

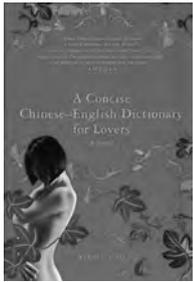
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# RESOURCE LIST | HOLIDAY READING

HRIC's staff and friends have compiled a selection of books published in 2007, in either Chinese or English, for your holiday reading adventures.

## ***A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers: A Novel***

**Guo Xiaolu (September 2007)**



This book follows the development of a young, naïve, and affectionate Chinese woman through the course of her love affair with an older and somewhat flawed English man, while simultaneously charting her growing ability to understand and use the English language. *A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers* includes flashes of humor while at the same time remaining a poignant account of growing up in a strange land. This is a book for anyone who has endeavored to understand a foreign landscape, lover or language.

## ***Selection of Literary Writings from Chinese Writers in Prison*** [ ]

**Huang Heqing and Wang Yiliang, eds. (January 2007)**

A compilation of works from 53 writers who have been imprisoned in China, this book showcases the free spirit, sacrifice, and courage of the authors, including Cheng Xiang, Wang Bingzhang, Zhao Yan, Shi Tao, Yang Tianshui, Liu Shui and Yu Dongyue. The book features poetry, novel excerpts, prose, and political commentary, and includes many pieces written while the authors were in prison. China tops the list of countries in the world with the greatest number of writers in prison. Against such a backdrop, this selection represents the Chinese spirit of resistance.

## ***Homeless Dog: What I Learned from the Analects***

[ ]

**Li Ling (May 2007)**



Based upon Kongzi's original work *The Analects*, *Homeless Dog* reexamines and appraises the life of Kongzi (Confucius). Li demonstrates that in contrast to the image of a "sage" propagated by the emperors of past dynasties and taken for granted by the public, Kongzi came from a

lower-class family background, yet was idealistic and daring enough to criticize the current political situation. While attempting to lobby local governments to adopt his philosophy, he drifted around, destitute and homeless. Following the recent revival of Confucianism on the mainland, memorial ceremonies in honor of Kongzi can be seen everywhere, with some even proposing the institution of Confucianism as the national religion. In the current environment, this provocative book has caused a huge stir but has been favorably received.

## ***The China Fantasy***

**James Mann (February 2007)**



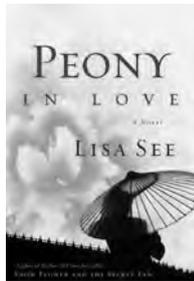
In *The China Fantasy*, Mann (a former Beijing correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*), examines recurring China scenarios advanced by policy elites—the Soothing Scenario (capitalism will bring about rule of law and democracy) and the Upheaval Scenario (growing contra-

dictions will lead to collapse, chaos). He then posits a third scenario (a strong enduring authoritarian regime). However, Mann is not asserting conclusions about China, but a cogent critique of the hidden assumptions, rhetoric, ideological and other investments that (mis)shape U.S. understanding of China and assessments of its engagement policies. He has apparently hit some raw nerves, judging by ongoing debates it is generating among China policymakers and scholars.

**Poems and Tanks [ ]**  
**Meng Lang and Yu Jie, eds. (January 2007)**

This is an anthology of literary writings from the Independent Chinese PEN Center, a writers' association affiliated with the International PEN Center. *Poems and Tanks* contains works from over 100 writers, including poetry, novels, prose and commentaries. While China still lacks press freedom, this publication provides what Chinese literature is currently lacking: "grounding in truth to tell the full story" and "a reflection not only of our current time but the larger view of humanity and morality."

**Peony in Love**  
**Lisa See (June 2007)**



Set in 17th century China, See's newest novel is a coming-of-age love story, a tale steeped in traditions and ritual, a family saga, and a historical narrative of the many Chinese women who sought literacy and freedom during a time of restriction. Fifteen-year-old Peony is the well-educated and cloistered daughter of a wealthy family and is betrothed to a man she has never met. Yet, when Peony attends a performance of the romantic opera, *The Peony Pavilion*, she falls in love with a man in the audience, thus beginning a haunting and vivid tale filled with longing, true love, and poetry.

**Cultural Revolution: Historical Truth and Collective Memory [ ]**  
**Song Yongyi, ed. (March 2007)**



This collection—divided into two volumes and comprised of over a million characters—is a monumental work, both in scope and quality, which features commemorative essays on the Cultural Revolution. Editor Song Yongyi, a renowned Cultural Revolution historian, returned to China from the U.S. in 1999 to conduct research, but was arrested by the Chinese authorities

and charged with espionage. He was later released in 2000. Professor Lin Peirui from Princeton University commented, "This book collects articles reviewing Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution written by Chinese people who have a sense of responsibility to history, national interest, and ethics. Although the Cultural Revolution occurred 40 years ago, these excellent articles can be seen as a starting point and an extremely valuable beginning to its study."

**BOOKS PUBLISHED BY HRIC STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS IN 2007**

**Zhou Enlai, The Last Perfect Revolutionary. Gao Wenqian. Translated by Peter Rand and Lawrence R. Sullivan. (New York: PublicAffairs, 2007).**



This biography is an expanded English version of the banned Chinese best seller, *Wannian Zhou Enlai* [*Zhou Enlai's Later Years*], published by Mirror Books in Hong Kong in 2003. The author is the former official biographer of Zhou Enlai and spent a decade researching his subject in the Chinese Communist Party's secret archives. The result is an inside picture of the Cultural Revolution and a humanized portrait of one of China's most respected leaders.

**Reflections of Leadership: Tung Chee Hwa and Donald Tsang 1997–2007. Christine Loh and Carine Lai. (Hong Kong: Civic Exchange, 2007).**



For a full book review by Jonathan Mirsky, see page 128. The authors compare the political personalities of the two Beijing-backed leaders of Hong Kong and analyze their contributions to the political system of China's wealthiest city.

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***A Thousand Miles of Prison Walls: An Interdisciplinary Analysis of the Contemporary Chinese Labour Camp***

[ ]  
**P. Williams, Wu Yanna (February 2007)**

This book presents a careful theoretical analysis of the history, culture, and social roots of the Reeducation-Through-Labor (RTL) system in China. *A Thousand Miles of Prison Walls* describes the conditions of RTL during Mao Zedong's rule. In analyzing the historical data of memoirs, personal notes, and biographical work, the authors argue that China's labor camps during Mao Zedong's era were worse than the Gulags of the Soviet Union. Supplementing this theory with a large number of illustrations, this book offers a key to the secret world of the RTL system.

***The Inside Story about the Tiananmen Square Massacre***

[ ]  
**Wu Renhua (May 2007)**



This is the first work to date that comprehensively chronicles the entire sequence of events on June 4. The author, a philological scholar, was in Tiananmen Square that night, and witnessed the disturbing scene of tanks rolling over and crushing students. Eighteen years in the making,

this book contains a substantial amount of supporting material and solid analysis. It unveils many inside stories and details that were not previously made public, such as the numbered designation of military units, the commanders' names, and the routes used by the troops to enter the city. It reveals that in the area of Liubukou, a tank rolled back and forth in a bike path, killing 11 students and injuring another 13, all of whom were retreating. Also disclosed are the victims' names and their schools.

***Reading by Critical Thinking: Reading Notes on Modern Chinese History***

[ ]  
**Yang Kuisong (April 2007)**



This book is comprised of literary reviews of volumes on modern Chinese history, including over ten works on modern politics, military history, and diplomacy. Not only does Yang's work provide a pertinent assessment of these books in terms of academic achievement and features, it also questions and identifies each volume's biases, pitfalls, and limitations.

***Flows along Yangtze River under Waning Moon***

[ ]  
**Zhang Yihe (May 2007)**



This is the other great work of Zhang Yihe, the author of *Wangshi Bingburu Yan* [Memories Are Still Vivid]. *Flows along Yangtze River* includes two biographies: the first records the story of Zhang Bojun, who was the author's father, the leader of the Chinese Democratic League, and one of the few "Rightists" who was never rehabilitated. The second is the story of Luo Longji, another famous leader of the Chinese Democratic League, who also never underwent rehabilitation. Zhang's book includes several important historical documents and original pictures.

***Zhao Ziyang: Captive Conversations***

[ ]  
**Zong Fengming (January 2007)**



Zong Fengming, a CPC senior cadre and former consultant for the State Commission on Economic Restructuring, used his role as a "qigong master" to gain access to Zhao Ziyang, who was placed under house arrest after the June 4 crackdown. From 1991 to 2004, Zong Fengming

audio-recorded numerous private conversations with Zhao and then edited them into this volume, which is now an important historical record. Zhao discusses the divergence of the CPC's leadership and policymaking, and includes his assessment of Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping, as well as criticisms of Jiang Zemin and Hu

Jintao. These conversations also include Zhao's review and analysis of the history of communism, Sino-American relations, the Soviet Union, and the issue of Taiwan, creating a comprehensive record of Zhao Ziyang's thinking in his later years.

#### **ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

***Oracle Lake*, Paul Adam (July 2007)**

***The Fourth Sacrifice*, Peter May (February 2007)**

***The Walking Boy*, Lydia Kwa (April 2007)**

***The Russian Concubine*, Kate Furnivall (June 2007)**

***The Thorn of Lion City: A Memoir*, Lucy Lum (New ed. May 2007)**

***Beijing Confidential: A Tale of Comrades Lost and Found*, Jan Wong (October 2007)**

***Confessions: An Innocent Life in Communist China*, Kang Zhengguo (June 2007)**

***Sweet Mandarin*, Helen Tse (February 2007)**

***Inside the Red Mansion*, Oliver August (July 2007)**

***Daughter of Heaven: The True Story of the Only Woman to Become Emperor of China*, Nigel Cawthorne (September 2007)**

***Charm Offensive*, Joshua Kurlantzick (May 2007)**

***Baptism: An English Translation of Xizao*, Yang Jiang (April 2007)**

***Brothers*, Da Chen (June 2007)**

***February Flowers*, Fan Wu (August 2007)**

***Shanghai Tango*, Jin Xing (September 2007)**