down into historical periods and general sub-categories within each period eg: politics, social

history, intellectual history, cultural history etc. It shows a teacher's instinct to conserve your vital interest by allowing you to keep on the path you are genuinely interested in. I suspect it amounts to a whole first degree reading list. The price to pay is that to get this useful reading guide into the space available the author has had to settle for rather small print for this section of the book. It is a price well worth paying. My only criticism is the book is cumbersome to hold for long periods, and the sooner it is available on Kindle the better.

I had to buy this book for a university class about Chinese history and I really loved it. Although we were assigned long sections of reading each night, the text book remained interesting and I learned a lot. It's unfortunate that so little of this is taught in lower levels of history education especially since China has such a long and influential history.

Buy this one and Li Feng's "Early China" before any others. It is comprehensive and directed at those in-the-know, and at the same time completely accessible and engrossing for novice learners of the period. Her works are highly recommended.

Bought for an Eastern Asian Culture class. Not much you can say about a history textbook. It covers the topics it needs to. Wasn't a fan of the class itself, but the book was detailed and very helpful in understanding the topics.

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