QUICK ACCESS TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA — THE FIRST SIXTY YEARS (1949-2009)



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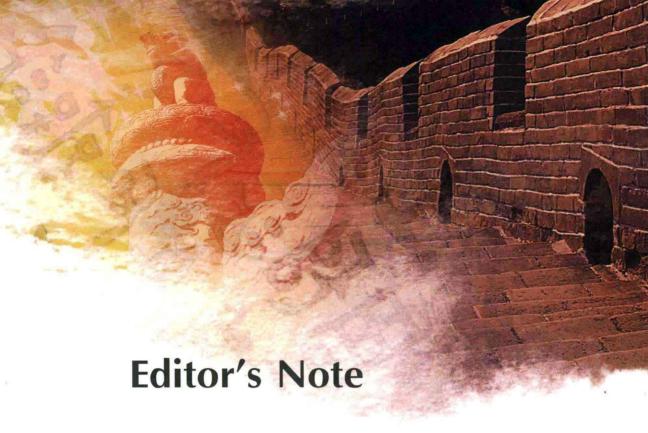
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On October I, 1949, Mao Zedong solemnly proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China, from the Tiananmen Rostrum. Since then, unprecedented changes have swept across the nation.

A new blueprint was drawn for the newly-founded war-torn People's Republic suffering from severe poverty, and the first "Five-Year Plan" for development ensued after the national economy basically recovered. The production of China's first automobile, the construction of roads to Tibet, the successful development of China's a-bomb, h-bomb and first satellite..., the nation began to shed its long-borne image of poverty and backwardness, and marched along the road to modernization.

The Third Plenum of the IIth CPC Central Committee, held at the end of 1978, marked a key turning-point in the country's history. The creation of special economic zones, establishment of a socialist market economy, resumption of the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong and Macao, accession to the WTO, hosting of the 29th Olympiad in Beijing..., China is approaching the center of the world stage with a brand-new look.

In the total course of history, 60 years pass in the blink of an eye, but for China these are six exciting and epoch-making decades. Because of the complications of history, general readers often find it hard to get a comprehensive panorama of contemporary China, and are often left far from satisfied yet have no idea how to retrieve the desired information from a sea of choices. Therefore, a history book with quick access to the major events during China's 60 years of development might serve as a convenient guide.

Our book is such a tool. Based on the 1949-2009 timeline, the book features key events and figures that influenced China's historical development, covering the areas of economy, politics, society, culture, technology, and more. Following the timeline, a clear and concise development path for China in these decades is presented with illustrations and diagrams, as well as comparisons with major contemporary events around the world, providing readers with an international lens.

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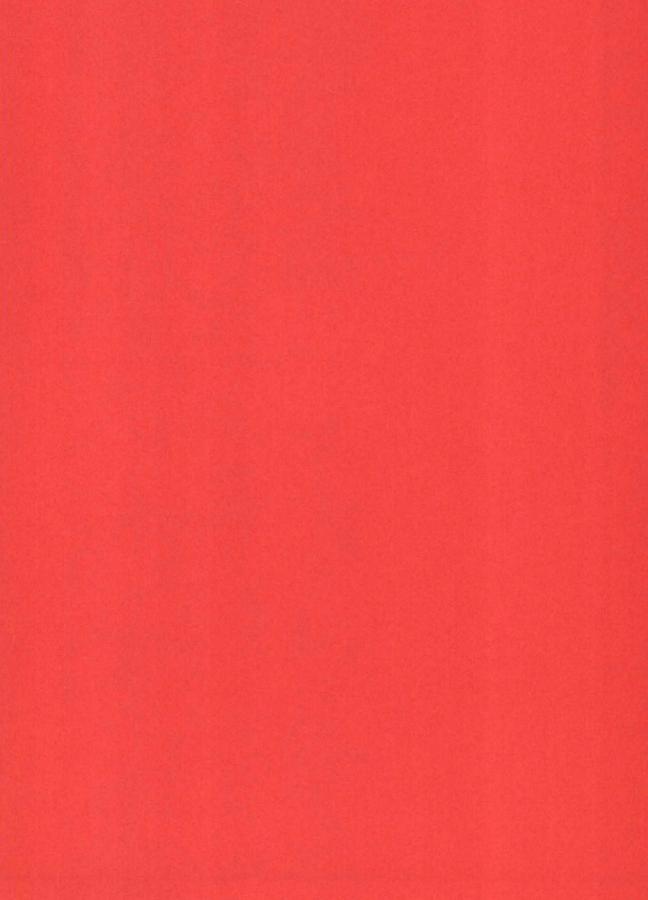
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Explanatory Notes

- The book starts with the Founding Ceremony of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on October 1, 1949, and ends with the 60th anniversary celebrations of the PRC on October 1, 2009.
- The book has over 260 entries, covering political and economic events and policies that influenced the course of China's contemporary history, as well as major events in society, culture, science and technology, and other fields.
- 3. The List of Entries, arranged in alphabetical order, with date and location specified for each entry, serves as both an index and events list.
- 4. All entries are arranged along the timeline that runs through the book. The events are organized by their dates, which are marked on the timeline, while the entry titles below the timeline specify their duration.
- 5. The book has over 250 pictures related to the entries. Including brief captions, the images serve as illuminating illustrations which bring history to life.
- The book also includes important concurrent events and figures of other countries listed at the bottom of the page, providing a comparative history of China and the world.
- 7. The Index is arranged in alphabetical order to provide quick access to names, places, cultural and scientific events, and historical documents, organizations and events (excluding those of other countries) that the book refers to.



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