



CHINESE CHURCH SUPPORT MINISTRIES CHINA PRAYER LETTER



AUGUST 2018

Book review:

The World According To Xi.

*- Everything You Need to Know About the New
China.*

Kerry Brown, author of 'CEO, China: the rise of Xi Jinping' and bestseller 'The New Emperors: Power and the Princelings in China' has recently published an English language book titled 'The World According to Xi.'

Brown is Professor of Chinese Studies and Director of the Lau China Institute at King's College, London and Associate on the Asia Programme at Chatham House. He was Professor of Chinese Politics and Director of the China Studies Centre at the University of Sydney. He has worked in business and government including a term as First Secretary at the British Embassy in Beijing. He is a significant writer of books and articles



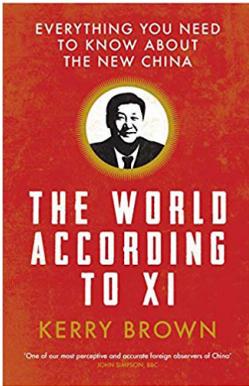
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Seeking to serve, strengthen and support the church and the people of China



on China's economy and politics.

His new book, *The World According to Xi*, looks at the political and economic environment in

which Xi Jinping's career was developed. From his family background and traumatic first-hand experience of the Mau era through to his political journey to become the World's most influential and powerful leader.

Xi is portrayed as a Party man through and through. Brown discusses the strong motivation Xi has to assert the primacy of the Party, reinforce Party loyalty and remove tribalism and factionalism. Brown states, "Much of Xi's campaign has been based on strengthening institutions and procedures, and creating a sense of predictability."

This book relates many of the key factors and historical events that have shaped the worldview of the Chinese, the Party and Xi Jinping. Brown reflects on some of the greatest challenges met by Xi's predecessors and the lessons learned from their very distinct styles of leadership.

He depicts the conditions in which Xi Jinping currently leads the nation. Externally, China is now often at the driving seat of world politics. Internally it is dealing with the new bourgeoisie and market forces. This book considers how socialism has been compelled to modernise and adapt.

Brown expounds the heart of what many in the West see as a somewhat harsh and unbending administration.

He writes, "This is because Xi is the inheritor of the Party's commitment from its very beginning to use whatever means necessary to ensure that China, with its searing history of suffering, victimisation, and colonial bullying at the hands of outsiders, would never return to this state of vulnerability."

Xi's plans to make China great and respected in the World are welcomed by his people. This book looks at how Xi's national rejuvenation and bold and far reaching global policies are achieving this while balancing market forces with state control.

Brown points out that by 2021 when the CPC celebrates its Centenary the historic mission for China to achieve middle income status will have been accomplished.

This book is an essential read for anyone who wants to understand more about the man and the political nature of China. Ultimately the contemporary world

is connected to Xi's success or failure. A man who has obtained the status whereby his very thoughts have been added into China's Constitution. A country that nearly every nation in the world depends on for trade. No doubt China's new position of power is challenging and even threatening. Few can elucidate the current circumstances with as much broad insight and knowledge as Kerry

Brown.

Although religion in China is only briefly mentioned, Brown does give the reader a good overview of the motivation behind Xi's policies toward religion. For someone wanting a broad and comprehensive understanding of Xi Jinping's China this book will be in an indispensable read.

Minorities Update

A National Office Director and regular China visitor writes:

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed

in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" Amen. (Rev. 7:9-10)

We have, over the last 12 months, featured a number of articles about the minority

International Short-Term Teams

- * Cycle
- * Mercy
- * Medical
- * Intercession
- * English Cultural Exchange

August 2018	Medical Team
September 2018	Trekking & Intercession Team
October 2017	Cycle Team; Mercy Team
December 2017	Cultural Exchange Team

people groups of China. The Bonan, the Bai, Wa and the Mang etc.

There is a good reason for this.

A high percentage of missionaries to China have been called to these often isolated people groups. Some have seen spectacular success like the amazing story of JO Frazer and the Lisu people. The fruit of this is obvious today as there are estimated to be over 300,000 Lisu believers out of a total population of around 1 million.

Other minorities like the Muslim Dongxiang, who live in an arid region both geographically and spiritually, have strongly resisted Christianity. Operation China noted that up to the year 2000 “there has never been a single known church or Christian among the Dongxiang.”

But they are a much-loved people – many of our own workers and colleagues have this people group on their hearts and have seen striking miracles that give them great encouragement for the future. Other workers have been drawn strongly to different minority people. Such ministry evokes strong passions. I can never forget the tearful appeal from a Korean missionary colleague - asking me to find workers for his special people – China’s largest minority, the Zhuang. A truly desperate cry from the heart.

Another colleague is so passionate about the Tibetan people that he has

added a clause to his will that his ashes be sprinkled in the mountains of Tibet! Of course, we all hope this is some time away!

Another worker has a deep love for the Dong minority of Southern China. This love affair has led to firstly a mastering of Mandarin but now to a working knowledge of the Dong language itself. A recent team member found himself moved to his very core by a small minority group in the far North West. He will tell you it has changed his life. He cannot speak of his experiences without tears.

Of course, all of us who work in this ministry have a love for the whole nation of China – 91+% of whom are Han Chinese.

But it is the minorities (55 officially excluding Han) but actually 490 according to Operation China, who are under-served in resource and outreach. A number of our own team members in the past have become acquainted with the Maonan people. Whilst they have technology and some autonomy, they do not have the scriptures in their own language. There are just a small number of Maonan converts – way less than 1%. And this is the case for the majority of the minority!

Please join with us in bringing these diverse people before His throne and ask for more workers for the harvest fields of remote China.

Qinghai

Kazakhs

Amongst the official Kazakh Minority Group of China there is a group that differs from other Kazakh communities. The Qinghai Kazakhs live in Qinghai Province and speak a language distinct from China's other Kazakh groups of which the majority live in the Xinjiang Autonomous Region. Although originally from Xinjiang, the Qinghai Kazakhs fled their homeland in the Barikol mountains during a turbulent time in the regions' history.

During the 1930's a warlord named Sheng Shicai ruled in Northern Xinjiang. This Manchurian born leader was affiliated with the Kuomintang but solicited support from his Russian neighbours to secure his power. In return Russia was given access to the region's oil and minerals. With help from the Kremlin Sheng destroyed his enemy's armies and shortly afterwards executed or imprisoned any rivals and dissidents (or prospective dissidents) in the Great Purge of 1936. When Russia found itself under financial pressure from WWII Sheng now requested "donations" of sheep and cattle from his subjects to repay the Kremlin for its ongoing support and to maintain his governance.

In response to the Sheng's Great Purge and the requisitions of their livestock approximately 10, 000 (some estimates say 30,000) Barikol Kazaks, a nomadic



people, fled east to Gansu and Qinghai provinces. Rather than finding refuge there, they were robbed and killed by the local Chinese Muslim warlord Ma Bufang. Ma also encouraged discord between the local Mongolians and Tibetans and the fleeing Kazaks, causing further fighting. Of the masses that left only 135 Kazaks survived.

The descendents of this remnant set down roots and grew in number to reach about 1500 in 1954. In 1963, the prefecture was renamed "Haixi Mongol Tibetan Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture, adding Kazakh to the title in recognition of the growing numbers.

Many lived in a commune near Golmud City where they used to winter. The rest of the year they moved off to seek out pastures for their sheep and goats, horses, cattle and camels, living a semi-nomadic lifestyle in yurts. The Kazakh name means "wanderer". Kazakhs are well known for their horse skills and Qinghai Kazakh's are partial to an alcoholic drink called kumyss made from mare's milk. The bride



price for a wife was often paid in horses.

Despite being known as Sunni Muslims the Qinghai Kazakhs also practice animism and ancestor worship. Without the Qu'ran, teachers and mosques, their Muslim faith became diminished.

In the 1980's a series of events dramatically affected the Kazakh population in Qinghai. China ruled that communes were to be dissolved in 1983 and the nomadic subsistence style of farming the Kazakhs preferred for most of the year was changed to grazing allotments to better protect the pastureland grass species. Also, the newly independent Kazakhstan invited Kazakh people from China to repatriate. China agreed to let them go. But the majority of Qinghai

Kazakhs returned to their original homeland in Xinjiang. Once again, the prefecture was renamed Haixi Mongol and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, removing Kazakh from the title.

But the passion for holding onto their nomadic farming lifestyle was being eroded by the increasing lure of education and medical provision for their children, a warm house and satellite TV. Soon after their departure, in the spring of 1985, some of them re-migrated to the Golmud area of Qinghai, and eventually were helped settle down by the local government in the purpose-built Mahai Village in Haixi Prefecture of Qinghai, while a minority of them moved to Kaiganqi Township of Xinjiang. This made Mahai the only Kazak village of Qinghai, and its population was 484 by April 2014.

Today the Kazaks of Qinghai remain a completely untouched group and have no knowledge whatsoever of Christ or the gospel.



PRAYER POINTERS

The World According To Xi

Pray for better understanding between the East and West

Pray that the Father will surround Xi Jinping with godly and righteous advisors.

Pray that God will soften the heart of Xi Jinping to Christian believers and allow him to see them as a blessing and not a threat.

Thank God for this period of economic growth and stability in China's history.

Pray that God will prepare and raise up a successor to follow Xi that will honour His name.

Minorities Update

Ask God to move in a mighty way in China, the world's most populous nation. Pray for translation work to move forward for the many people groups who have no Bibles.

Pray for more workers to help bring in the harvest – that in the most remote area the name of Jesus will be declared!

Ask God to place one of these minorities on your heart that prayers on their behalf will go up around the world.

Qinghai Kazakhs

Pray that the Kazakh people group that has suffered so terribly finds peace and the ability to forgive those that have mistreated them.

Pray that they can adapt to the times and their changing environment. Pray that they can find meaningful and fulfilling work to replace the loss of their historic nomadic lifestyle.

Pray that the Father will send someone to them to demonstrate his passionate love for them.



PRAYER POINTERS

Weiqi and the Great Commission!

Pray for well thought out strategies that will allow Christians in China to live at peace but all the while advancing the Great Commission.

Pray that local church leaders will be as shrewd as snakes but as innocent as doves.

Pray that as we better understand Chinese culture we will use this knowledge to help present the Gospel and show Christ's love in the most effective way.

Returnee Model

Thank God for the foundation of unity and collaboration in the Returnee Model project.

Ask God to continue to bring his revelation and creativeness to the project.

Pray that the model will be adaptable under the current restricted climate.

Not Singled Out

Pray that the crackdown will not be prolonged.

Thank God that he can use periods of tribulation to refine and strengthen his people.

Pray that God's people will be able to remain good witnesses for him despite the persecution

Pray that God will bless those that stand true to him and his Word.



Chinese Church Support Ministries

Seeking to serve, strengthen
and support the church and
the people of China

Weiqi and the Great Commission!



An ancient and revered book in China is compulsory reading at the US Department of State! The book is surprisingly well known to international politicians and military leaders. Written around 500 BC, it is called “The Art of War” (Sunzi Bingfa) by Sun Tzu - more commonly known in China as Sunzi. The master strategist’s most famous line is well known in the West – “Know the enemy and know yourself, in a hundred battles you will never be in peril”.

Chinese leaders throughout history have developed military strategies based on this book (including recent leaders). The strategy features long term goals, patience, deception and doing the unexpected to unsettle opponents.

One chapter of Sunzi Bingfa, discusses an even older concept known as *shi*.

A high-level US Government Report in 2002 wrote: “There is no Western equivalent to the concept of “*shi*”. Chinese linguists explain it as “the alignment of forces ... that a skilled strategist can exploit to ensure victory over a superior force.”

A key aspect of *shi* is that it needs to be practised and mastered in peacetime. It is always carefully crafted so the end aim is not always clear and obvious.

One way that non-Chinese can gain an understanding of the strategies of *shi* would be to learn to play the classic Chinese board game – the oldest board game in the world called *weiqi*. Played on a square grid with 19 intersecting points along each axis, *weiqi* involves two players taking turns placing white or black stones (all of equal value) on the grid. The goal is to surround and capture enemy stones, dominating the board. A single game can take two days!

The strategies used in the game are being replicated in many current projects and strategies of the PRC. Their great respect for history and culture shape national and international policy. For example, *shi* and *weiqi* principles are evident in China’s massive foreign investment and the One Belt One Road Programme. You could say it can all be seen on the board!

Christians too have a master strategy. It is called the Great Commission. Like *shi*, it dates back thousands of years! Like The Art of War it is seemingly ageless and remains as applicable now as it was when first written down. Other comparisons are striking!

Christians have a long-term goal. Peter wrote:

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

All involved in cross cultural mission know the need for patience. Robert Morrison and Hudson Taylor spent years of fruitless ministry before the floodgates opened!

Jesus knew we would need to have a degree of cunning:

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

Finally, to execute the Great Commission, we often have to do the unexpected. And the message of the gospel is frequently unsettling!

China is a land rooted in culture and long-established strategies. It is incumbent upon all who are called there to understand as much as possible of the cultural complexity that underlies every policy, proclamation and action.

In doing so we too are better prepared to refine our own strategy to proclaim Jesus in China. It has been a long game to date, but patience is producing great fruit in China!

Returnee Model

The opening up of China has given many young Chinese the opportunity to study in foreign countries. Rev. Patrick So, Senior Pastor of EFCC Yanfook Church made the following observation:

“Every year China has several hundred thousand students studying abroad. Among them, quite a number become believers in Christ while overseas. However, unfortunately, when they return to China, less than 20% continue going to church for worship and Bible study. We are losing almost 80% of Christian returnees!”

are failing to meet the needs of these “returnees” the Return to China Partnership (RTCP), together with others, has conducted a study to identify why the losses are so high.

The aim is to help more returnees retain and grow in their faith, integrate into the Chinese Christian community, and serve the Chinese church.

RTCP, heading up his collaboration project, has identified three major issues that impact returnees:

1. Pre-Return Preparation

The purpose of pre-return preparation

In order to help the Chinese Churches, find out where they



is to raise returnees' awareness of the potential problems and conflicts they are likely to face upon their return to their homeland. The aim is to equip Christian believers to cope with the challenges of practicing their faith once they are back home.

After encountering God in a foreign country, the young people often return home to meet problems on many fronts. They may struggle at work, in the family, and with marriage and friendships. Most may not be able to handle the controversies these matters entail or navigate between the world's values and those of Christianity—holding on to their new beliefs. A great number of these new believers fall away as a result.

2. Discipleship training

Discipleship training helps returnee believers develop a deeper relationship with Jesus, gain a better understanding of the in-depth reason for salvation and, for those with a serving heart, be trained to become disciple-makers.

3. Referral systems

Referral Systems are for connecting new returnees to an experienced returnee who is already in the place to which they are to return. This person is able and ready to guide and help them adjust to their new situation, so they can continue to grow in Christ.

To study each of these three issues, RTCP formed three Mini Consultation Committees. They have consulted with a variety of returnee ministries to identify which of their various methods and strategies are returning “critical success factors” in each of the three areas. The knowledge they have collected has been used to construct a model that others can follow.

RTCP facilitated two returnee groups, Group A in 2015, and Group B in 2016. Both groups are being developed according to the model's principles and methods. CCSM will look at the structure of these models in more detail in the next issue.

[From the series 'Key Issues Impacting Returnees', China Source]

Not Singled Out

Like a parent trying to regain control of an unruly teenager, China has begun a period of “tough love” in a bid to rein in their delinquents.... that is all those who have pushed the Chinese Communist Party’s boundaries after a period of relative freedom.

The current stability of China under the China Communist Party (CCP) depends expressly on its ability to maintain undivided control over the vast and diverse nation. In recent times the nation has become more open to the influences of the West and more affluent as a society. Many of the core CCP limits across the political, civil and religious spectrum have become lax. Officials have turned a blind eye to minor infractions and boundaries have become somewhat stretched.

Politicians were lining the pockets of their families, companies were side-stepping environmental and business regulations, schools and universities have become more open to foreign influence, officials were only loosely enforcing regulations, lawyers were taking up civil rights cases against the government,

activists were becoming more outspoken on the internet soapbox and religious organisations were multiplying outside the perimeters of their carefully monitored regulatory confines and a few protests had escalated even to acts of terrorism.

The current crackdown on the church and religion is only one facet of a national bid to reassert CCP control. They have come down hard with a zero-tolerance policy. All Chinese citizens must fall back in line.

For Christians that means only exercising their religion within party restrictions, Bibles cannot be sold online, and many Christian books cannot be sold because they have not been assigned an official IBAN number, groups cannot meet, even for prayer, without the oversight of an authorised leader in an approved location. The list of regulations is extensive.

However, the crackdown is not exclusive to the Church. They are not being singled out. Even so, this does not alleviate the pain and very real suffering they are experiencing.



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