

<<宋美龄传>>

图书基本信息

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内容概要

To admirers , the wife of the Nationalist dictator of China and later Taiwan was a symbol of resistance to Communist tyranny ; to detractors , she was a crafty “ Dragon Lady ” or a quisling of American imperialism。 In this absorbing biography , Li , a former Taiwan correspondent for the Financial Times , manages a balanced portrait that situates Madame Chiang in an uneasy borderland between East and West。

In her charm offensives to the United States seeking military aid during WWII , the author writes , the glamorous , Wellesley-educated Madame Chiang embodied a modern , Westernizing China that made her “ a perfect focus for America ’ s rescue complex。

” But Li also finds her “ quintessentially Chinese ” in her submissiveness to her husband ’ s authority and ” loyalty to clan and personality over principle。

” Amply conveying her subject ’ s charisma without falling under its spell , Li diagnoses Madame Chiang as a classic “ narcissistic personality ” and critiques her complicity in the Nationalist regime ’ s brutality and corruption and her lavish lifestyle , which alienated China ’ s impoverished masses。

Li is barely adequate at sketching the 105 years of Chinese history Chiang ’ s life spanned , but she offers a well-researched , fluently written assessment of the life and impact of one of the 20th century ’ s iconic figures。 Photos , map。

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