

<<宋庆龄传>>

图书基本信息

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内容概要

This is a biography of Soong Ching Ling (Mme. Sun Yatsen). Widow of the historic revolutionary who led in the overthrow of the millennial monarchy in 1911, she was much more. Surviving him through 56 years of perils and triumphs, associated closely with major events and personalities domestic and foreign, she died in 1981 as Honorary President of the People's Republic of China. Truly a great woman of our century. To learn about her is to learn about the times which produced her. The aim of this first extensive biography of Soong Ching Ling in English, writes the author, "is to have the reader meet the subject. Wherever possible, the story is told in her own words, drawn from all available written material, including hundreds of personal letters, the testimony of participants and eyewitnesses and my own recollections over four decades." Brought up in wealth, Soong Ching Ling joined the ranks of the plain and the poor. A patriotic Chinese, she was also bi-cultural, and the English-language reader can experience directly, not through translation, the ringing conviction of her public writings and the warmth and wit of her personal correspondence. Her combination of deep commitment and unusual personal qualities prompted Zhou Enlai to call her "gem of China" and Mao Zedong to describe her as "a phoenix flown out of the Soong family nest." Other tributes came from many quarters, from her fellow students in her U.S. college days to her later acquaintances and associates in various causes -- Jawaharlal Nehru of India, novelist Romain Rolland of France, and many others -- including noted journalists like Edgar Snow and political-military figures like the U.S. General "Vinegar" Joe Stilwell. Her friends were legion. Soong Ching Ling can be said to be an epitome of a modern Chinese, relevant not only to her time but to this generation and perhaps some to come. Since China is a quarter of mankind, this is important to everyone.

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作者简介

Israel Epstein, born in 1915 in Poland, was brought up in China and there began his journalistic work, publishing also in the United States and other countries. His first association with Soong Ching Ling was in 1938-45 in the wartime China Defense League in Hong Kong and Chongqing (Chungking). In 1951 she invited him and his wife, the late Elsie Fairfax-Cholmeley (1905-84), to return from the United States, where they then lived, to help set up the magazine she founded in Beijing, "China Reconstructs" (now "China Today") of which, at Soong Ching Ling's death in 1981, Epstein was editor-in-chief, having, in the meantime, become a citizen of the People's Republic. From the late 1970s, she had asked him several times to write her biography after she died. Following retirement from the magazine, he spent several years in researching and writing this book which appeared on the centenary of Soong Ching Ling's birth.

Previous books by Epstein include *The People's War in China*, London, Victor Gollancz, 1939; *The Unfinished Revolution in China*, Boston, Little Brown, 1947; *From Opium War to Liberation*, Beijing, New World Press, 1956 with subsequent editions in 1964 and 1980 in Beijing and Hong Kong (by Joint Publishing Co); and *Tibet Transformed*, Beijing, New World Press, 1983.

Concerning Soong Ching Ling, he has published a number of articles and lectured at symposia in the United States and Japan.

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书籍目录

AUTHOR'S PREFACE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ANOTE ON TRANSCRIPTION CHAPTER
 Student in America (1908-13) CHAPTER Ancestry and Background CHAPTER
 Return and Marriage (1913-15) CHAPTER Sun Yatsen CHAPTER To Preserve the Republic:
 Shanghai-Guangzhou (1916-22) CHAPTER Guangzhou Transformation (1923-25) CHAPTER
 From Widow to Standard Bearer (1925-27) CHAPTER Wuhan in 1927, Watershed Year CHAPTER
 Moscow (1927-28) CHAPTER In Berlin CHAPTER A Brief, Stormy Return Home (1929) CHAPTER
 Once More in Europe (1929-31) CHAPTER To Save Revolutionaries, Shanghai (1931-34) CHAPTER
 To Rally and Save the Nation, Shanghai (1935-37) CHAPTER War Years in Hong Kong (1937-41) CHAPTER
 War Years in Chongqing (1941-45) CHAPTER Crisis After Victory, Shanghai (1946-49) CHAPTER
 Building the New China (1949-66) CHAPTER "Cultural Revolution" Storm (1966-76) CHAPTER
 Twilight Resurgence (1976-81) NOTES INDEX

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