

The Genius of China: 3,000 Years of Science, Discovery, and Invention

By Robert Temple

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The Genius of China: 3,000 Years of Science, Discovery, and Invention By Robert Temple

Revised, full-color illustrated edition of the multi-award-winning, international bestseller that charts the unparalleled and astounding achievement of ancient China

- Brings to life one hundred Chinese “firsts” in the fields of agriculture, astronomy, engineering, mathematics, medicine, music, technology, and warfare
- Based on the definitive work of the world’s most famous Sinologist, Joseph Needham (1900-1995), author of *Science and Civilisation in China*
- Organized by field, invention, and discovery for ease of reference

Undisputed masters of invention and discovery for 3,000 years, the ancient Chinese were the first to discover the solar wind and the circulation of the blood and even to isolate sex hormones. From the suspension bridge and the seismograph to deep drilling for natural gas, the iron plough, and the parachute, ancient China’s contributions in the fields of engineering, medicine, technology, mathematics, science, transportation, warfare, and music helped inspire the European agricultural and industrial revolutions.

Since its original publication, *The Genius of China* has won five literary awards in America and been translated into 43 languages. Its Chinese edition, *The Spirit of Chinese Invention*, was approved by the Chinese Ministry of Education for use in connection with the national secondary curriculum in China. Based on the immense, authoritative scholarship of the late Joseph Needham, the world’s foremost scholar of Chinese science, and including a foreword by him, this revised full-color illustrated edition brings to life the spirit and excitement of the unparalleled achievements of ancient China.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Needham, the foremost Western historian of Chinese science, has written 15 volumes of his projected 25-volume Science and Civilisation in China series initiated in 1954. This immense, authoritative work has long needed distillation for the general reader, and British writer Temple impressively accomplishes the task here. Beautifully illustrated, the book describes some 5000 years of Chinese science, discovery and invention from agriculture, astronomy and engineering through industrial technology, medicine, math and music, up to, in an ironic closing chapter, the Chinese genius in warfare, including ancient Chinese usage of mustard gas, gunpowder and rockets. The book is an exhilarating celebration of historic achievements, the breadth of which will astonish the general reader. BOMC alternate; Macmillan Book Club selection.

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Review

" . . . richly illustrative narrative utilizing facsimiles of historical script and beautifully done photography. . . . a rigorous, but pleasurable intellectual endeavor without the trappings of tedious academic script. Fully referenced and loaded with facts . . . " (

Robert Figler, Ph.D., *Journal of Asian Martial Arts*,
Vol. 17, No. 3)

"These days, we Americans would do well to understand the Chinese as thoroughly as we can; this book is a good starting point in beginning to understand that before 'we discovered' the Orient, it was doing fine without us and our primitive technologies." (

Curled Up with a Good Book, Dec 2007)

" . . . a must-have for history buffs and anyone who is interested in the rich and diverse contributions of ancient China to the modern world." (

Vision Magazine, Feb 2008)

" . . . a top pick for any college-level collection strong in Chinese history and culture, offering a revised full-color edition that brings to life elements of ancient Chinese history." (

The Midwest Book Review, Mar 2008)

From the Publisher

It is one of the ironies of history that the Chinese, who had all the ingredients for modern science long before the Renaissance, failed to build on their immense knowledge. Today, very few people are aware of the vast body of Chinese invention. The suspension bridge, the fishing reel, the stirrup, the parachute, paper money, playing cards, the decimal system, the seismograph, negative numbers, brandy, rudders, cranks, movable type, matches, steroids as drugs, propellers, biological pest control—all these and many more were Chinese inventions. Based on the peerless scholarship of Dr. Joseph Needham, the world's foremost authority on Chinese science, this volume traces the stunning achievements of ancient and medieval China.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eric Graves:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information presently can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even an issue. What people must be consider any time those information which is inside former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen within you if you take The Genius of China: 3,000 Years of Science, Discovery, and Invention as the daily resource information.

Jerome Chisolm:

The actual book The Genius of China: 3,000 Years of Science, Discovery, and Invention has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was compiled by the very famous author. McDougal makes some research ahead of write this book. This particular book very easy to read you can find the point easily after looking over this book.

Jill Williams:

This The Genius of China: 3,000 Years of Science, Discovery, and Invention is great book for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. This book reveal it info accurately using great manage word or we can say no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but tricky core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having The Genius of China: 3,000 Years of Science, Discovery, and Invention in your hand like finding the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no book that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen small right but this book already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt which?

Brandon Gentry:

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