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The Search For Modern China: A Documentary Collection



Synopsis

This collection of primary source documents--many translated into English for the first time and available only in this book--gather proclamations, treaties, laws, and other public acts with pieces reflecting everyday life, family, social networks, and culture. Informative headnotes accompany the selections, helping readers with unfamiliar names, places, and events. With a chapter organization mirroring that of *The Search for Modern China*, this collection is the perfect supplement, providing a first-hand look at the modern Chinese society.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pei-Kai Cheng is professor of history at City University of Hong Kong. Michael Lestz is professor of history and chairperson of the history department at Trinity College. Jonathan D. Spence is Sterling Professor of History at Yale University, where he has taught for thirty years. He has been awarded MacArthur and Guggenheim Fellowships, and the Los Angeles Times Book Award. *The Search for Modern China* won the Lionel Gelber Award and the Kiriama Book Prize.

I had to take a history course to satisfy my degree requirement. But I am focused on my major and really do not want to spend too much time in my GE so I chose Chinese history as I am a fluent Chinese speaker who received modern Chinese history when I was young in Taiwan. However reading this book made me realize a lot of the history lessons I received as a child contains some mix of propaganda that obscured the subject. *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary History* included the original archival record relevant to the issues raised by Cheng et al. with some unbiased introduction. Together with the J. Spence's, *The Search for Modern China*, both books

perfectly complemented each other. The translation of the archival record is easy to read (much easier to read than the original classic Chinese version) and is a pleasure to go through even for leisure read. I highly recommend this book together with Spence's textbook on The Search for Modern China.

This was a required text for a course on the history of modern China. I really enjoyed the book and looked forward to the assigned reading: the original documents (and the explanations accompanying them) gave real insight into China's history: cultural, political, and military.

A good companion to Spence's "The Search for Modern China." All the documents are clearly introduced and all necessary background given. The authors also match each chapter to its respective chapter in Spence, making referencing very easy.

good stuff.

Great primary source collection.

Sorry I didn't purchase the book earlier--it is that important

This is a really good collection of documents meant to complement Spence's "The Search for Modern China" textbook. It really makes the textbook come alive, transforming otherwise bland characters into real people. It was indispensable for really understanding the main text.

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