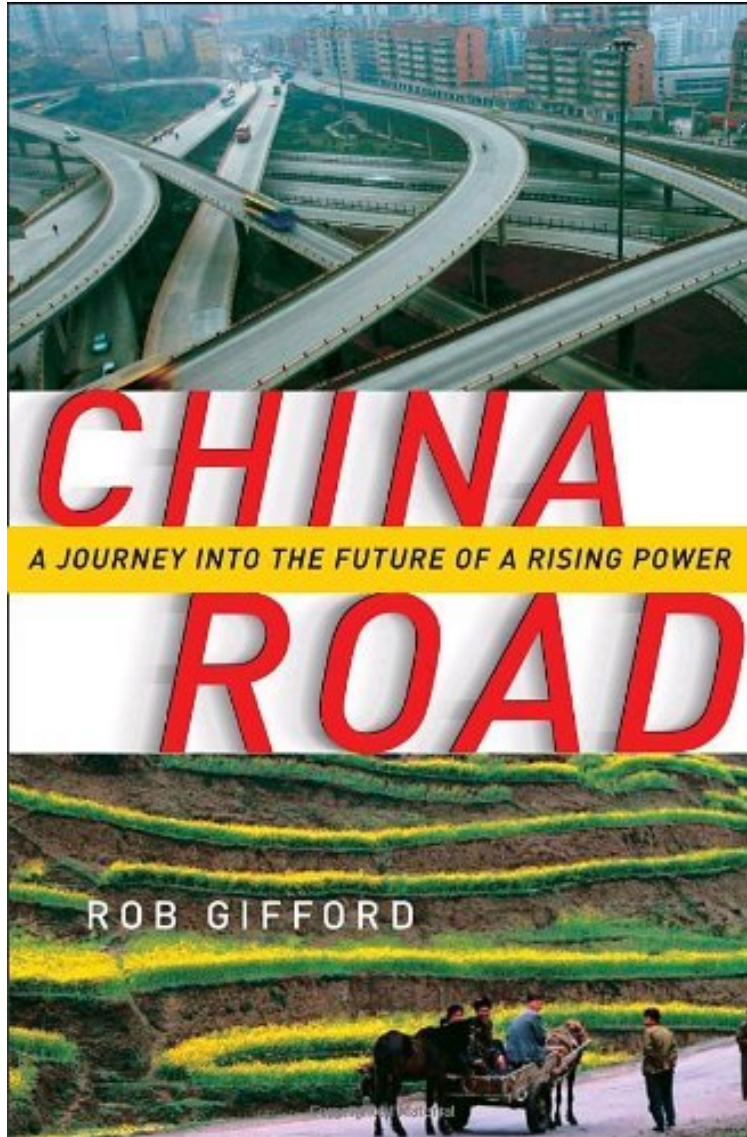


# China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power

*Rob Gifford*

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**Rob Gifford : China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. grateful for having read this bookBy James BlairRob takes a risk in exploring many complex issues with an honest view. He does his best to reflect views of the many Chinese people he has met along the way and clearly loves. Here is the risk: he may never see this book released inside China nor be allowed to visit again.Both would be tragic. China is important because 1.3 billion people are important as Rob shares.For the majority of us who will never live in China this is a fascinating read. For all of us whose lives are

intersecting with Chinese throughout the world, we can pray that modern China opens peacefully. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. China from one side to the other By Kid Kyoto NPR reporter Robert Grifford travels the length of China overland meeting interesting people and seeing the sharp contrasts in this emerging power. From the ultra-modern skyscrapers of Shanghai to farms unchanged in centuries Grifford seeks out the state of modern China in each. Grifford's style is clear and patient, he explains the history and background of each destination and even a pronunciation guide for Chinese names. Both neophytes and veteran China scholars will find things of interest. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Still up to date By BW This book was written a number of years ago, (pre-Olympics) but I read it last month while traveling through China and I felt that it was really helpful and still very accurate about what I was experiencing. It was nice to have some background information and to see whether the author's predictions had come true. Generally, yes! The author interviewed lots of "average" Chinese as he crossed China. I think that Chinese are generally more open now about their personal opinions than what he experienced, but his observations reinforced many of the situations that I came into contact with. I highly recommend this book, especially if you are going toward Xian, Yunnan province, etc.

Route 312 is the Chinese Route 66. It flows three thousand miles from east to west, passing through the factory towns of the coastal areas, through the rural heart of China, then up into the Gobi Desert, where it merges with the Old Silk Road. The highway witnesses every part of the social and economic revolution that is turning China upside down. In this utterly surprising and deeply personal book, acclaimed National Public Radio reporter Rob Gifford, a fluent Mandarin speaker, takes the dramatic journey along Route 312 from its start in the boomtown of Shanghai to its end on the border with Kazakhstan. Gifford reveals the rich mosaic of modern Chinese life in all its contradictions, as he poses the crucial questions that all of us are asking about China: Will it really be the next global superpower? Is it as solid and as powerful as it looks from the outside? And who are the ordinary Chinese people, to whom the twenty-first century is supposed to belong? Gifford is not alone on his journey. The largest migration in human history is taking place along highways such as Route 312, as tens of millions of people leave their homes in search of work. He sees signs of the booming urban economy everywhere, but he also uncovers many of the country's frailties, and some of the deep-seated problems that could derail China's rise. The whole compelling adventure is told through the cast of colorful characters Gifford meets: garrulous talk-show hosts and ambitious yuppies, impoverished peasants and tragic prostitutes, cell-phone salesmen, AIDS patients, and Tibetan monks. He rides with members of a Shanghai jeep club, hitchhikes across the Gobi desert, and sings karaoke with migrant workers at truck stops along the way. As he recounts his travels along Route 312, Rob Gifford gives a face to what has historically, for Westerners, been a faceless country and breathes life into a nation that is so often reduced to economic statistics. Finally, he sounds a warning that all is not well in the Chinese heartlands, that serious problems lie ahead, and that the future of the West has become inextricably linked with the fate of 1.3 billion Chinese people. "Informative, delightful, and powerfully moving . . . Rob Gifford's acute powers of observation, his sense of humor and adventure, and his determination to explore the wrenching dilemmas of China's explosive development open readers' eyes and reward their minds." —Robert A. Kapp, president, U.S.-China Business Council, 1994-2004 From the Hardcover edition.