

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Tale Of Emperor Whose Ineptitude Ended His Dynasty Unnerves Chinese Censors](#)

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Tweet: A reprint of a history of “an emperor who ran his realm into the ground before committing suicide nearly 400 years ago” has disappeared from bookstores in China and is being censored on social media like Weibo.

Summary: A Chinese reprint of a book about an emperor who ran his realm into the ground before committing suicide nearly 400 years ago has abruptly disappeared from book shelves in China and searches for it have been censored online. The Book Chongzhen: the Diligent Emperor of a Failed Dynasty, republished last month, recounts how the last emperor of the 1368-1644 Ming dynasty purged senior officials and mismanaged his kingdom before finally hanging himself on a tree outside the Forbidden City as rebels closed in on Beijing. The blurb on the book’s cover declares that the harder Chongzhen worked, the faster he brought about the collapse of the empire. “A series of foolish measures [and] every step a mistake, the more diligent [he was] the faster the downfall,” it says. The disappearance of a reprint of a previously published book, which would have been vetted by state propagandists before publication, is not common, publishers say. Related: As China Ramps Up Scrutiny of Culture, the Show Does Not Go On and China’s Defeated Youth and The Root of China’s Growing Youth Unemployment Crisis

Primary Topic: China

Topics: China, News article, Security

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