Can China Lead?: Reaching the Limits of Power and Growth
Abrami, Regina M., William C. Kirby and F. Warren McFarlan
Despite China's remarkable economic growth for more than 30 years, it now faces enormous challenges that could shift the country's political and economic trajectory, challenges that are deeply rooted in Chinese history and the country's political system.

How China Escaped the Poverty Trap
Ang, Yuen Yuen
Cornell University Press, 2016
Ang contends that China evolved into the world's second-largest economy through the adaptive strategy of "directed improvisation"—a paradoxical mixture of top-down direction (by Beijing) and bottom-up improvisation (by local governments) within China's single-party state.

Obama and China’s Rise: An Insider’s Account of America’s Asia Strategy
Bader, Jeffrey A.
Brookings Institution Press, 2013
An Insider’s account of the formulation and Implementation of the administration's East Asian policy, dominated by the booming economy, expanding military power and increasing influence over the region of a rising China.

The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State
Economy, Elizabeth C.
Oxford University Press, 2018
A wide-ranging exploration of Xi Jinping's top political, economic and foreign policy priorities and the tensions, shortcomings and successes of his reform efforts and their implications for the rest of the world.

Cracking the China Conundrum: Why Conventional Economic Wisdom is Wrong
Huang, Yukon
Oxford University Press, 2017
China's rise is altering global power relations, reshaping economic debates, and commanding tremendous public attention. This book provides a holistic and contrarian view of China's major economic, political and foreign policy issues.
When China Rules the World: The End of the Western World and the Birth of a New Global Order, 2nd edition
Jacques, Martin
Expanding a book that was published in 2009, Martin Jacques renews his assault on conventional thinking about China's ascendancy, showing how its impact will be as much political and cultural as economic, changing the world as we know it.

China's Water Crisis
Jun, Ma
EastBridge, a non-profit corporation, 2004
A comprehensive, authoritative, and up-to-date source of information on the enormous water resource crisis confronting the Peoples Republic of China.

Asia's Reckoning: China, Japan, and the Fate of U.S. Power in the Pacific Century
McGregor, Richard
Viking, 2017
A history of the combative, military, diplomatic and economic relations among China, Japan and the United States since the 1970s and the potential crisis that awaits them.

Is the American Century Over?
Nye, Joseph S.
Polity, 2015
Despite the tempering of America's superpower status because of its own domestic problems and China's economic boom, Joseph Nye argues that its military, economic and soft power capabilities will continue to outstrip those of its closest rivals for decades to come.

Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China
Osnos, Evan
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015
The clash between the rise of the individual and the Communist Party's struggle to retain control: a battle between aspiration and authoritarianism, in which only one can prevail.

Wealth and Power: China's Long March to the Twenty-first Century
Schell, Orville and John DeLury
Random House, 2013
A panoramic narrative of China's rise that is at once analytical and personal: the examination of the lives of eleven influential officials, writers, activists and leaders whose contributions helped create modern China.
Powerful Patriots: Nationalist Protest in China’s Foreign Relations
Weiss, Jessica Chen
Oxford University Press, 2014
Identification of the diplomatic and domestic factors that drive protest management in authoritarian states and the consequences of actions between 1985 and 2012.

Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Entrepreneurship and the State
Huang, Yasheng
Cambridge University Press, 2008
Clarifies the issues related to China’s economic development and the growing divide between the rich and poor, the urban and rural.

East Asian Studies in the Perspective of Regional Integration
Wu, Xinbo
World Century Publishing Corporation, 2018
Explores the process of regional integration of East Asia as countries in this region experience economic growth and social change.

China’s Next Strategic Advantage: From Imitation to Innovation
Yip, George S. and Bruce McKern
The MIT Press, 2017
China’s move away from the strategy of imitation to one of innovation driven both by domestic needs and global ambition.

Global Security Watch - Japan
Oros, Andrew Lee and Yuki Tatsumi
Praeger, 2010
A comprehensive overview of Japan’s national security institutions and policies.

Recommended Readings - Fiction and Memoirs

Naked Earth
Chang, Eileen
NYRB Classics, 2015
A harrowing tale of perverted ideals, damaged souls, deepest loneliness and terror by one of the greatest and most loved modern Chinese writers.
Mao: The Unknown Story
Chang, Jung
Alfred A. Knopf, 2005
Called the most authoritative life of the Chinese leader ever written.

Mr. China: A Memoir
Clissold, Tim
HarperBusiness, 2006
One reviewer calls Mr. China one man’s coming of age story where he learns to respect and admire the nation he sought to conquer - China.

Nine Continents: A Memoir In and Out of China
Guo, Xiaolu
Grove Press, 2017
The story of a curious mind coming of age in an inhospitable country, and her determination to seek a life beyond the limits of its border.

The Seventh Day: A Novel
Hua, Yu
Anchor, 2016
In a journey through China after his death, the main character movingly traces the contours of this vast nation - its absurdities, its sorrows, and its soul.

The Dark Road: A Novel
Jian, Ma
A novel about the human cost of China’s one-child policy.

Waiting: A Novel
Jin, Ha
Vintage International, 2000
An amazing glimpse into Chinese culture-not only the political landscape, but family relations.
The Vagrants
Li, Yiyun
Random House Trade, 2010
A stunning novel that is at once a picture of life in China in the period after Mao, a universal portrait of human frailty and courage, and a mesmerizing work of art.

The Road to Sleeping Dragon: Learning China from the Ground Up
Meyer, Michael
Bloomsbury USA, 2017
A brilliant portrait of China today and a memoir of coming of age in a country in transition.

Red Sorghum
Yan, Mo
Penguin Books, 1994
A book of love and resistance in China in which fable and history collide to produce fiction that is entirely new-and unforgettable.

Soul Mountain
Xingjian, Gao
HarperCollins Publisher, 2000
This book probes the human soul with an uncommon directness and candor and delights in the freedom of the imagination to expand the notion of the individual self.

China Hands: Nine Decades of Adventure, Espionage and Diplomacy in Asia
Lilley, James R. and Jeffrey Lilley
PublicAffairs, 2005
A memoir of a government career that spanned almost four decades, almost 10 of which were spent in China and South Korea.

Suggested Films

The Chinese Exclusion Act
Trailer:  https://youtu.be/c24vf-3RFGQ
This film sheds a light on the important connections between the Chinese Exclusion Act and the history of American civil liberties, immigration, and culture. By examining the socioeconomic and geo-political forces that led to the Act, the film will uncover its unmistakable and wide-ranging consequences on national attitudes towards race, culture, politics, and society. At its core, this is a film about American identity, tracing the arc of what has defined being American from the time the United States was a fledgling republic through its astronomical rise as a world superpower. It premiered as a special presentation on PBS’ American Experience on May 29, 2018 and is streaming now on PBS.
Mysterious China: China Net - An Economic Miracle
Trailer:  https://vimeo.com/191595296
In less than 40 years, China has lifted more than 700 million of its citizens out of poverty. The Internet is partially responsible for this unique achievement and continues to be a dynamic force in the country’s socioeconomic development. The film tells the stories of many people in China who have found new livelihood through the Internet. The filmmakers met with the top leadership of Microsoft and Nokia, as well as the highest-ranking members in China’s Cyberspace Administration.

The China Hustle
Trailer:  https://youtu.be/55892jT06aI
From the producers of ENRON: THE SMARTEST GUYS IN THE ROOM comes a Wall Street heist story about a still unfolding financial crime so big it has the power to affect all of our wallets. Investors on the fringes of the financial world seek new alternatives for high return investments in the global market and have found a gold mine in China. But when one investor finds a massive web of fraud everything else is called into question. Jed Rothstein’s documentary rings the alarm for the need of transparency in an increasingly deregulated financial world by following those working to uncover the biggest heist you have never heard of.

The Chinese Mayor
Trailer:  https://youtu.be/UQZSvMqQKJI
DATONG follows the life and work of a controversial Chinese Communist Mayor GENG YANBO to tell the story about how he takes a radical reform to demolish 140,000 households and relocate half a million people to give way to restoration of Ancient relic walls in order to adopt a clean economic growth from tourism and culture, which he believes will do good to DA TONG citizen in the long term. With two years in the footsteps of GENG, along with the changing ideology and confrontations from the public, the film is trying to draw a looming shape of future of China.
Lost in the Fumes
Trailer:  https://youtu.be/08ksc1gNPBM
What are the young and beautiful leaders of the enthusiastic street protests after the battle smoke sits? Edward Leung, a charming but mediocre student who spends his last university day on the sports ground, finds himself alive in Occupy Central, the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong. Being political leader overnight, Leung is propelled into a political and electoral process that systematically erodes all his principles, undermines self-confidence, and fundamentally threatens his freedom. The devil hides in very specific and local details. Salvation, however, lies in our universal capacity of self-reflection, change and compassion for our youthful versions.

No Intenso Agora
Trailer:  https://youtu.be/xLpFd1JhzE
A poetic vision of revolutionary upheaval as seen through a personal lens, In the Intense Now chronicles tumultuous events unfolding in the 1960s. From May ’68 in Paris to the Prague Spring, Brazilian filmmaker Salles skillfully weaves newsreel clips together with home movies from his mother’s trip to China during that country’s own Cultural Revolution. In these evocative juxtapositions, the film presents an immersive impression of political rebellion and its discontents.

Lady of the Harbour
Trailer:  https://youtu.be/fuBbPkVFb10
Feature length documentary by director Sean Wang about how the Chinese who came to Greece 30 years ago as refugees deal with refugee problem now.
Plastic China
Trailer:  https://www.imdb.com/title/tt6090264/videoplayer/vi1198372377?ref_=tt_ov_vi
Plastic China is an urgent look at issues of equity, waste, and the environment through the story of a Chinese family that works and lives in a plastic recycling factory that takes in waste from the Western world.

Waiting for the Sun
Trailer:  https://vimeo.com/205572224
In China more people are on death row than the rest of the world combined. The children of the convicts are often left alone, stigmatized and living in the streets. Some of these abandoned kids however do find a place they can temporarily call home. Grandma Zhang, as the kids call her, is a former prison guard who has founded an orphanage in Nanzhao. Here they learn to live a life without parents and prepare for the outside world, to prove the misconceptions about them wrong. We learn to understand the climate and the political issues of the Chinese system through Grandma Zhang, but the main stories of loss, shame, and hope are told through the children.