

University of Michigan CENTER FOR CHINESE STUDIES Booklist (general) 2009
Ann Arbor Book Festival

Harney, Alexandra. *The China Price: The True Costs of Chinese Competitive Advantage*. Penguin Press, 2008. ISBN: 9781594201578.

Our material appetite for the vast number of products manufactured in China at low prices has often made us increasingly greedy for products no matter the consequences for workers and the environment. Harney describes the pressure on China to deal with effects of industrial pollution, weakening infrastructures, workers' demands and grassroots activism—and ultimately how China's challenges affect the global consumer.

Kelley, Jeff. *Half-Life of a Dream: Contemporary Chinese Art from the Logan Collection*. University of California Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780520257795.

Contemporary Chinese artists distort, contort, and re-invent traditional points of reference while playing with notions of multiplicity, manufacturing, and cultural identity. A probing exhibition catalogue accompanying the show at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the essays and illustrations within question the roles of language, consumerism, Mao, and religion in the visual world of the 21st-century Chinese artist.

Knapp, Ronald G. *Chinese Bridges: Living Architecture from China's Past*. Tuttle Publishing, 2008. ISBN: 9780804838849.

The vernacular architecture of China is again captured by this author in a treasure house of images this time showcasing bridges throughout China. Knapp provides a template for understanding the range of bridge types, the meaning of decorative elements, and the religious and geomantic context surrounding their building. (See Chinese Houses in 2008 Booklist.)

Merkel-Hess, Kate, Kenneth Pomeranz, and Jeffrey Wasserstrom, eds. *China in 2008: A Year of Great Significance*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2009. ISBN: 9780742566606.

Based on postings from the China Beat (group blog/electronic magazine at University of California, Irvine) combined with insights from scholars and journalists, this compilation of articles covers China in 2008 from the tragedy of national disasters (Sichuan earthquake) and the fervor of patriotism (Olympics, Tibet) to political flashbacks (Tiananmen), pop culture and the rebranding of Confucius.

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Burgan, Michael. *Confucius: Chinese Philosopher and Teacher*. Compass Point Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780756538323.

Middle and High School. Confucius taught through questions; encouraged his students to study literature, rituals, and music; felt that government service was the highest calling; believed strongly in filial piety; and promoted *ren* or "kindness" as an important goal of life. His teachings still resonate with contemporary Chinese society, and this engaging biography helps readers understand why the legacy of this adviser and philosopher remains with us today.

De Mente, Boye. *The Chinese Mind: Understanding Traditional Chinese Beliefs and Their Influence on Contemporary Culture*. Tuttle, 2009. ISBN: 97808048.

High School. What is distinctly Chinese behavior and thought? How does tradition blend with modernity in an increasingly global world? An approachable guide to Chinese life, this introductory book provides

glimpses into everything from traditional medicine to new-age entrepreneurs. For language aficionados, look for the chapter on culturally oriented keywords (unfortunately does not include written Chinese characters). Discussion topics and questions make this a useful tool for high school class-rooms.

Gu, Licheng. ***Picture Characters: Learning Chinese Characters Through Pictographs***. China Books & Periodicals, 2006. ISBN: 9780835126892.

All ages. Chinese character recognition presents challenges to beginning students of Chinese. In this spiral-bound compendium, 200 characters are introduced using mental images that are easy to remember and which provide a creative template for learning 200 more... Try practicing these characters with Buddha Board, a hands-on, desktop tool that allows the user to brush characters on the board surface with water (as the water evaporates the character “magically” disappears www.buddhaboard.com).

Moey, S. C. ***Chinese Feasts and Festivals: A Cookbook***. Periplus, 2006. ISBN: 9780794603175.

All ages. How do you cook home-style white chicken, the basic dish to mark all festivals, or sweet versions of *tangyuan*, the harmonious winter soup filled with round rice flour balls? Clear instructional recipes with colorful hand-drawn illustrations are offered in a cultural context that will appeal to gastronomists from every corner of the world.