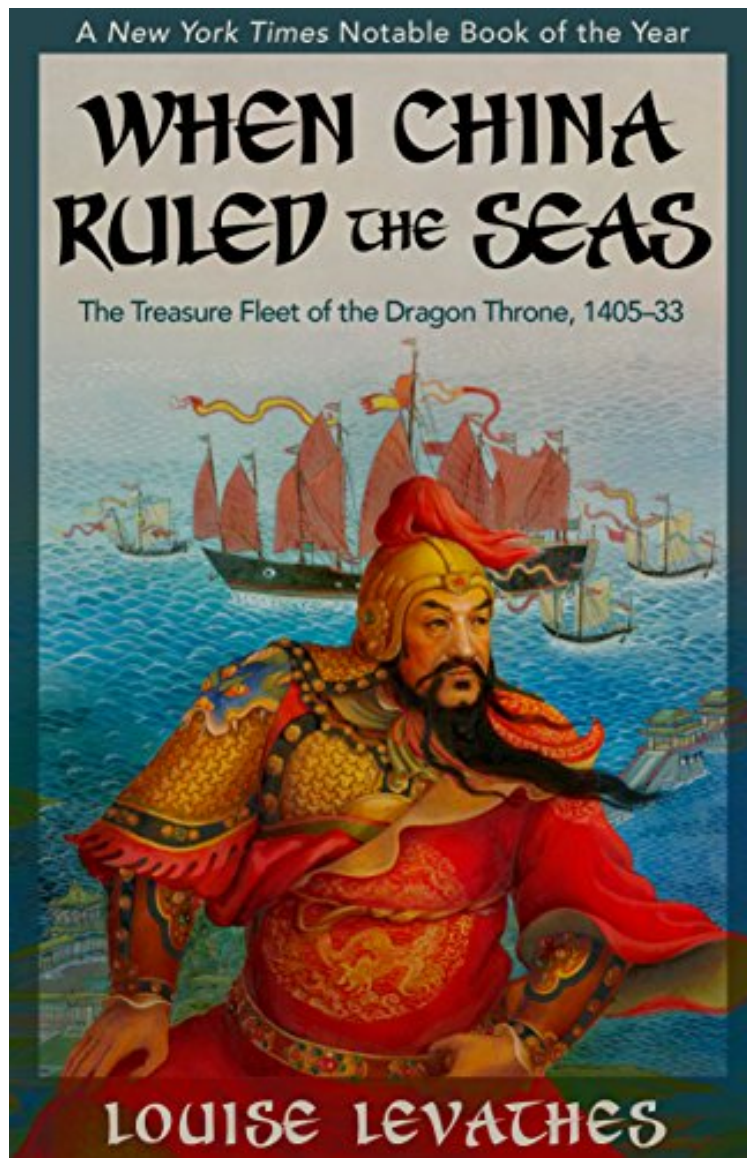


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When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne, 14051433 (English Edition)

Von Louise Levathes

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Von Louise Levathes : **When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne, 14051433 (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne, 14051433 (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen
Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen
 5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Disappointment
 Von Ein Kunde
 I was disappointed in the book. I was hoping to find more firm detail and less (for lack of a better word) salacious details. Unfortunately, I have to place this book alongside other so-called "knowledgeable" books about China, such as Iron and Silk. These are books written as if the person really knows China and will reveal all about this "mysterious" place, but in fact the author places before the reader more "aren't these cool" titillating "facts" rather than hard-and-fast explanations. I call this raising the jade-colored mist. For example, most China scholars would give their eye teeth to be able to explain why China didn't "advance" into the modern technological era. Many scholars spend their whole lives teasing out the details to discover the answer to this question. This author purports to do so definitively in a few hundred pages. Also, perhaps she (and others) might consider that there may be another direction of advancement? Is the West, with America at it's tip, the apex of civilization? Or is it a flash in the pan? China after all has been here much, much longer. I would wait another few hundred years before making the judgement of who failed to "advance." More, many of the "facts" in the book are so broadly painted, so glossed and unsteadily founded (for example, the explanation for the origin of foot binding) that I found it impossible to trust ANYTHING that I read in the book. The book could have been organized better, as well, instead of listing (often) "fact" upon "fact". I found the book therefore a danger to any real understanding of China.
 4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Nichts halbes und nichts ganzes
 Von Hador
 Im 15. Jahrhundert war die chinesische Marine fr etwa 50 Jahre die grte, modernste und vermutlich mchtigste der Welt. Diese, hier in Europa eher unbekannte, Zeitspanne sowie ihre Vor- und Nachgeschichte beleuchtet die Autorin Louise Levathes in diesem Buch. Leider muss ich sagen, dass ich doch recht enttuscht von diesem Buch war. Es fehlt einfach der sprichwrtliche rote Faden. Die Autorin reiht Kapitel an Kapitel, hlt sich aber oft nur sehr grob an chronologische Ablufe und springt innerhalb der einzelnen Kapitel oft wild durch die Gegend. Dies macht es dem Leser teilweise doch sehr schwer dem Text zu folgen. Desweiteren macht das Buch doch einen sehr oberflchlichen Eindruck. So werden die eigentlichen Schiffsreisen der Schatzflotte unter Zheng He oftmals vllig zur Nebensache und werden auf wenigen Seiten abgehandelt. Das geht soweit, dass an einer Stelle des Buches Inger ber die Ursprnge des Ming-Porzellans geredet wird als z.B. ber die 4. Reise von Zheng He. Vielleicht htte sich die Authorin etwas mehr Gedanken machen sollen was eigentlich das Thema ihres Buches sein soll. Vor allem gegen Ende des Buches bekommt man den Eindruck, man habe eine Geschichte der Ming-Dynastie vor sich als eine Geschichte der Schatzflotte und da ist dann eben das Problem, dass man die Ming-Dynastie nicht mal eben in 250 Seiten abhandeln kann. Sicher ist der Versuch lobenswert die Fahrten des Zheng He in den historischen Kontext zu setzen, blo braucht es hierzu eben ein deutlich umfangreicheres Werk. Die Kombination aus fahrigem Schreibstil und recht oberflchlichem Inhalt schaden dem Buch in meinen Augen ganz extrem, daher gibts leider nur 2 Sterne.
 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
A fascinating book I keep re-reading and re-reading
 Von DBryan9@aol.com
 When Europe discovered East Africa they arrived with 3 battered ships about 80 feet long - when the chinese discovered it 300 years EARLIER they brought an armadda of 300 ships, some over 400 feet long, and over 28,000 men. With fascinating tales like these the writer holds your attention on a remarkable civilization that traded with half the world - and then suddenly stopped. This book explains why and covers the history of China over 1000 years, focusing on their trade and the shifting political landscapes of each dynasty. This is one of the most interesting books I've ever read.

Kurzbeschreibung
 One hundred years before Columbus and his fellow Europeans began their voyages of discovery, fleets of giant junks commanded by the eunuch admiral Zheng He and filled with the empires finest porcelains, lacquerware, and silk ventured to the worlds four corners. Seven epic expeditions brought Chinas treasure ships across the China Seas and Indian Ocean, from Japan to the spice island of Indonesia and the Malabar Coast of India, on to the rich ports of the Persian Gulf and down the East African coast, to Chinas El Dorado, and perhaps even to Australia, three hundred years before Captain Cooks landing. It was a time of exploration and expansion, but it ended in a retrenchment so complete that less than a century later, it was a crime to go to sea in a multimasted ship. In *When China Ruled the Seas*, Louise Levathes takes a fascinating and unprecedented look at this dynamic period in Chinas enigmatic history, focusing on the countrys rise as a naval power that briefly brought half the world under its nominal authority. Drawing on eyewitness accounts, official Ming histories, and African, Arab, and Indian sources, many translated for the first time, Levathes brings readers inside Chinas most illustrious scientific and technological era. She sheds new light on the historical and cultural context in which this great civilization thrived, as well as the perception of China by other contemporary cultures. Beautifully illustrated and engagingly written, *When China Ruled the Seas* is the fullest picture yet of the early Ming dynasty the last flowering of Chinese culture before the Manchu invasion.