# China's Leaders From Mao to Now: A Comprehensive Guide to the People Who Shaped the World's Superpower

China's Leaders: From Mao to Now by Jacqueline Winspear

DAVID SHAMBAUGH
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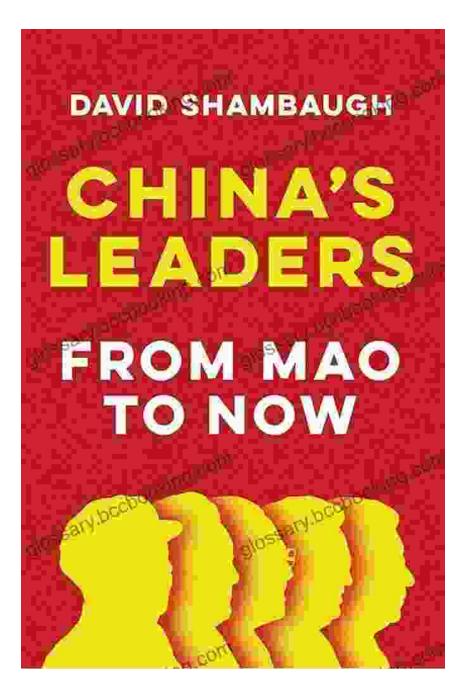
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China has emerged as one of the most influential countries in the world, and its leaders have played a significant role in shaping its destiny. From Mao Zedong to Xi Jinping, these leaders have guided China through periods of great change and transformation.

This comprehensive guide provides an in-depth look at the lives and careers of the leaders who have led China from the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 to the present day.

#### Mao Zedong (1893-1976)



Mao Zedong was the founding father of the People's Republic of China and its first leader. He led the Communist Party of China to victory in the Chinese Civil War and established the new government in 1949.

Mao's policies were instrumental in shaping China's development during his tenure as leader. He implemented a series of economic and social reforms, including the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. Mao's legacy is complex and controversial. He is credited with leading China to independence and modernization, but his policies also resulted in widespread famine and political turmoil.

#### Deng Xiaoping (1904-1997)



Deng Xiaoping was the leader of China from 1978 to 1992. He is credited with initiating the economic reforms that transformed China into a global

economic powerhouse.

Deng's policies, known as "reform and opening up," included market reforms, foreign investment, and the establishment of special economic zones.

Deng's reforms led to a period of rapid economic growth and prosperity in China. He is also credited with improving relations with the West and playing a key role in the reunification of Hong Kong and Macau.

#### Jiang Zemin (1926-)

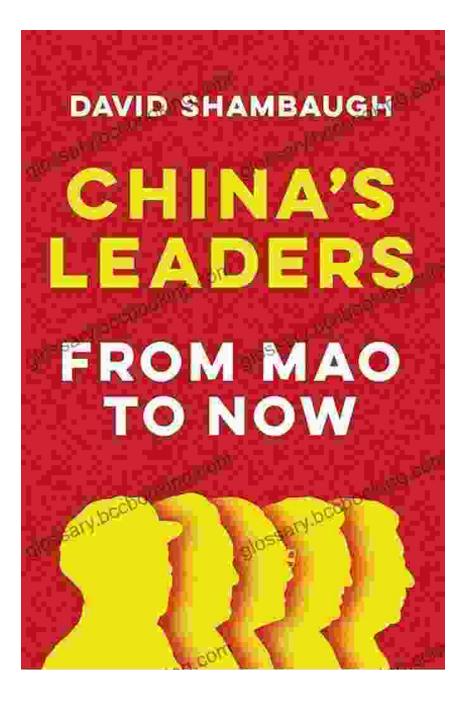


Jiang Zemin was the leader of China from 1993 to 2003. He continued Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms and oversaw a period of sustained economic growth.

Jiang also played a key role in China's accession to the World Trade Organization and worked to improve relations with the United States.

During Jiang's tenure, China also experienced a number of social and political changes, including the rise of the internet and greater freedom of speech.

#### Hu Jintao (1942-)

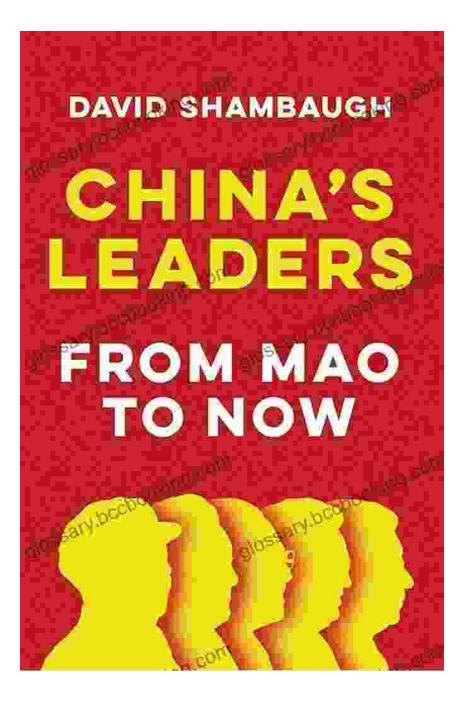


Hu Jintao was the leader of China from 2003 to 2013. He continued Jiang Zemin's policies of economic liberalization and globalization.

Hu also focused on promoting social equity and environmental sustainability. He introduced a number of policies to address income inequality and reduce pollution.

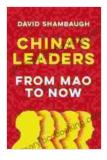
During Hu's tenure, China also became a major player in global affairs. He played a key role in the global response to the 2008 financial crisis and worked to strengthen relations with other countries.

### Xi Jinping (1953-)



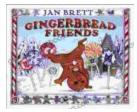
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