

China, Portrait of a Country

Edited By Liu Heung Shing; Text From James Kyngé; Karen Smith

Taschen, \$59.95, 424 pages

A highly spectacular photo collection of pictures from Chinese photographs taken from the 1949 Cultural Revolution and through the current day. Liu Heung Shing collected these pictures from more than 80 photographers who took pictures of their country, lives, and countrymen, often never-before seen or published for fear of being marked as counter-revolutionary. Organized by years, you get to see the progression of China, from the early Cultural Revolution years, to today's industrial Revolution. This is a still photographic documentary of 50 years of change. There are the highly staged and political pictures, and those of rural life. The pictures are all well-captioned, and biographies of all the Chinese photographers are provided. There have been plenty of books and documentaries on the subject of China in the last few years. *China, Portrait of a Country* is certainly unique, interesting and comprehensive. And, in the usual Taschen fashion, well-designed, packaged, and presented. An unusual coffee-table book, but an excellent addition to a photography book collection.

