

The Souls of China: The Return of Religion After Mao

Ian Johnson



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The Souls of China: The Return of Religion After Mao Ian Johnson From the Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist: a revelatory portrait of religion in China today—its history, the spiritual traditions of its Eastern and Western faiths, and the ways in which it is influencing China's future.

Following a century of violent antireligious campaigns, China is now awash with new temples, churches, and mosques—as well as cults, sects, and politicians trying to harness religion for their own ends. Driving this explosion of faith is uncertainty—over what it means to be Chinese, and how to live an ethical life in a country that discarded traditional morality a century ago and is still searching for new guideposts. Ian Johnson lived for extended periods with underground church members, rural Daoists, and Buddhist pilgrims. He has distilled these experiences into a cycle of festivals, births, deaths, detentions, and struggle—a great awakening of faith that is shaping the soul of the world's newest superpower.

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