



## The Chans Great Continent: China in Western Minds

By Jonathan D. Spence

W. W. Norton & Company. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 304 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.5in. x 0.7in. Like everything else written by Jonathan Spence, The Chans Great Continent is an absolute must-read for anyone interested in China. Spence is one of the greatest Sinologists of our time, and his work is both authoritative and highly readable. Los Angeles Times Book Review China has transfixed the West since the earliest contacts between these civilizations. With his characteristic elegance and insight, Jonathan Spence explores how the West has understood China over seven centuries. Ranging from Marco Polos own depiction of China and the mighty Khan, Kublai, in the 1270s to the China sightings of three twentieth-century writers of acknowledged genius-Kafka, Borges, and Calvino-Spence conveys Western thought on China through a remarkable array of expression. Peopling Spences account are Iberian adventurers, Enlightenment thinkers, spinners of the dreamy cult of Chinoiserie, and American observers such as Bret Harte, Mark Twain, Ezra Pound, and Eugene O'Neill. Taken together, these China sightings tell us as much about the self-image of the West as about China. Wonderful. . . . Spence brilliantly demonstrates how generation after generation of Westerners have asked themselves, What is it . . . .



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