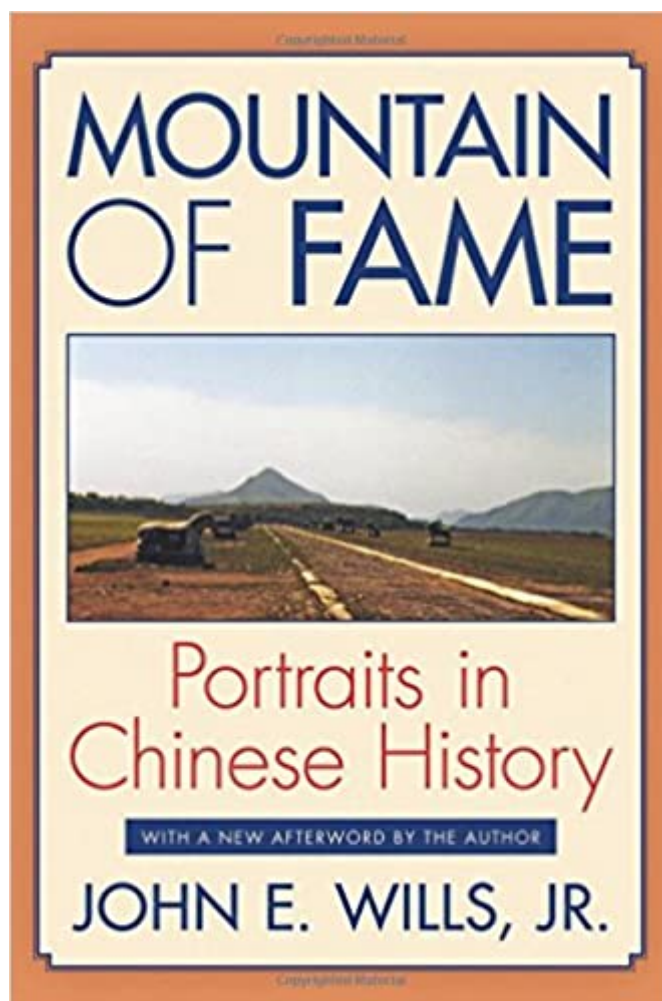


The book was found

# Mountain Of Fame: Portraits In Chinese History



## Synopsis

Through biographies of China's most colorful and famous personalities, John Wills displays the five-thousand-year sweep of Chinese history from the legendary sage emperors to the tragedy of Tiananmen Square. This unique introduction to Chinese history and culture uses more than twenty exemplary lives--biographies of China's most colorful and famous personalities--including those of statesmen, philosophers, poets, and rulers, to provide the focus for accounts of key historical trends and periods. What emerges is a provocative rendering of China's moral landscape, featuring characters who have resonated in the historical imagination as examples of villainy, heroism, wisdom, spiritual vision, political guile, and complex combinations of all of these. Investigating both the legends and the facts surrounding these figures, Wills reveals the intense interest of the Chinese in the brilliance and in the frail complexities of their heroes. Included, for instance, is a description of the frustrations and anxieties of Confucius, who emerges as a vulnerable human being trying to restore the world to the virtue and order of the sage kings. Wills recounts and questions the wonderfully shocking stories about the seventh-century Empress Wu, an astute ruler and shaper of an increasingly centralized monarchy, who has since assumed a prominent position in the Chinese tradition's rich gallery of bad examples--because she was a woman meddling in politics. The portrayal of Mao Zedong, which touches upon this leader's earthy personality and his reckless political visions, demonstrates the tendency of the Chinese not to divorce ideology from its human context: Maoism for them is a form of "objective" Marxism, inseparable from one man's life and leadership. Each of the twenty chapters provides a many-sided exploration of a "slice" of Chinese history, engaging the general reader in a deep and personal encounter with China over the centuries and today. The biographies repeatedly mirror the moral earnestness of the Chinese, the great value they place on the ruler-minister relationship, and their struggles with tensions among practicality, moral idealism, and personal authenticity. Culminating in a reflection on China's historical direction in the aftermath of Tiananmen Square, the biographies show the modern Chinese still inspired and frustrated by a complex heritage of moral fervor and political habits and preconceptions. As absorbing as it is wide ranging, this history is written for the general public curious about China and for the student beginning to study its rich cultural heritage. This new edition highlights important figures that have emerged in China since the book's initial publication and provides updated suggestions for further reading.

## Book Information

Paperback: 440 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press; With a New afterword by the author edition (July 22, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691155879

ISBN-13: 978-0691155876

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #533,195 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #162 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Asia > China](#) #187 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Reference & Collections](#) #208 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Chinese](#)

## Customer Reviews

"[A] spirited and highly intelligent book. . . . A splendid reflection on the nature of the Chinese relationship to history, culture, and morality. . . . What gives Wills's [book] its originality and its effectiveness is the artful span of examples he has chosen, examples that not only range across time . . . but are also chosen to illuminate major themes and continuities within the Chinese universe. . . . There is high drama, cruelty, and excess in many of these stories. . . . And there is also wit and charm mixed with the telling of great events."--Jonathan Spence, *The New York Times Book Review*"[T]his remarkable book . . . spans the 3,000 recorded years of Chinese history. . . . We experience the wrenching difficulties faced by . . . each emperor, philosopher, poet, historian, monk, military general, and revolutionary whose life story is told here with such skill and compassion. . . . students of history will find themselves clinging to the edge of their seats, as if the outcome were still to be determined."--Wilson Library Bulletin"A tapestry displaying a vast array of noble dreams and failures, of initial utterances and long-distance echoes, of recurrent patterns and abrupt innovations intended to intrigue and inform educated readers looking for a way into three thousand years of Chinese history."--Jerry Dennerline, *The Journal of Asian Studies*"This book . . . chronicles 5,000 years of Chinese history in short biographies of its most important figures. . . . Time and again these vignettes of history reflect the moral earnestness of the Chinese and individual struggles between villainy and idealism."--Asia Week"Although intended for the inspired tourist or casual reader who wants a quick introduction to Chinese history, this collection of biographies is in no way superficial. Each of the 20 chapters offers a figure typical of his/her times and an elaboration of the contexts and backgrounds that shaped these individuals."--Library Journal"Tremendous."--Aaron Pickering, *Education About Asia*

"Wills is very perceptive to take the 'lives and times' approach to Chinese history. Not only does this enliven the material for a beginner, but it is true, as he says, that the Chinese, perhaps more than other people, love to personalize their history."--Perry Link, Princeton University  
"It is a great achievement to make the historical figures so accessible, with vivid details that seem to have escaped the attention of earlier historians. In scope, method, and quality, .. . This book is unique."--Kwang-Ching Liu, University of California, Davis

Great survey of Chinese History. I just wish I had more time to followup with all of his cited sources.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Chinese: Crash Course Chinese - Learn Chinese Fast With a Native Speaker: 500+ Essential Phrases to Build Your Chinese Vocabulary, Chinese, Learn Chinese, Chinese Phrasebook, Mandarin Study Aid I Love to Share (English Chinese kids, Chinese children's books): Mandarin kids books, Chinese bilingual books, Chinese baby books (English Chinese Bilingual Collection) (Chinese Edition) Chinese Bilingual Books: I Love to Brush My Teeth (chinese kids books, chinese children's books): English Chinese Children books (Chinese Bilingual Collection) (Chinese Edition) Mountain of Fame: Portraits in Chinese History Draw Faces: How to Speed Draw Faces and Portraits in 15 Minutes (Fast Sketching, Drawing Faces, How to Draw Portraits, Drawing Portraits, Portrait Faces, Pencil Portraits, Draw in Pencil) Chinese Children's Books: I Love My Dad (English Chinese Bilingual): chinese bilingual children's books (English Chinese Bilingual Collection) (Chinese Edition) Chinese baby book: Where is the Baby: English-Chinese picture book (Simplified Chinese book) (Bilingual Edition) Early Reader Chinese book for ... books for kids) (Volume 7) (Chinese Edition) I Love to Tell the Truth (chinese english bilingual,chinese children stories,mandarin kids books ): mandarin childrens books,bilingual chinese (Chinese English Bilingual Collection) (Chinese Edition) I Love to Share (mandarin childrens books, chinese baby books): kids books in chinese, chinese children stories, mandarin kids (Chinese Bedtime Collection) (Chinese Edition) I Love to Tell the Truth ( chinese kids books, mandarin childrens books): mandarin kids books, kids books in chinese, chinese children's books (Chinese Bedtime Collection) (Chinese Edition) Welcome to Chinese Food World: Unlock EVERY Secret of Cooking Through 500 AMAZING Chinese Recipes (Chinese Cookbook, Chinese Food Made Easy, Healthy Chinese Recipes) (Unlock Cooking, Cookbook [#13]) Plain Fame (The Plain Fame Series Book 1) From Fame to Shame (Twin Fame Book 1) Chinese Cookbook - 25 Delicious Chinese Recipes to Chinese Food Made Easy: Recipes from Chinese Restaurants Integrated Chinese: Level 2 Part 2

Character Workbook ( Traditional & Simplified Chinese Character, 3rd Edition) (Cheng & Tsui Chinese Language Series) (Chinese Edition) White Mountain Guide: AMC's Comprehensive Guide To Hiking Trails In The White Mountain National Forest (Appalachian Mountain Club White Mountain Guide) My Side of the Mountain Trilogy (My Side of the Mountain / On the Far Side of the Mountain / Frightful's Mountain) World History, Ancient History, Asian History, United States History, European History, Russian History, Indian History, African History. ( world history) Chinese Acupuncture and Moxibustion: A Practical English-Chinese Library of Traditional Chinese Medicine I Love My Mom: Chinese children's books, Mandarin childrens books (English Chinese Bilingual Collection) (Chinese Edition)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)