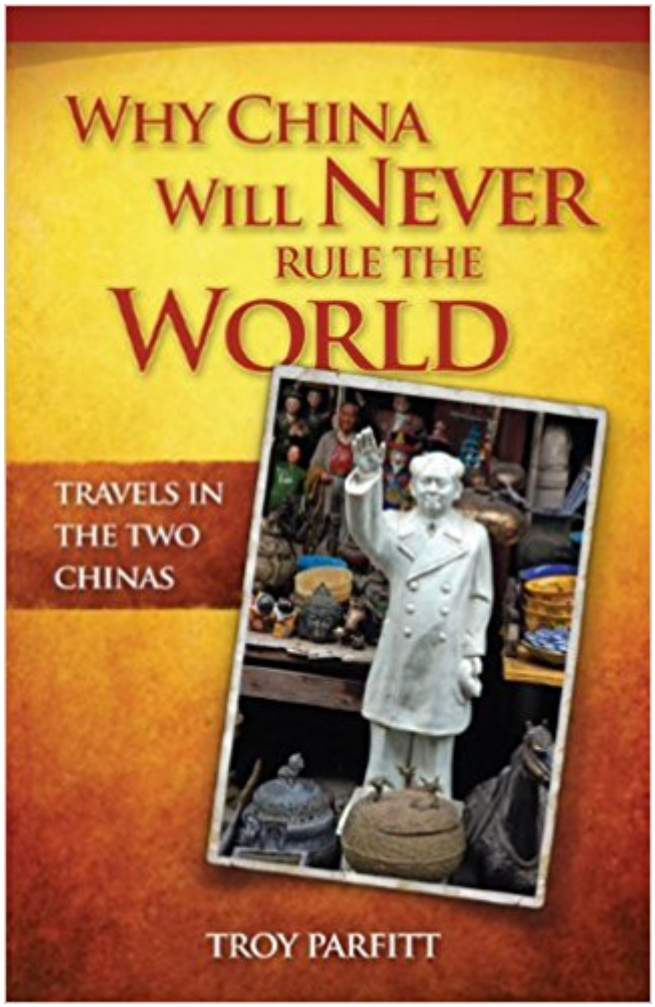
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Why China Will Never Rule The World:Travels In The Two Chinas



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Synopsis

After having lived in Taipei for ten years, Troy Parfitt sets out on an epic journey to test the theory that China is ascending toward a position of global hegemony. The result is a whirlwind tour of the Chinese world, one that enlightens, astonishes, and entertains. Parfitt shows us that he is the perfect China tour guide-the steward of an intimate knowledge of the nation's history, culture, and psyche yet not serving any interest other than an investigative one. Here is a unique and powerful book, one that will change the way people think about China and its great rise. Why China Will Never Rule the World is a tour de force; vital for anyone wishing to understand what China is, what is has been, and what it is likely to become.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Parfitt, who has taught English in Taiwan for over a decade, uses his experience there to start several months of travel through the People's Republic of China in order to challenge the assumptions that China will determine the course of the global economy in the next century. The result is mostly travelogue told from an outsider's perspective, contextualized with overviews of major events in Chinese history. Parfitt argues that China will not rule the world, because as a nation it is more interested in the appearance of success than actual substance. He suggests that culturally, China has little to offer. More importantly, the majority of goods currently being created in China come from non-Chinese companies, again proving a lack of innovation. Parfitt makes a compelling case from the microcosmic level for why it will be difficult for China to become the primary hegemonic force of the 21st century. However, his book lacks the pre-cise facts and figures

that he decries in other books promoting Chinese dominance. Parfitt is a persuasive writer and readers will leave his tale scratching their heads and perhaps deciding that they do not want to visit China at all. --Publisher's Weekly, June 2011

The author of Notes from the Other China (New York: Algora Publishing, 2007), Troy Parfitt lived and worked as an English teacher in Seoul, South Korea and Taipei, Taiwan for nearly thirteen years. In 2009, he returned to Canada to take a teaching position at that country's oldest English-language university.

Excellent book packed with erudite insights and personal anecdotes from travel experience in both mainland and Taiwan. Compared to Age of Ambitions which is also an excellent non-fiction book on modern China (highly recommended as well), I think this book takes more issues deeply rooted in Chinese culture, history, and social values, e.g. Confucianism, Lao-ism, Legalism, beyond just politics. A stern indictment of decay in Chinese culture that I wish every Chinese could read and help correct to make the country truly great. But I am sure Mr. Parfitt's advice will be ignored and dismissed by majority Chinese. It's unfortunate.

I bought this book after seeing various articles about it when it was published.This is a grumpy but well-written travelogue about the author's experiences in China and Taiwan. He doesn't find much that he enjoys in China, but he explains his reasons why and backs up his points with references from history and society.The book is sometimes funny and just manages to stay within the territory of not going too far. It gets a little bit too long in some parts but it just about stayed ok.In particular I enjoyed the chapters where the author describes his experiences on Chinese public transport. I had the same experiences when travelling in China too!

I was drawn into this book by its auspicious title - if you're interested in China and it's development, it's as if you cannot miss this book. Despite the dramatic title, this turned out to be a well-informed book on China's development. Troy Parfitt, the author, demonstrates that he knows what is really going on in China. I've been living and doing business in mainland China (specifically Chengdu, the Sichuan capital) for over 7 years and with China's recent rise to prominence there have been a flurry of books published by Western "experts" who have no on the ground knowledge of China at all. Thankfully, this is not one of those books.I find that anyone from a Western country who spends many years in China will grow bitter and resentful about some of China's eccentricities. In this book,

Troy Parfitt makes an argument and supports it with evidence collected interacting with Chinese people in China over many years. It's fair game to base a book around China's weaknesses, if you ask me. This is essentially one of those books.While reading this book, I silently nodded my head in agreement with the author's observations countless times. He really captures many of the small details of China that are rarely put into print. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to know what the real China is like - the good and the bad.

Excellent Product and Service

This book is quite astounding. I hadn't realized when I started it that the book was so chock-filled with condensed and very informative and entertaining historical treatises. And I had thought that maybe the title was a little overboard given that the author had never lived for a substantial period in this sprawling toxic wasteland. Don't be fooled! Troy Parfitt knows his stuff, that is quite clear. He gives his subjects more than ample opportunity to prove themselves, and at every step they confirm his thesis. Of course, anyone who spends longer than a few weeks in China (4 years for me) will soon begin to have inklings of the same conclusion, that the Chinese are not, nor will probably ever be, ready for prime-time, and that we've been fed a steady diet of rah-rah China hype and BS in the Western media. Mr. Parfitt gives an almost scientific treatment to our suspicions. And one that is frequently laugh-out-loud funny.Old China hands will likely suffer a sore neck after extended reading from near constant nodding in agreement with the author's experiences and well-documented conclusions. But the dreariness of the landscape he paints is regularly interrupted with moments of keyboard-splattering hilarity, as I mentioned, and with lots of myth-busting history dealing with the big players (Mao, Sun Yat-sen, Chiang Kai-shek) and major events (founding of modern China, the civil war, the war with Japan, and Taiwan).As the product description says, this book is vital for anyone wishing to understand what China is, what it has been, and what it is likely to become.

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