



Children's Literature in China: From Lu Xun to Mao Zedong (Studies on Modern China)

By Mary Ann Farquhar

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This book introduces the major works and debates in Chinese children's literature within the framework of China's revolution and modernization. It demonstrates that the guiding rationale in children's literature was the political importance of children as the nation's future.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Tracing literature written in China for children from five to 15 from 1919 through 1976, Farquhar demonstrates the importance of politics even in childrens books and the establishment of the child as a political symbol. The literary stages she enumerates include traditional childrens books (tools for classical mnemonic learning), fairy tales, translations of Western childrens literature, revolutionary childrens literature, comic books, and postWorld War II literature, including the childrens book as a cement block of propaganda during the Cultural Revolution, when Farquhar studied literature at Peking University. Farquhar is a thorough researcher and categorizer. The chapter on the evolution of comics from an educational resource to a revolutionary, militant tool for the illiterate illustrates the total power of the state, even where such flimsy publications are concerned. Probably the first serious historical survey of Chinese childrens literature; comparativists are sure to want to read the original works in full.D.E. Perushek, Northwestern Univ. Lib., Evanston, IL
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