

SUGGESTED READING LISTS FOR CHINA

<p>China in 10 words</p> <p>From one of China's most acclaimed writers: a unique, intimate look at the Chinese experience over the last several decades. Framed by ten phrases common in the Chinese vernacular, <i>China in Ten Words</i> uses personal stories and astute analysis to reveal as never before the world's most populous yet oft-misunderstood nation.</p>	<p>Yu Hua</p>
<p>Chairman's New Clothes: Mao and the Cultural Revolution</p> <p>The book is a great explanation of what the "Cultural revolution" was - a simple power struggle, Mao's attempt to get back control - and explains very well the workings and inner struggles of the Chinese totalitarian regime. It might get tedious at times, but is a very good insight for the period described.</p>	<p>Simon Leys</p>
<p>Hong-Kong et Macao (only for French speaking readers)</p> <p>Joseph Kessel voit plus de choses en une page que d'autres en un volume. En publiant <i>Hong-Kong et Macao</i> en 1957, il nous offre l'histoire d'un mythe. Celui du plus grand centre de l'opium et de la capitale du jeu, métamorphosés en deux postes frontières du monde occidental et de la Chine.</p>	<p>Joseph Kessel</p>
<p>Life and passion of a Chinese gourmet</p> <p>This novel must be enjoyed a serviette wrapped around one's neck. Lu Wenfu tells us forty years of Chinese life, around a table</p>	<p>Lu Wenfu</p>
<p>Big breasts and Wide hips</p> <p>a novel by Mo Yan. It won Dajia Honghe Literature Prize in 1997. The book tells the story of a mother and her eight daughters and one son, explores Chinese history through the 20th century.</p>	<p>Mo Yan</p>
<p>Four Generations one roof</p> <p>Lao She is one of the most significant figures of 20th-century Chinese literature. His works have been translated into different languages and adapted for both the big and small screens.</p> <p>Now, a drama based on one of Lao She's well-known works, "Four Generations Under One Roof," has toured around the country playing to critical acclaim. The production is</p>	<p>Laoshe</p>

<p>helping to promote local Beijing culture, including the Beijing dialect, to the entire nation.</p> <p>"Four Generations Under One Roof" premiered in Taipei two months ago. At first, cast and crew were worried the Taiwan audience might find it difficult to understand Lao She's script. The lines are delivered in Beijing dialect and packed with social innuendos. But their anxiety was totally relieved by the enthusiastic response from the local viewer</p>	
<p>The Rape of Nanjing</p> <p>In December 1937, the Japanese army invaded the ancient city of Nanking, systematically raping, torturing, and murdering more than 300,000 Chinese civilians. This book tells the story from three perspectives: of the Japanese soldiers who performed it, of the Chinese civilians who endured it, and of a group of Europeans and Americans who refused to abandon the city</p>	<p>Iris Chang</p>
<p>The I Ching (or Book of Change)</p> <p>The <i>I Ching</i>, or Book of Changes, is one of the first efforts of the human mind to place itself within the universe. It has exerted a living influence in China for three thousand years, and interest in it has been spreading in the West. First set down in the dawn of history as a book of oracles, the Book of Changes deepened in meaning when ethical values were attached to the oracular pronouncements; it became a book of wisdom, eventually one of the Five Classics of Confucianism, and provided the common source for both Confucianist and Taoist philosophy</p>	<p>Good question...</p>
<p>The Journey to the West</p> <p>Probably the most popular book in the history of the Far East, this classic sixteenth century novel is a combination of picaresque novel and folk epic that mixes satire, allegory, and history into a rollicking adventure. It is the story of the roguish Monkey and his encounters with major and minor spirits, gods, demigods, demons, ogres, monsters, and fairies.</p>	<p>Wu Cheng'en</p>
<p>Three Kingdoms</p> <p>"The empire, long divided, must unite; long united, must divide. Thus it has ever been." Echoing the rhythms of Chinese history itself, the monumental tale Three Kingdoms begins. As important for Chinese culture as the Homeric epics have been for the West, this fourteenth-century masterpiece continues to be loved and read throughout China today</p>	<p>Luo Guanzhong</p>
<p>Outlaws of the Marsh (or Water Margin)</p>	

<p>China's great classic novel <i>Outlaws of the Marsh</i>, written in the fourteenth century, is a fictional account of twelfth-century events during the Song Dynasty. One by one, over a hundred men and women are forced by the harsh feudal officialdom to take to the hills. They band together and defeat every attempt of the government troops to crush them...</p>	<p>Shi Nai'an</p>
<p>Dream of the Red Chamber For more than a century and a half, <i>Dream of the Red Chamber</i> has been recognized in China as the greatest of its novels, a Chinese Romeo-and-Juliet love story and a portrait of one of the world's great civilizations.</p>	<p>Cao Xueqin</p>
<p>The Plum in the Golden Vase (Jin Ping Mei) <i>Jin Ping Mei</i> is framed as a spin off from <i>Water Margin</i>. The beginning chapter is based on an episode in which "Tiger Slayer" Wu Song avenges the murder of his older brother by brutally killing his brother's former wife and murderer, Pan Jinlian. The story, ostensibly set during the years 1111–27 (during the Northern Song Dynasty), centers on Ximen Qing, a corrupt social climber and lustful merchant who is wealthy enough to marry a consort of six wives and concubines. After secretly murdering Pan Jinlian's husband, Ximen Qing takes her as one of his wives. The story follows the domestic sexual struggles of the women within his household as they clamor for prestige and influence amidst the gradual decline of the Ximen clan.</p>	<p>Anonymous Pseudonym: Lanling Xiaoxiao Sheng</p>
<p>Mao: the unknown story Jung Chang's <i>Wild Swans</i> was an extraordinary bestseller throughout the world, selling more than 10 million copies and reaching a wider readership than any other book about China. Now she and her husband Jon Halliday have written a groundbreaking biography of Mao Tse-tung.</p>	<p>Jung Chang & Jon Halliday</p>