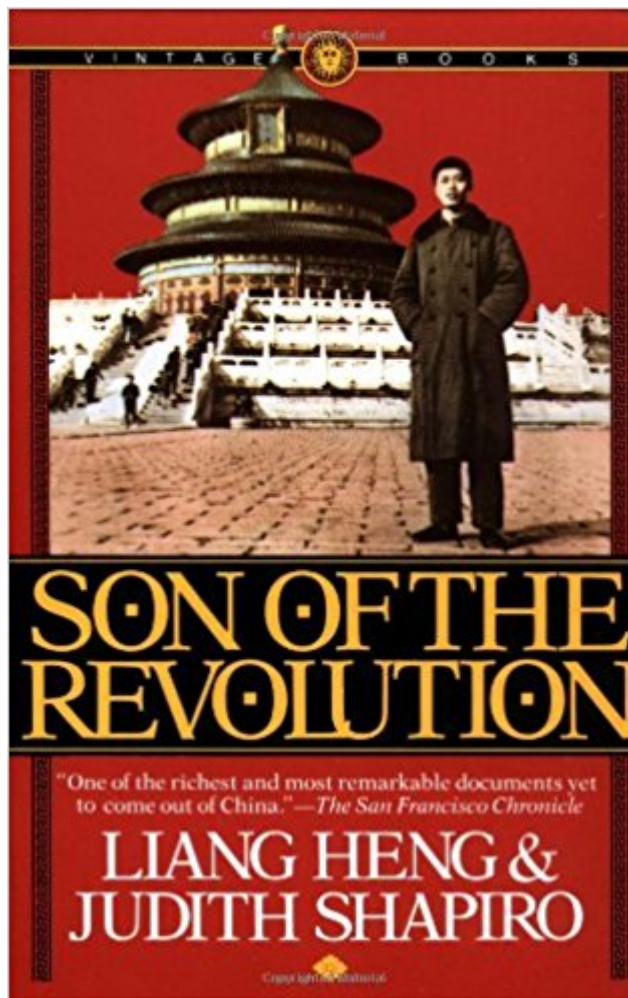


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# Son Of The Revolution



## Synopsis

An autobiography of a young Chinese man whose childhood and adolescence were spent in Mao's China during the Cultural Revolution.

## Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Vintage; 1 edition (February 12, 1984)

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 40 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #38,303 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Asia > China](#) #14 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Chinese](#) #26 in [Books > History > Asia > China](#)

## Customer Reviews

"An Oriental Tom Jones." -- Newsweek  
Liang Heng was born in 1954 in Changsha, a large city in Central China. His parents were intellectuals -- his father a reporter on a major provincial newspaper, his mother a ranking cadre in the local police. This is Liang Heng's own story of growing up in the turmoil of the Great Cultural Revolution. His story is unique, but at the same time it is in many ways typical of those millions of young Chinese who have been tested almost beyond endurance in recent years. In his words we hear an entire generation speaking. "A poignant inside look at what happened to ordinary citizens when the movement that ousted Chiang Kaishek's totalitarianism turned against itself. Liang helps Americans understand the past that China's leaders must overcome to cope with the future." -- The Chicago Sun-Times  
"Three stories in one -- first, a graphic, I-was-there account of what it was like to grow up during the Cultural Revolution; second, a cliffhanger love story with a happy ending; and third, a poignant analysis of how Chinese people have tried and failed, and tried again, to break out of their past. Each of these accounts is worth reading on its own." -- The New York Review of Books  
"A significant event in our understanding of China...compelling, detailed, and devastating." -- The New Republic

An autobiography of a young Chinese man whose childhood and adolescence were spent in Mao's

China during the Cultural Revolution.

This was an excellent book that showed the effects of the 'Cultural Revolution' from the perspective of individuals. The book does not cover the movements in an overall view but keeps with the viewpoint of the individual. I think it would help to have a basic understanding of Chinese history during this era, to fully appreciate what is going on in this more detailed and finer viewpoint. Liang learns of the contradictions in this "socialist" society. He does not demonize the Chinese people but shows how they struggled in creating a new society. There are many powerful images of his personal relationships. The main theme I picked up on was how misguided policies fostered a corrupt culture that was exploited on the ground level, often by people who thought that they were doing what was best for their country.

This book was fascinating and I could hardly put it down. It certainly provided a broad picture of growing up in China during the cultural revolution and all that entailed. I am not a scholar but the book showed me how terrible Communism really is. There is no individualism and the government even monitors your thinking if they can. I can't imagine living in a situation where I would have to watch every word I spoke and everything I did just in case someone turned me in. So sad to see how hard people like the farmers worked and yet they didn't have enough to eat as most everything had to go elsewhere. They were monitored for every little thing. This young man is truly heroic as he has survived. The pain he and his family experienced under this horrible system is unimaginable. Mr. Heng was endowed and is endowed with amazing character, especially given the fact that the people over him tried to tear it down on a daily basis. I can't imagine having the strength of character to survive in this climate. The Chinese are such hard workers. Turn them loose and they work hard and make a living. In this system they weren't allowed to work for themselves at all. Thankfully, this has changed. Let's hope the government eventually becomes more democratic along with the economic freedom that has been gained. Bless Mr. Heng and his wife Judith Shapiro. I look forward to another book.

Very important book for all Americans to read. Find out what socialism is really like. This book is a real life story of the son of parents who rebelled against the Chinese government. It is a page turning biography that explains the phrase "socialism looks good on paper but doesn't work in practice"

Bought this book for a class and really enjoyed it. Well written and gives the reader a good insight into the author's experiences in China.

I loved this book. I had to read it for one of my college classes and wasn't too excited first, but it ended up being one of my favorite memoirs I've ever read. It's very well written and had no trouble keeping my attention throughout. I would definitely recommend this to read, as it will really open your eyes to the real life of someone growing up under Mao.

Understand the MAO revolution as seen through an eyewitness child. I found the human story of how people treat each other profound. I think everyone can learn something from this story.

This is the first such book written in English and let people know what happened during the Cultural revolution.

This is a wonderful book about China's Cultural Revolution, and a must-read for anyone interested in learning more about China.

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