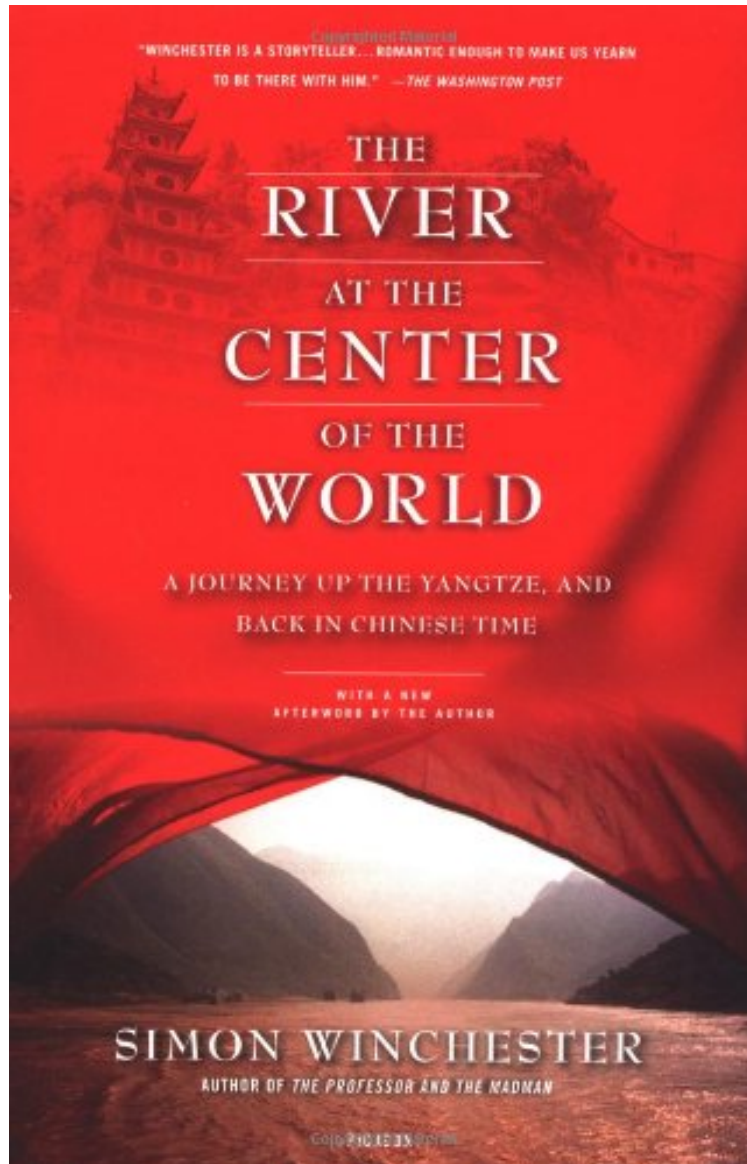


(Download) The River at the Center of the World: A Journey Up the Yangtze, and Back in Chinese Time

The River at the Center of the World: A Journey Up the Yangtze, and Back in Chinese Time

Simon Winchester

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Delighted to receive the pre-loved copy so promptly following my request and order, thank you. This book fulfills all expectations of a truly magnificent addition to my list of favorite reading, - especially as I had only borrowed it from our public Library previously, and very much wanted my own copy, having been advised that it is currently out of print. With China occupying increasing political importance in world affairs, I believe this volume should be included in senior students' curriculum as background information. The author's inimitable style of writing carries the reader so effortlessly (and entertainingly) into the interesting experience of mixing history with current affairs. I would recommend it as The Book for Every Year!
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I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I was in China on Yangtze last October 2015 and this book puts it in perspective for me. Winchester makes history interesting. I could almost smell the River and towns. The maps at the beginning of the chapters let me know the areas of which he was talking about.
Glenis Cislowski

Rising in the mountains of the Tibetan border, the Yangtze River, the symbolic heart of China pierces 3,900 miles of rugged country before debouching into the oily swells of the East China Sea. Connecting China's heartland cities with the volatile coastal giant, Shanghai, it has also historically connected China to the outside world through its nearly one thousand miles of navigable waters. To travel those waters is to travel back in history, to sense the soul of China, and Simon Winchester takes us along with him as he encounters the essence of China--its history and politics, its geography and climate as well as engage in its culture, and its people in remote and almost inaccessible places. *The River at the Center of the World: A Journey Up the Yangtze, and Back in Chinese Time* is travel writing at its best: lively, informative, and thoroughly enchanting.

.com British born author Simon Winchester lived in Hong Kong before setting off on a journey up the Chang Jiang or Yangtze River as it is most often referred to in the West. In *The River at the Center of the World: A Journey Up the Yangtze and Back in Chinese Time*, he chronicles his adventures across China along the 3,964-mile River. Employing nearly every mode of transportation--including boat, train, jeep and shoe leather--Winchester recalls his passionate exploration of the countryside, while providing important and engaging historical information. His recollections of the Chinese people are often less complimentary, as he exudes an air of disgust at the country's apparent disregard for pollution, its awkward modern architecture and decaying historical monuments. From Publishers Weekly "The delicious strangeness of China," as Winchester puts it, is as much the subject of this absorbing account of a personal journey as is the Yangtze River, the third-longest in the world and the entry to China's heartlands. Along its banks, some of the most important events in the country's history have played out, and the river occupies a singular place in the national psyche. In 1994, Winchester followed its course from the East China Sea to Tibet by boat, car, train, plane, bus and foot; but this is more than an ordinary account of a traveler's pilgrimage, although it is a must for any visitor to China. Wryly humorous, gently skeptical, immensely knowledgeable as he wends his way along the 3900 miles of the great river, Winchester provides an irresistible feast of detail about the character of the river itself, the landscape, the cities, villages and people along its banks. Most notably there is Shanghai, once "the most sinful city in the world," now an economic powerhouse rivaling Hong Kong; Wuhan, where the 1910 revolution began that brought Dr. Sun Yat Sen to power and where Mao Ze Dong, at 70, chose to make his famous swim; the Three Gorges, where a great, controversial dam to rival Aswan is being built; and Chongquin, once Chiang Kai-shek's smoggy and furnace-hot capital. Finally, Winchester made his way to the great river's source 15,000 feet high in the mountains of Tibet. A journalist who has written extensively about Asia (*Pacific Rising*; *The Sun Never Sets*) and spent nine years in Hong Kong making frequent visits inland, Winchester is comfortable with the country's long, complex history and politics, and he writes about them with an easy grace that defies the usual picture of China as an enigma wrapped in a conundrum. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal A geographer by training, Winchester, the Asia-Pacific editor of *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine, decided that traveling from the end of the 3,965-mile Yangtze River toward the source would allow him to journey deep into the heart of China. The trip also takes him back in time as he moves from ultramodern coastal cities like Shanghai to the still underdeveloped interior. Along the way, he and a valued Chinese companion-guide, Lily, travel through polluted urban industrial cities, flat plains, and some of the most spectacular mountain scenery in the world. Winchester includes lucid discussions of topics related to geographic areas of the river: a fascinating account of tea in Lushan, once a tea-growing center, and an excellent chapter on the controversial decision, universally condemned by environmentalists, to dam the river and flood, among other things, the scenic Three Gorges. His work is a vivid account of the Yangtze as it will cease to be when the dam is completed. An interesting, informative, well-written account; highly recommended for public and academic libraries. ?Caroline A. Mitchell, Washington, D.C. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.