

The Open Empire A History Of China Through 1600

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embark on an unforgettable time travelling journey through chinese history this beautifully illustrated children s history book spans 2 500 years and more than a thousand miles along

china s grand canal with stunning panoramic illustrations and lively engaging text china through time brings key periods and turning points in the canal s history to life cutaway views show the inside of buildings and introduce children to important places characters and events from humble workers to mighty emperors and from floods and wars to life in bustling ports and modern cities children will also love searching for the mischievous time travelling cat lihua who appears in each of the artworks perfect for parents and children to pore over together china through time makes a gorgeous gift or collector s item fun interactive and packed with details it vividly presents chinese history to children as they have never seen it before

past studies of china have concentrated on specific events or have related a chronological history of the dynastic periods these works have included aspects of cultural history but have underemphasized the country s great social political and intellectual movements and their ultimate expression in the art and literature of the time by focusing on such themes professor michael provides a new framework for understanding the chinese cultural tradition the author describes the evolving history of ideas in china from ancient faith in powerful magic to more modern concepts of a logical moral order of the universe and mankind s place in it he also explores the intellectual ferment following the dawn of the age of reason the integration of buddhism into the confucian social order and the social transformations accompanying the rise and fall of the centralized state throughout he illustrates how the changing society s beliefs values and aesthetic sense were embodied in its art and literature this portrayal of the chinese cultural tradition not only puts chinese history in a new perspective it also illuminates the process through which china constructed a modern society from a non western foundation and serves as an essential tool for understanding modern day china and its prospects for the future

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