

Chapters Four and Five analyse the railway's role in the increase of cash cropping, migration, famine relief and industry. Although he demonstrates that the spread of cotton, tobacco and sesame cultivation along the line was simultaneous with construction, Chang is understandably inconclusive as to whether this was beneficial for the peasant. The Beijing–Hankou Railway does not figure as significantly in the massive peasant migrations to the North-east or to Tianjin and Beijing as one might have expected. From reports of famine in Shaanxi and Shanxi during 1877–78 and 1920–21, Chang concludes that the railways did help alleviate suffering. The local coal industry expanded up to the removal of special pricing for rail shipments in February 1927. Afterwards local mines were unable to compete with coal shipped via the Chang Jiang as far inland as Chongqing. The railway provided some linkage effects through the local purchase of rails, coal and small machinery. Yet linkages were relatively weak because of the strength of foreign expertise, lack of government support, and cheap labour which discouraged mechanization.

At times Chang seems to digress into other questions, such as the ability of cities to absorb rural in-migrants. Such questions, if they are raised, should be developed more fully. Hopefully the author will attempt to analyse the Beijing–Hankou line's function within China's transport network and take up some of the discussions raised briefly in a future work. The lack of French language sources is regrettable in a study of a railway largely built with Belgian and French assistance. The English and Japanese literature, in contrast, is covered very well. A map of places mentioned in the text would have been helpful. Putting aside these minor flaws and the first chapter on methodology, this is a well-documented, concise study of the Beijing–Hankou Railway from its completion to the Japanese invasion.

RICHARD LOUIS EDMONDS

*Zhongguo "wenge" shinian shi (A History of the Ten Years of the Cultural Revolution of China).* By YAN JIAQI and GAO GAO. [Hong Kong: China Research Publishing House, 1986. 681 pp.]

In 1966 Mao Zedong personally led an unprecedented political movement known as the Cultural Revolution, which eventually became the most violent and destructive campaign in the history of the People's Republic since its founding in Beijing in 1949. Millions of people became its victims and thousands of leaders at various levels were purged. Few studies of its history and impact have, however, been published. Now, thanks to two researchers at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Yan Jiaqi and Gao Gao, a comprehensive account of the major events during the 10-year movement has become available.

The book, largely written from the official communist point of view, is not really a history of the Cultural Revolution in the western sense of the term; rather, it is a collection of information put together with little historical analysis or interpretation. The authors utilized mostly official sources, such as *People's Daily*, *Red Flag*, *Liberation Army Daily*, and other official publications as well as memoirs of top

Chinese leaders, without a thorough evaluation of these sources. With little documentation, the book cannot be accepted as a reliable scholarly study. The authors, who have adopted an “inside story” approach to summarize the major events during the 10-year period, have shed little new light on the Cultural Revolution; they fail to go beyond what is already known about the roles played by Mao and Zhao Enlai despite the book’s extensive information.

The book, in spite of its obvious flaws and problems, remains the first and only comprehensive account of Cultural Revolution. Its extensive information, if used with scholarly caution and judgment, should be a valuable reference source on the Cultural Revolution.

WINSTON L. Y. YANG

*China – Torture and Ill-treatment of Prisoners.* Compiled by Amnesty International. [London: Amnesty International Publications, 1987. 46 pp.]

The appearance of a further Amnesty International Report on China is hardly a matter for celebration. The Report focuses on one particular aspect of the work of AI – torture and the ill-treatment of prisoners – and highlights how poor is China’s record on the protection of human rights.

This Report differs in one major respect from the two most recent major AI publications on China (“Political Imprisonment” in 1978, and “Violations of Human Rights” in 1984). The difference is that this Report appears to be running in line with a campaign by the Chinese Government to stamp out the abuses dealt with in the Report: in that respect, one might expect the government to accept many of the recommendations it contains. In the past, however, the government has not responded to AI criticisms.

As part of the Chinese campaign against illegal torture and detention, articles have appeared in the Chinese press giving examples of these abuses and discussing the treatment of the officials involved. This Report draws heavily on these Chinese sources, and to a lesser extent on eye-witness accounts and other sources. This raises the question of the extent to which reliance can be placed upon sources which have been officially approved for publication. It also raises the question of whether the reported cases are only the tip of a much larger iceberg, including cases which the Chinese authorities would not wish to see publicized.

The Report covers a field wider than torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, looking at different forms of detention and the handling of complaints against the public security service and other officials. There is also a useful summary of recommendations, together with a guide to the Chinese sources used in the preparation of the Report.

PHILIP BAKER