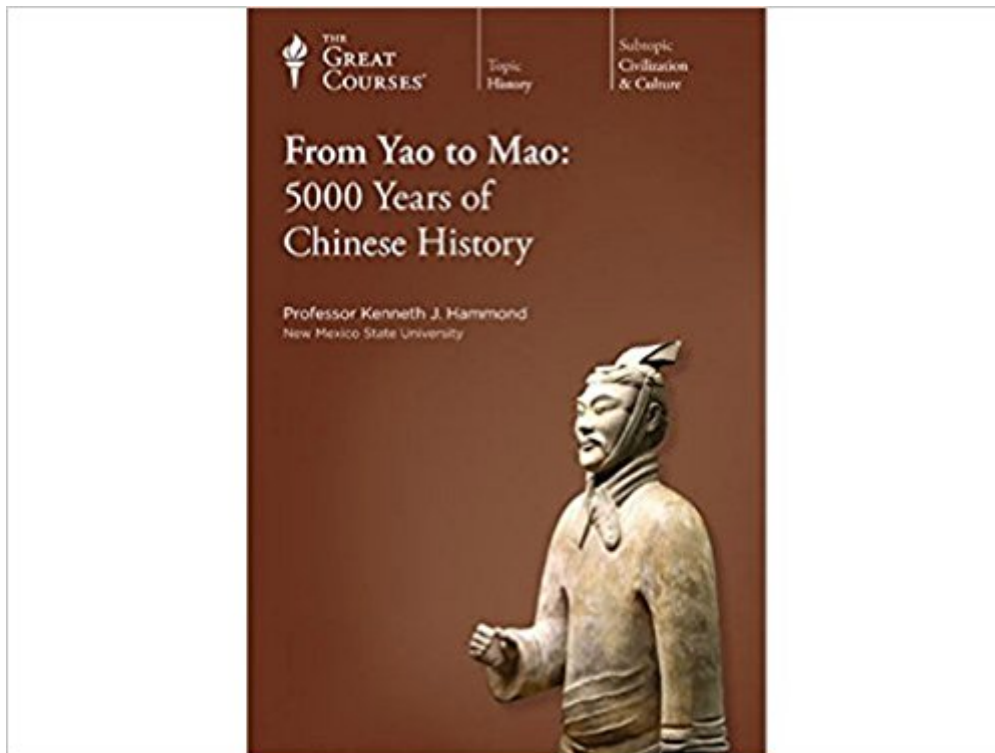




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# From Yao To Mao: 5000 Years Of Chinese History



## Synopsis

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## Customer Reviews

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Overall, these are very good lectures. The first few lectures are a little dry. I got the impression that there was not a lot of good background material to utilize for these beginning lectures, but they were included anyway with perhaps more attempt at depth than was needed. As the series progressed, they consistently got better. The professor does a great job throughout the lectures of showing the Chinese mindset of what imperial power and responsibility meant.

History of China1. Geography and Archaeology2. The First Dynasties3. The Zhou Conquest4. Fragmentation and Social Change5. Confucianism and Daoism6. The Hundred Schools7. The Early Han Dynasty8. Later Han and the Three Kingdoms9. Buddhism10. Northern and Southern Dynasties11. Sui Reunification and the Rise of the Tang12. The Early Tang Dynasty13. Han Yu and the Late Tang14. Five Dynasties and the Song Founding15. Intellectual Ferment in the 11th Century16. Art and the Way17. Conquest States in the North18. Economy and Society in Southern Song19. Zhu Xi and Neo-Confucianism20. The Rise of the Mongols21. The Yuan Dynasty22. The Rise of the Ming23. The Ming Golden Age24. Gridlock and Crisis25. The Rise of the Manchus26. Kangxi to Qianlong27. The Coming of the West28. Threats from Within and Without29. The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom30. Efforts at Reform31. The Fall of the Empire32. The New Culture Movement and May 4th33. The Chinese Communists, 1921-193734. War and Revolution35. China Under Mao36. China and the World in a New Century

"In the construction of a country, it is not the practical workers but the idealists and planners that are difficult to find."

• Sun Yat-senI really enjoyed this Great Course. Professor Kenneth J. Hammond from New Mexico State makes this 5,000 year history of China come alive. It helped me to begin to understand the difference in cultures between the western world and the east. It also helped me to see that because I was brought up in a democracy/republic that all nations may not want that kind of government. I was surprised to learn that under Communism women had more rights than they had previously and as capitalism grabs hold of China, women's rights are disappearing. I also found it interesting to learn why the students were protesting in Tiananmen Square and the eventual outcome of that protest. I also found intriguing the family dynasties that ruled China over the years and the Mongols taking control under the Khans when Marco Polo

visited. I was disgusted to find Great Britain as the biggest drug cartel in history and how they pushed opium on the Chinese people in order to have an advantage in trading in silver with them. In America we learn little of Chinese history and these classes are about thirty minutes in length which is perfect for a little at a time. This took me a long time to finish but I feel I have a better understanding of the Chinese people and history thanks to Prof. Hammond.

As far as the great courses go, I thought no this is me is pretty good. It's a massive endeavor to cover 5000 years of history in the same amount of time that most cover a few centuries. Full marks for providing a comprehensive yet necessarily cursory review of Chinese civilization. I am not a student of Chinese history/politics or culture but I found this course to be very approachable considering the subject matter. To address some of the criticisms left by other reviewers, I think most of them are unfair. The man is not Abraham Lincoln. He is not the great orator. However I found his lectures to be on par with many academics I have taken courses from either in person or listened to in similar formats. There was no damning confrontation of Mao's legacy. But I, in no way, felt there was any kind of tacit endorsement or excusal for the fact that Mao was a murderous psychopath. I was shocked to read that critique. His pronunciation is probably bad. I have no idea. Though this does seem to be an odd trend I have found from at least 3 other great course lecturers in areas where I was familiar with the subject language. As a fan of linguistics, this is rather irksome.

Hammond's summary of Chinese history is useful, if a little dry. Yes, his pronunciation of Chinese is poor, but that is unimportant for most listeners. Having said that, he runs into real trouble in explaining two epic disasters: the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. He seems to think that Mao had the right idea and that these failures were the work of subordinates. Nothing could be farther from the truth. If people lied to the Chairman, it was because he refused to accept anything but lies. Mao was a monster and Hammond makes a huge mistake by trying to rescue his reputation.

The lectures sound like a long reading of a factbook. There is hardly any theme or analysis of events for their implications on the society. Anything that is remotely interesting for the lecturer is given at least a soundbyte and given the tape-time restrictions of the era (exactly 30 minutes for each lecture), even absolutely momentous events like Kublai reign, Boxer Rebellion or Cultural Revolutions are also "revealed" over a time span of less than five minutes. There are many chapters

in between with such rapidly moving events that they appear like someone is simply reading some index card or table of content. On the positive side, the discussions are richer for the early era dynasties.

Brilliant! I love this audio book. I'm listening to it on my way to work and it's captivating. I love the stories. The period of warring states, for example, is wonderful. I immediately realized that I was listening to the real history behind the fantastic movie Hero starring Jet

Li.[http://www..com/Hero-English-Subtitled-Jet-Li/dp/B00742BVW8/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1426690441&sr=8-1&keywords=Jet+Li+hero](http://www..com/Hero-English-Subtitled-Jet-Li/dp/B00742BVW8/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1426690441&sr=8-1&keywords=Jet+Li+hero) There are so many great and amazing, almost mythical stories in the history of China and many of them have been set to brilliant cinematic life. Red Cliff is another example of a brilliant, almost fairy tale story, but it's real! And the facts and people are here in this audio

book.[http://www..com/Red-Cliff-International-Version-Blu-ray/dp/B0030A6ID0/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=movies-tv&ie=UTF8&qid=1426690532&sr=1-1&keywords=red+chinese+history](http://www..com/Red-Cliff-International-Version-Blu-ray/dp/B0030A6ID0/ref=sr_1_1?s=movies-tv&ie=UTF8&qid=1426690532&sr=1-1&keywords=red+chinese+history) This book is an exciting read. Truly marvelous.

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