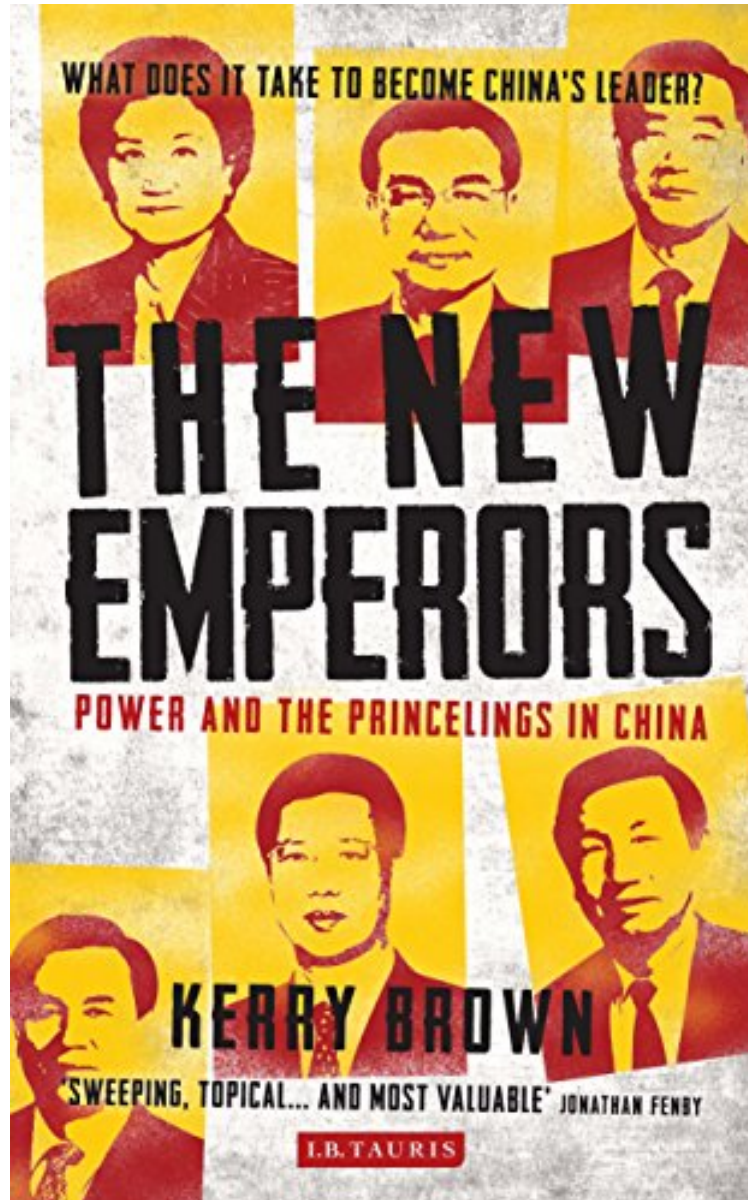


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New Emperors, The: Power and the Princlings in China

Kerry Brown

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Kerry Brown : New Emperors, The: Power and the Princlings in China before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised New Emperors, The: Power and the Princlings in China:

13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. DisappointingBy wsmrerKerry Brown is a well placed Sinologist in the British-Commonwealth system; professor, served as First Secretary in Beijing for FCO three years, and a Senior Fellow of the China Policy Institute at Nottingham University. He has a number of books out on China, this being his

latest. If you are picking this book up to try to unravel what is happening in China today without a fair familiarity with the country you will be disappointed. You will be inundated with leaders' names and interrelationships that will be hard to follow but that is less daunting than his express intention to show us why and how the current seven leaders of the Politburo came to power and what they are likely to pursue. In short he tells us nothing you might not have read in the press if you follow Chinese developments. He opens with the enticing story of Bo Xilai and his wife's murder of Neil Heywood - a British business man and procurer; that is an old but still interesting chapter in how power is used and lost. For Bo was and still is popular with many and raises the issue of whether Maoist appeals are yet vibrant. Brown dances around this issue a few times but he dismisses it as unlikely. Each effort he makes to create useful categories on interrelationship and wellsprings of power he admits are only mildly suggestive, if that. China's Communist Party's workings are opaque, and remain such in spite of his knowledge and continuing interest. The best chapter is chapter six, *The Contradictions Of Modern China: Ideology And Its Role*, where he spends time looking at Xi Jinping's and Li Keqiang's early and recent writing and speeches and that does provide some flavor for their personalities and raises reasonable questions about what they will be able to achieve as president and premier in the rapidly changing dynamics of China today. He wisely avoids making predictions. He seems to have missed Xi's early secret speech to the Party elite in Shenzhen, reported in the *New York Times*, in which Xi's solution to what could be called the Gorbachev problem of losing Communism as a system was to promote and ensure the loyalty of the military to the Party. The crude rendering of that would be "if we ask them to shoot they will." The recent commentary on growth of military expenditures in the Peoples Republic of China is not necessarily about a small island in the East China Sea or contested waters off Vietnam and elsewhere. It could be bridge building for an uncertain CCP and creations of strong links with the Military Industrial set. But American encirclement is certainly causal as well. An additional read, and easier to follow, would be Wang Zheng's *Never Forget National Humiliation: Historical Memory in Chinese Politics and Foreign Relations*. China today clearly can not be understood without turning to the evolutionary movement of the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) from its revolutionary Maoist role of representative of Communism and Marxism to its current casting of its self as advancing Nationalism and the Rejuvenation of the Chinese people. Professor Wang gives 1991 as a turning point, when following the pro-democratic Tiananmen Square protest and its suppression of 1989, the CCP lost faith in communism as a selling point as it was collapsing in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Brown never focuses on that as the party's device to maintain legitimacy. For a better understanding of the all encompassing workings of the CCP see Richard McGregor, *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers*. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Too long a story for that minimum information on China's leaders that we have. By Axxel. The book contains basic information in Chinese leaders. But it is too long for the quantity of information it really has. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Recommended quick read for anyone working in China or with ... By Canuck in Asia. Very accessible and interesting read about China's major leaders, their backgrounds and how this is relevant to the current challenges China is facing domestically; and also how mis-understood China and its leaders are by Westerners not familiar with Chinese culture, the importance of networks. Recommended quick read for anyone working in China or with work related to China.

China has become the powerhouse of the world economy and home to 1 in 5 of the world's population, yet we know almost nothing of the people who lead it. How does one become the leader of the world's newest superpower? And who holds the real power in the Chinese system? In *The New Dragons*, the noted China expert Kerry Brown journeys deep into the heart of the secretive Communist Party. China's system might have its roots in peasant rebellion but it is now firmly under the control of a power-conscious Beijing elite, almost half of whose members are related directly to former senior Party leaders. Brown reveals the intrigue, scandal and murder surrounding the internal battle raging between two China's: one founded by Mao on Communist principles, and a modern China in which "to get rich is glorious". At the centre of it all sits the latest Party Secretary, Xi Jinping - the son of a revolutionary, with links both to big business and to the People's Liberation Army. His rise to power is symbolic of the new dragons leading the world's next superpower.

"A rare example of informed, forensic enquiry... a well informed antidote to the overdose of repeated half-truths and non-truths that often pass for analysis of Chinese politics... *The New Emperors* is an essential read." - Isobel Hilton, *Observer*

Kerry Brown's account of China's power elite is sweeping, topical and accessible, and a most valuable addition to our knowledge of the rising superpower." - Jonathan Fenby, author of *Tiger Head, Snake Tails* and *The Penguin History of Modern China*

Kerry Brown's book is a must read for anyone who has genuine interest or need to understand those complexities, which given how important the country is becoming to the world, means the other 5 billion plus of us that don't live there." - Jim O'Neill, Former Chairman of Goldman Sachs

In his indispensable study of China's present leaders, Kerry Brown... does more than touch the backsides of a tiny group of tigers, the seven newest members of the Politburo's Standing Committee who rule China: he skins them alive." - Jonathan Mirsky, *Times Higher Education*

Brown provides a great introduction to the world of elite Chinese politics and the men - they are all men - who inhabit its upper reaches." - Jamil Anderlini, *Financial Times*

About the Author Kerry Brown is the

Director of the China Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, Australia, and former head of the Asia Programme at Chatham House. With 20 years experience of life in China, he has worked in education, business and government, including a term as First Secretary at the British Embassy in Beijing. He writes regularly for the Times Literary Supplement and the Guardian amongst others, as well as for many international and Chinese media outlets. He is the author of *Contemporary China* (2012), *Friends and Enemies: The Past, Present and Future of the Communist Party of China* (with Will Hutton, 2009) and *Struggling Giant: China in the 21st Century* (with Jonathan Fenby, 2007).