

maoism a global history

Maoism: A Global History

maoism a global history unfolds as a fascinating journey through the evolution of a revolutionary ideology that transcended the borders of China to influence political movements worldwide. Often misunderstood or reduced to a mere footnote in Cold War narratives, Maoism represents a unique blend of Marxist-Leninist thought tailored to agrarian societies and radical grassroots mobilization. Exploring Maoism's global history offers rich insights into how ideas travel, adapt, and ignite social change far beyond their place of origin.

The Origins and Core Principles of Maoism

To understand maoism a global history, it's essential first to grasp its foundational elements. Emerging from the revolutionary struggles in early 20th-century China, Mao Zedong's interpretation of communism diverged from classical Marxist doctrine, emphasizing the role of the peasantry rather than the urban proletariat as the primary revolutionary force. This was a pivotal shift, considering the vast rural population of China at the time.

Maoism centers around several key principles:

- **People's War:** A protracted struggle led by peasants encircling cities, emphasizing guerrilla warfare.
- **Mass Line:** A method of leadership that involves consulting the masses, interpreting their suggestions within Marxist theory, and then implementing policies.
- **Continuous Revolution:** The idea that class struggle continues even after the proletariat seizes power, as exemplified by the Cultural Revolution.

These concepts combined to form a revolutionary doctrine that was not only about seizing power but about transforming society fundamentally and continuously.

Expansion Beyond China: Maoism's Global Footprint

While Maoism was deeply rooted in China's socio-political context, its influence rippled across continents. The global history of Maoism is marked by its adaptation to diverse political landscapes and struggles, from Asia to Latin America, and even parts of Africa.

Maoism in South Asia

One of the most prominent examples of maoism's global reach is its impact on South Asia, particularly in Nepal and India. In Nepal, the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) led a decade-long insurgency beginning in the 1990s that culminated in the abolition of the monarchy and the establishment of a federal democratic republic. The Maoist movement here tailored the ideology to

local grievances, focusing on caste oppression, land reform, and poverty.

Similarly, in India, the Naxalite movement, inspired by Maoist principles, has been active since the late 1960s. Operating mainly in rural and tribal areas, these groups advocate armed struggle against what they perceive as exploitative state structures and capitalist encroachment. The Naxalite insurgency remains one of the longest-running internal conflicts in the country.

Maoism in Latin America

Latin America witnessed a surge of maoist-inspired guerrilla movements throughout the 1960s and 1970s. The region's socio-economic inequalities and histories of authoritarian regimes created fertile ground for radical leftist ideologies. Groups such as Peru's Shining Path embraced Maoism's emphasis on peasant-led revolution and protracted warfare.

The Shining Path's violent campaign sought to overthrow the Peruvian government but also sparked intense controversy due to its brutal tactics and impact on civilian populations. Nevertheless, this movement illustrates how maoism a global history intertwines with local narratives of resistance and upheaval.

Africa and Maoism: Revolutionary Echoes

Though less widespread, maoist ideas found resonance in certain African liberation movements. During the Cold War, some anti-colonial groups adopted Maoist rhetoric and strategies, seeing in them a blueprint for mobilizing rural populations against imperialist forces.

For instance, Tanzania's Ujamaa policy, while not explicitly Maoist, shared similarities with Mao's emphasis on rural collectivization and self-reliance. In other regions, such as Mozambique and Angola, liberation movements combined Marxist-Leninist and Maoist elements in their revolutionary struggles.

How Maoism Adapted to Varied Political and Cultural Contexts

One of the most intriguing aspects of maoism a global history is how the ideology was not simply transplanted wholesale but modified to fit different environments. The adaptability of Mao's ideas speaks to their pragmatic core and the universal appeal of grassroots empowerment.

Rural Focus and Guerrilla Warfare

In many countries, especially those with significant rural populations, maoism's strategy of guerrilla warfare became a practical blueprint. This approach allowed relatively small groups to challenge better-equipped state forces by leveraging knowledge of local terrain and gaining the support of

peasant communities.

Integration with Local Struggles

Successful maoist movements often intertwined Maoist principles with indigenous issues, such as land rights, ethnic identity, and anti-colonialism. This localization helped movements maintain relevance and build broader coalitions.

The Role of Ideological Purity and Factionalism

However, adherence to Maoist orthodoxy sometimes led to factional splits and internal conflicts within movements. Debates over strategy, ideological purity, and alliances have shaped the trajectories of maoist groups globally, demonstrating the challenges of sustaining revolutionary momentum.

The Legacy and Contemporary Relevance of Maoism

Though the global prominence of Maoism has waned since its peak in the mid-20th century, its legacy continues to impact contemporary political landscapes. Understanding maoism a global history helps explain ongoing conflicts and social movements, especially in regions where economic inequality and state repression persist.

Maoism in Modern Political Discourse

In some countries, maoist parties participate in electoral politics, blending revolutionary rhetoric with pragmatic governance. Elsewhere, armed insurgencies continue, albeit often diminished in scale and influence.

Lessons from Maoism for Social Movements Today

Maoism's emphasis on mass mobilization, grassroots leadership, and cultural transformation offers valuable lessons for contemporary activists. The idea that social change requires ongoing engagement with the people and adaptation to changing conditions remains relevant.

Critiques and Controversies

It's important to acknowledge the controversies surrounding Maoism, including accusations of authoritarianism, human rights abuses, and the violent consequences of some maoist-inspired conflicts. These critiques are part of an honest reckoning with the ideology's complex history.

Exploring maoism a global history reveals a rich tapestry of revolutionary thought and action that has shaped, and continues to influence, the world in profound ways. Its story is not just about ideology but about the enduring human quest for justice, dignity, and empowerment.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main focus of 'Maoism: A Global History'?

The book explores the global impact and influence of Maoism beyond China, examining how Maoist ideology has been adopted and adapted in various countries around the world.

Who is the author of 'Maoism: A Global History'?

The book is authored by Julia Lovell, a historian and expert on Chinese history and culture.

How did Maoism influence global revolutionary movements?

Maoism inspired numerous revolutionary movements in Asia, Africa, and Latin America by promoting peasant-based insurgency and emphasizing guerrilla warfare, which many groups adopted to challenge colonial and imperial powers.

In which regions outside China did Maoism have a significant impact?

Maoism significantly influenced regions including Nepal, India, Peru, the Philippines, and parts of Africa, where various Maoist groups led insurgencies or political movements.

What distinguishes Maoism from other forms of communism?

Maoism emphasizes the role of the peasantry in revolution, protracted people's war, and cultural revolution to transform society, differing from Soviet Marxism-Leninism which focused more on the urban proletariat.

How did Maoism evolve after Mao Zedong's death?

After Mao's death, Maoism continued to influence global movements but was often adapted to local contexts; meanwhile, China itself moved away from strict Maoist policies toward economic reforms under Deng Xiaoping.

What role did Maoism play in the Chinese Cultural Revolution?

Maoism was the ideological foundation of the Cultural Revolution, which aimed to preserve 'true' communist ideology by purging remnants of capitalist and traditional elements from Chinese society.

Why is Maoism considered a global phenomenon in modern history?

Maoism is considered a global phenomenon because it transcended Chinese borders, influencing diverse revolutionary groups worldwide and shaping political ideologies and conflicts during the Cold War era.

How does 'Maoism: A Global History' contribute to our understanding of 20th-century political movements?

The book provides a comprehensive analysis of Maoism's spread and adaptation globally, offering insights into how ideology interacts with culture and politics, thus enriching the study of international revolutionary movements in the 20th century.

Additional Resources

****Maoism: A Global History****

maoism a global history traces the remarkable journey of a political ideology that, originating in mid-20th century China, transcended national borders to influence revolutionary movements, political parties, and social upheavals around the world. Rooted in the teachings and practices of Mao Zedong, Maoism emerged as a distinctive variant of Marxist-Leninist thought, emphasizing peasant-based revolution, protracted guerrilla warfare, and continuous class struggle. This article explores Maoism's evolution, its adoption beyond China, and its enduring impact on global geopolitics and revolutionary theory.

The Origins of Maoism: From Chinese Revolution to Ideological Distinctiveness

Maoism's genesis lies in the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) struggle against both the Kuomintang and Japanese occupation during the 1930s and 1940s. Unlike classical Marxism, which prioritized urban proletariat revolutions, Mao adapted Marxist theory to China's predominantly agrarian society. His strategy centered on mobilizing the rural peasantry as the primary revolutionary force, a significant departure from orthodox communist ideology.

This ideological innovation was codified through Mao's military and political leadership during the Chinese Civil War and later the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949. Maoism's emphasis on "people's war," self-reliance, and the idea of continuous revolution under proletarian dictatorship laid the foundation for the CCP's governance model, which profoundly influenced communist movements across Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Maoism's Global Diffusion: From Asia to Latin America

and Beyond

Spread in Asia

Following the Chinese Revolution's success, Maoism quickly resonated with revolutionary groups in other Asian countries grappling with colonialism, feudal structures, and socio-economic inequality. Notably:

- **India:** The Naxalite movement, originating in West Bengal in 1967, adopted Maoist principles advocating armed struggle and peasant mobilization against landlordism and state oppression. Over decades, this insurgency has become one of the longest-running Maoist conflicts globally.
- **Nepal:** The Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) launched a decade-long insurgency from 1996 to 2006, which ultimately led to the abolition of the monarchy and the establishment of a federal republic. Their success highlighted Maoism's adaptability to varied political contexts and ethnic landscapes.
- **Philippines:** The Communist Party of the Philippines, founded in 1968, embraced Maoist ideology, particularly the strategy of protracted people's war, to challenge the central government, making it one of Asia's most enduring communist insurgencies.

Influence in Africa and Latin America

While Maoism's presence in Africa and Latin America was less extensive than in Asia, its ideological impact nevertheless spurred significant revolutionary activity.

- **Peru:** The Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso), a Maoist guerrilla group, launched a violent insurgency in the early 1980s aiming to overthrow the Peruvian state. Although their tactics were often brutal and controversial, the movement's ideological roots were deeply influenced by Maoist thought.
- **Zimbabwe and Other African Countries:** Maoist strategies influenced some liberation movements, especially in contexts where rural peasantry formed the majority and where guerrilla warfare was a practical necessity against colonial or minority regimes.

Core Tenets and Distinctive Features of Maoism

Maoism's global appeal lies partly in its ability to contextualize classical Marxism within agrarian societies, offering a revolutionary roadmap for countries where industrial proletariat was minimal or

non-existent.

Peasant-Centered Revolution

Unlike Lenin's urban worker focus, Maoism prioritizes the peasantry as the primary revolutionary agent. This shift acknowledges the socio-economic realities of many developing countries where the rural poor constitute the majority.

Protracted People's War

Maoism advocates a strategic and prolonged struggle combining guerrilla warfare and political mobilization, gradually encircling urban centers from rural bases. This approach was designed to counterbalance the military superiority of established state forces.

Continuous Revolution and Cultural Transformation

Maoism stresses the importance of ongoing class struggle even after the revolution, to prevent bureaucratic stagnation and capitalist restoration. The Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) in China exemplifies this principle, though its outcomes remain highly contested.

Self-Reliance and Anti-Imperialism

Mao's doctrine encourages economic and political self-sufficiency and vehement opposition to imperialist powers, making Maoism attractive to anti-colonial movements worldwide.

Comparative Analysis: Maoism vs. Other Marxist Ideologies

Maoism distinguishes itself from Soviet-style Marxism-Leninism in several critical ways:

- **Focus on Rural Peasantry:** While Soviet communism emphasized industrial workers, Maoism's strategy was tailored to rural conditions.
- **Revolutionary Strategy:** Mao's concept of protracted people's war contrasts with the Soviet emphasis on urban insurrection and centralized party control.
- **Continual Revolution:** Maoism insists on ongoing ideological vigilance to prevent the emergence of a new ruling class, unlike the Soviet model which eventually stabilized under a bureaucratic elite.

This comparative framework explains Maoism's appeal in agrarian societies but also highlights challenges it faced in industrialized or urbanized contexts.

The Pros and Cons of Maoism in Practice

Advantages

- **Adaptability:** Maoism's framework is flexible, addressing the realities of predominantly rural countries often neglected by classical Marxism.
- **Mobilization of Marginalized Groups:** By focusing on peasants and rural poor, Maoism gave voice and agency to historically disenfranchised populations.
- **Anti-Imperialist Stance:** Maoism's emphasis on self-reliance and resistance resonated with nationalist and anti-colonial movements globally.

Criticisms and Limitations

- **Violence and Human Cost:** Many Maoist-inspired movements, including the Cultural Revolution and insurgencies like the Shining Path, resulted in significant civilian suffering and political instability.
- **Economic Challenges:** Maoist policies, particularly in China's early decades, contributed to economic hardships, including famines and inefficiencies.
- **Political Repression:** The insistence on continuous revolution sometimes led to purges, suppression of dissent, and authoritarian governance.

Maoism in Contemporary Global Politics

Despite the decline of Maoist states and movements with the end of the Cold War, Maoism remains relevant in various forms. Some groups continue armed struggles, particularly in South Asia, while others have transitioned into political parties participating in electoral processes. Moreover, Maoist ideology still informs debates on revolutionary theory, anti-imperialism, and strategies for social transformation in the 21st century.

Academic interest in Maoism a global history has grown, with scholars examining its transnational dynamics, local adaptations, and ideological legacies. This reflects a broader recognition that Maoism is not merely a Chinese historical phenomenon but a complex, living global political force.

The endurance of Maoism in diverse contexts underscores the continuing search for revolutionary models that address inequality, state power, and social justice in a rapidly changing world.

Maoism A Global History

maoism a global history: Maoism Julia Lovell, 2019-09-03 *** WINNER OF THE 2019 CUNDILL HISTORY PRIZE SHORTLISTED FOR THE BAILLIE GIFFORD PRIZE FOR NON-FICTION 2019 SHORTLISTED FOR THE NAYEF AL-RODHAN PRIZE FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING SHORTLISTED FOR DEUTSCHER PRIZE LONGLISTED FOR THE 2020 ORWELL PRIZE FOR POLITICAL WRITING*** 'Revelatory and instructive... [a] beautifully written and accessible book' The Times For decades, the West has dismissed Maoism as an outdated historical and political phenomenon. Since the 1980s, China seems to have abandoned the utopian turmoil of Mao's revolution in favour of authoritarian capitalism. But Mao and his ideas remain central to the People's Republic and the legitimacy of its Communist government. With disagreements and conflicts between China and the West on the rise, the need to understand the political legacy of Mao is urgent and growing. The power and appeal of Maoism have extended far beyond China. Maoism was a crucial motor of the Cold War: it shaped the course of the Vietnam War (and the international youth rebellions that conflict triggered) and brought to power the murderous Khmer Rouge in Cambodia; it aided, and sometimes handed victory to, anti-colonial resistance movements in Africa; it inspired terrorism in Germany and Italy, and wars and insurgencies in Peru, India and Nepal, some of which are still with us today - more than forty years after the death of Mao. In this new history, Julia Lovell re-evaluates Maoism as both a Chinese and an international force, linking its evolution in China with its global legacy. It is a story that takes us from the tea plantations of north India to the sierras of the Andes, from Paris's fifth arrondissement to the fields of Tanzania, from the rice paddies of Cambodia to the terraces of Brixton. Starting with the birth of Mao's revolution in northwest China in the 1930s and concluding with its violent afterlives in South Asia and resurgence in the People's Republic today, this is a landmark history of global Maoism.

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maoism a global history: Mao's Little Red Book Alexander C. Cook, 2014-03-06 Mao Zedong's Little Red Book (Quotations from Chairman Mao) - a compilation of the Chinese leader's speeches and writings - is one of the most visible and ubiquitous symbols of twentieth-century radicalism. Published for the first time in 1964, it rapidly became the must-have accessory for Red Guards and revolutionaries from Berkeley to Bamako. Yet, despite its worldwide circulation and enduring presence there has, until now, been no serious scholarly effort to understand this seminal text as a global historical phenomenon. Mao's Little Red Book brings together a range of innovative scholars from around the world to explore the fascinating variety of uses and forms that Mao's Quotations has taken, from rhetoric, art and song, to talisman, badge, and weapon. The authors of this pioneering volume use Mao's Quotations as a medium through which to re-examine the history of the twentieth-century world, challenging established ideas about the book to reveal its remarkable global impact.

maoism a global history: A Global History of the Cold War, 1945-1991 Philip Jenkins, 2021-09-25 This textbook provides a dynamic and concise overview of the Cold War. Offering balanced coverage of the whole era, it takes a firmly global approach, showing how at various times the focus of East-West rivalry shifted to new and surprising venues, from Laos to Katanga, from Nicaragua to Angola. Throughout, Jenkins emphasises intelligence, technology and religion, as well as highlighting themes that are relevant to the present day. A rich array of popular culture examples is used to demonstrate how the crisis was understood and perceived by mainstream audiences across the world, and the book includes three 'snapshot' chapters, which offer an overview of the state of play at pivotal moments in the conflict - 1946, 1968 and 1980 - in order to illuminate the inter-relationship between apparently discrete situations. This is an essential introduction for students studying Cold War, twentieth century or Global history.

maoism a global history: The Global Cold War on Campus Kyara Anne Klausmann, 2023-11-06 How and why did students at Kabul University engage in political activism or refrained from it between 1964 and 1992? Based on oral history interviews with former students, this book

reveals how they – as many others around the world at the same time – were galvanized by and disappointed with promises of progress dominating local and international politics. During the 1960s, the international influences on campus encouraged students' engagement with competing political ideologies. Collective student protest against the monarchy turned into hostilities between opposing political groups within the student body claiming to lead Afghanistan towards independence and prosperity. After the coup d'état by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) in 1978, none of the ideologies which had previously incited students provided hope for a better future anymore. Many students who had fought for the PDPA earlier were repelled by the government's violence and those who stood up against the regime were persecuted and fled the country. Overall, the dynamics of political activism at Kabul University reflect the deep intertwinement of the Global Cold War and local struggles for inclusion and independence.

maoism a global history: Rethinking Revolutions from 1905 to 1934 Stefan Berger, Klaus Weinbauer, 2022-12-13 This edited collection offers a timely and original perspective on the many upheavals and revolutions that broke out across the world during the earlytwentieth century. With previous research tending to confine revolutions within national borders, this book sets out to place them within a broader global sphere of thought and action. The authors explore the time phase between the Russian Revolution of 1905 and the Asturian Revolution of 1934, including cases from South Africa, Australia, China, the Middle East and Latin America. Providing insights from leading scholars in the field, this collection highlights the interconnectedness and transnationalism of upheavals and revolutions, offering a new approach which integrates political, social and cultural history. Chapter 8 is available open access under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License via [Link.springer.com](https://link.springer.com)

maoism a global history: *Internationalists in European History* Jessica Reinisch, David Brydan, 2021-01-28 Representing a crucial intervention in the history of internationalism, transnationalism and global history, this edited collection examines a variety of international movements, organisations and projects developed in Europe or by Europeans over the course of the 20th century. Reacting against the old Eurocentricism, much of the scholarship in the field has refocussed attention on other parts of the globe. This volume attempts to rethink the role played by ideas, people and organisations originating or located in Europe, including some of their consequential global impact. The chapters cover aspects of internationalism such as the importance of language, communication and infrastructures of internationalism; ways of grappling with the history of internationalism as a lived experience; and the roles of European actors in the formulation of different and often competing models of internationalism. It demonstrates that the success and failure of international programmes were dependent on participants' ability to communicate across linguistic but also political, cultural and economic borders. By bringing together commonly disconnected strands of European history and 'history from below', this volume rebalances and significantly advances the field, and promotes a deeper understanding of internationalism in its many historical guises. The volume is conceived as a way of thinking about internationalism that is relevant not just to scholars of Europe, but to international and global history more generally.

maoism a global history: *The Rise and Demise of World Communism* George W. Breslauer, 2021-08-07 In *The Rise and Demise of World Communism*, George Breslauer explores the nature of communist regimes-what they shared in common, how they differed from each other, and how they differentially evolved over time. He offers the most accessible and readable account of the evolution of communism in sixteen states. Half the size of more detailed and encyclopedic books on the rise and fall of communism, it engages the reader with short chapters and a ready understanding of the historical flow from Karl Marx to the present day.

maoism a global history: *Iran and Global Decolonisation* Robert Steele, Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet, 2024-04-03 A presentation of scholarly work that investigates Iran's experiences with colonialism and decolonization from a variety of perspectives. How did Iran's unique position in the world affect and define its treatment of decolonization? During the final decades of Pahlavi rule in the late 1970s, the country sought to establish close relationships with newly independent

counterparts in the Global South. Most scholarly work focused on this period is centered around the Cold War and Iran's relations with the United States, Russia, and Europe. Little attention has been paid to how the country interacted with other regions, such as Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Adding to an important and growing body of literature that discusses the profound and lasting impact of decolonization, *Iran and Global Decolonisation* contributes to the theoretical debates around the re-shaping of the world brought about by the end of an empire. It considers not only the impact of global decolonization on movements and ideas within Iran but also how Iran's own experiences of imperialism shaped how these ideas were received and developed.

maoism a global history: *Revolutions: How They Changed History and What They Mean Today* Peter Furtado, 2020-09-29 Leading historians from around the world reflect on the great revolutions of modern history and explore their lasting legacies. Whether it's because their rhetoric—"liberty, fraternity, equality"—articulates those ideals to which we most aspire, or because we are shocked by the destructive forces that are unleashed when social conventions break down, revolutions hold a distinct place in the popular imagination. And while all revolutions are born of civil unrest, each is unique in that it's a product of its time, its society, and its people, and the outcomes vary dramatically, from liberal reform to cruel dictatorship. In *Revolutions*, the follow-up to the bestselling *Histories of Nations*, twenty-four leading historians—most writing about their country of origin—consider global revolutions, from England's Glorious Revolution of 1688 and the American Revolution in 1776 to the Irish Revolution in the early twentieth century and the Arab Spring of 2011. Reflecting not only on their causes, crises, and outcomes, but also on their legacies and implications in today's society, these historians answer key questions: What were the main events and dominant ideologies? Who were the leading protagonists? Are revolutionary pasts remembered critically in national history, mythologized, or even hidden? And why? Authoritative and enlightening, *Revolutions* reflects on the events, ideologies, and legacies of twenty-four revolutions from the seventeenth century to the present day, providing an overview of some of the most politically significant events in modern history.

maoism a global history: *Beyond Transnationalism* Sonja Levsen, Kiran Klaus Patel, 2023-05-22 This book is a collection of case studies that provides fresh insights into the history of political activism in Europe's long 1970s. It covers the full spectrum of such groups, from the far left to the neofascist right, and from the various parts of Europe, including East and West. The chapters in this book push the boundaries of our knowledge with regard to transnational spaces. For many political activists at the time, identifying with a 'transnational' or 'global' protest movement provided both legitimacy for their claims and stood for the promise of sweeping change. Existing research has often reproduced such perceptions. This book goes beyond such an approach by distinguishing between different forms of transnational spaces. More specifically, it recognizes important differences between imagined spaces of solidarity and belonging, spaces of knowledge circulation and spaces of social experience and political action. Each chapter uses this new framework and analyses the interrelationship and significance of each of these three spaces. *Beyond Transnationalism* will be of particular interest to historians, political scientists and educators. The chapters in this book were originally published as a special issue of *European Review of History*.

maoism a global history: *Transtopia in the Sinophone Pacific* Howard Chiang, 2021-04-06 As a broad category of identity, "transgender" has given life to a vibrant field of academic research since the 1990s. Yet the Western origins of the field have tended to limit its cross-cultural scope. Howard Chiang proposes a new paradigm for doing transgender history in which geopolitics assumes central importance. Defined as the antidote to transphobia, transtopia challenges a minoritarian view of transgender experience and makes room for the variability of transness on a historical continuum. Against the backdrop of the Sinophone Pacific, Chiang argues that the concept of transgender identity must be rethought beyond a purely Western frame. At the same time, he challenges China-centrism in the study of East Asian gender and sexual configurations. Chiang brings Sinophone studies to bear on trans theory to deconstruct the ways in which sexual normativity and Chinese imperialism have been produced through one another. Grounded in an eclectic range of

sources—from the archives of sexology to press reports of intersexuality, films about castration, and records of social activism—this book reorients anti-transphobic inquiry at the crossroads of area studies, medical humanities, and queer theory. Timely and provocative, *Transtopia in the Sinophone Pacific* highlights the urgency of interdisciplinary knowledge in debates over the promise and future of human diversity.

maoism a global history: *Collecting the Revolution* Emily R. Williams, 2022-03-08 In the late 1960s, student protests broke out throughout much of the world, and while Britain's anti-Vietnam protestors and China's Red Guards were clearly radically different, these movements at times shared inspirations, aspirations, and aesthetics. Within Western popular media, Mao's China was portrayed as a danger to world peace, but at the same time, for some on the counter-cultural left, the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) contained ideas worthy of exploration. Moreover, because of Britain's continued colonial possession of Hong Kong, Britain had a specific interest in ongoing events in China, and information was highly sought after. Thus, the objects that China exported—propaganda posters, paintings, Mao badges, periodicals, ceramics, etc.—became a crucial avenue through which China was known at this time, and interest in them crossed the political divide. *Collecting the Revolution* uses the objects that the Chinese government sent abroad and that visitors brought back with them to open up the stories of diplomats, journalists, activists, students, and others and how they imagined, engaged with, and later remembered Mao's China through its objects. It chronicles the story of how these objects were later incorporated into the collections of some of Britain's most prominent museums, thus allowing later generations to continue to engage with one of the most controversial and important periods of China's recent history.

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