History is What China Makes of It

Understanding China's perspective on its own history.

Alec Ash
The Wire China

China's Good War: How World War II Is Shaping a New Nationalism

(Penguin, 2019)

To predict China's future, it is not enough to know its past. Rather, we must understand how China's perception of its role in World War II has changed from wronged victim to defender. From a recent addition to the country's national curriculum — one that is intended to remind all students of China's contribution to the defeat of the Axis powers — to op-ed columns and parliamentary speeches, the Chinese government is working to shape the mindset of its leaders and the demands of a young and increasingly assertive citizenry. China presents their role in World War II as the plucky fighter who single-handedly defeated Japan, the aggressor, in the Asia-Pacific theater. But the idea of China as a historical victim is no longer a universal acceptance among the Chinese public. In this book, historian Peter Hart provides a detailed account of China's role in the Pacific theater during World War II and the country's growing nationalism with a longer lens than most.

Achieve
Little Soldiers: An American Boy, a Chinese School, and the Global Race to

(Simon & Schuster, 2020)

As students go back to school — or don't, depending on the state of politics and business. — too much at your kid's online classes from home.

Lenora Chu and Judith Shapiro
China's Quest for Foreign Technology

(2020)

Flipping through the Sino-Tibetan Frontier in the 'Other' Shangri-La: Journeys

with Shanghai schools through the late aughts and early tens of the century, with Shanghai schools historically known to Tibet. Taking in the region's dramatic landscapes, whom travelled through the borderlands of western Sichuan province plateaux, he doesn't dig deep enough into Han-Tibetan tensions, or stay long enough to really get to know the people. It's a fast-paced travelogue — one to remind us that China isn't all about politics and business.

China's rapacious appetite for foreign tech has been well attested, as has its myriad ways of acquiring it: mergers and acquisitions, technology transfer and Theft, 2020's bumper crop of China books is book, while academic in style, is invaluable in that it used as a way to gain international in...