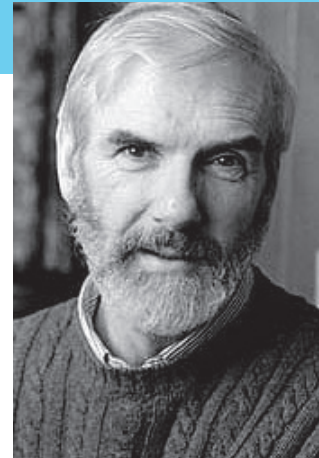


*Despite its incredible pace of change, China continues to carry echoes of its past.*

# Jonathan Spence

Professor, Yale University



## HIGHLIGHTS

Yale historian Jonathan Spence is the world's foremost authority on Chinese civilization and the role of history in shaping modern China. No one has more knowledge or insight [into the forces driving China's extraordinary emergence](#) today.

Professor Spence has led a [truly distinguished](#) career and is a prolific writer.

He was named a MacArthur Fellow and has received ten honorary degrees and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Other honors include the C.M.G. (Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George) from Queen Elizabeth II.

Spence is the author of [over 15 books](#) that combine vivid narrative description with valuable critical analysis. His critically acclaimed *The Search for Modern China* has become one of the standard texts on the last several hundred years of Chinese history. Every edition of the book has been a bestseller.

He specializes in a "history from below" approach, exploring the lives of everyday people, not just the prominent.

*Spence is a [dazzling presenter](#), a fabulous storyteller with an instinct for the human drama in history, and for bringing significant patterns to life with compelling and colorful details.*

A native of England, Jonathan began teaching at Yale in 1965. Jonathan Spence is the Sterling Professor of History at Yale University and is president of the American Historical Association.



## CREDENTIALS

Sterling Professor of History, Yale University

President, American Historical Association

Companion of the Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George

MacArthur Fellow

Guggenheim Fellow

Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Sidney Hook Memorial Award, Phi Beta Kappa Society

Council of Scholars, Library of Congress

Professor, Yale University

## CHINA'S PAST A HARBINGER OF ITS FUTURE?

Viewed from the perspective of competition, few nations have run the race as well as China in the modern era, spurring endless speculation and debate about its future role on the global stage, both politically and economically. Yet, despite its incredible pace of change, China continues to carry echoes of its past.

China juggles its memories and territorial histories and relationships on many fronts as it faces the future—

- ✧ as the defender of an apparently irrelevant revolutionary ideology,
- ✧ as a new kind of regional powerhouse,
- ✧ as the ambiguous heart of a global diaspora,
- ✧ as one of the world's major new competitors for shrinking supplies of fossil fuels, and
- ✧ as the present guardian of an unprecedented amount of foreign exchange and investment.

Jonathan Spence explores [how history has shaped modern China](#). His extraordinary insights into China's unfolding future make him an invaluable presenter for senior business leaders and audiences seeking deep understanding of this emerging global power.



## HONORS

Ten honorary degrees, including the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Oxford University

Vursel Prize, American Academy of Arts and Letters

*Los Angeles Times* History Prize and Book Award

Lionel Gelber Award and Kiriayama Book Prize for *The Search for Modern China*

Sidney Hook Memorial Award, Phi Beta Kappa Society

William C. DeVane Medal, Yale Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa

Former visiting professor, Peking University; honorary professor, Nanjing University

## BOOKS

*The Search for Modern China* (1990)

*To Change China: Western Advisors in China, 1620-1960* (1969)

*The Gate of Heavenly Peace: The Chinese and their Revolution, 1895-1980* (1981)

*The Chan's Great Continent: China in Western Minds* (1998)

*Mao Zedong* (1999)