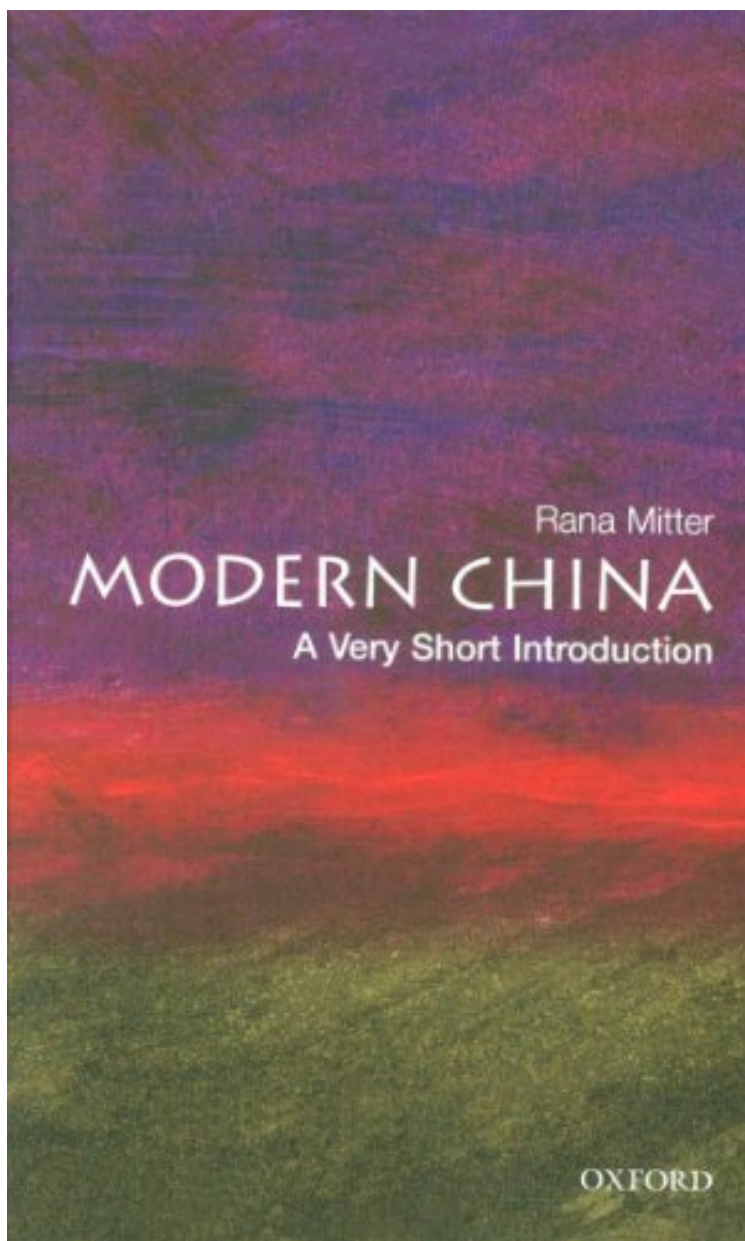


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Modern China: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

Rana Mitter

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Rana Mitter : Modern China: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Modern China: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions):

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. As advertised
By Absinthe
This is indeed a very short introduction, compressing a great deal of information about a vast subject into a few pages. I find myself referring to it often in order to get names and dates straight. Mitter is sympathetic to Mao, and he tends to downplay the cruelty of the Communist regime under the Chairman. In particular, he gives smaller estimates for the number of dead under Mao than other specialists, and he gives Mao credit for economic achievements that many scholars dispute. Half the book is devoted to questioning whether contemporary China's society, economy and culture are "modern". These are meaningless questions, in my opinion, but Mitter's discussions about contemporary Chinese attitudes towards women's rights, eugenics, economic growth, literature, cinema etc. can be illuminating. On balance, Mitter knows more than I do about this subject, and he writes clearly, so I recommend it as a very short introduction to an absorbing topic.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By E Hladik
Great introduction and very well written. Small book, small type and written on tissue paper.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Maeve M Collins
Well written, thoughtful and concise account of China's journey to modernity.

China today is never out of the news: from human rights controversies and the continued legacy of Tiananmen Square, to global coverage of the Beijing Olympics, and the Chinese 'economic miracle'. It seems a country of contradictions: a peasant society with some of the world's most futuristic cities, heir to an ancient civilization that is still trying to find a modern identity. This Very Short Introduction offers the reader with no previous knowledge of China a variety of ways to understand the world's most populous nation, giving a short, integrated picture of modern Chinese society, culture, economy, politics and art.
ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.