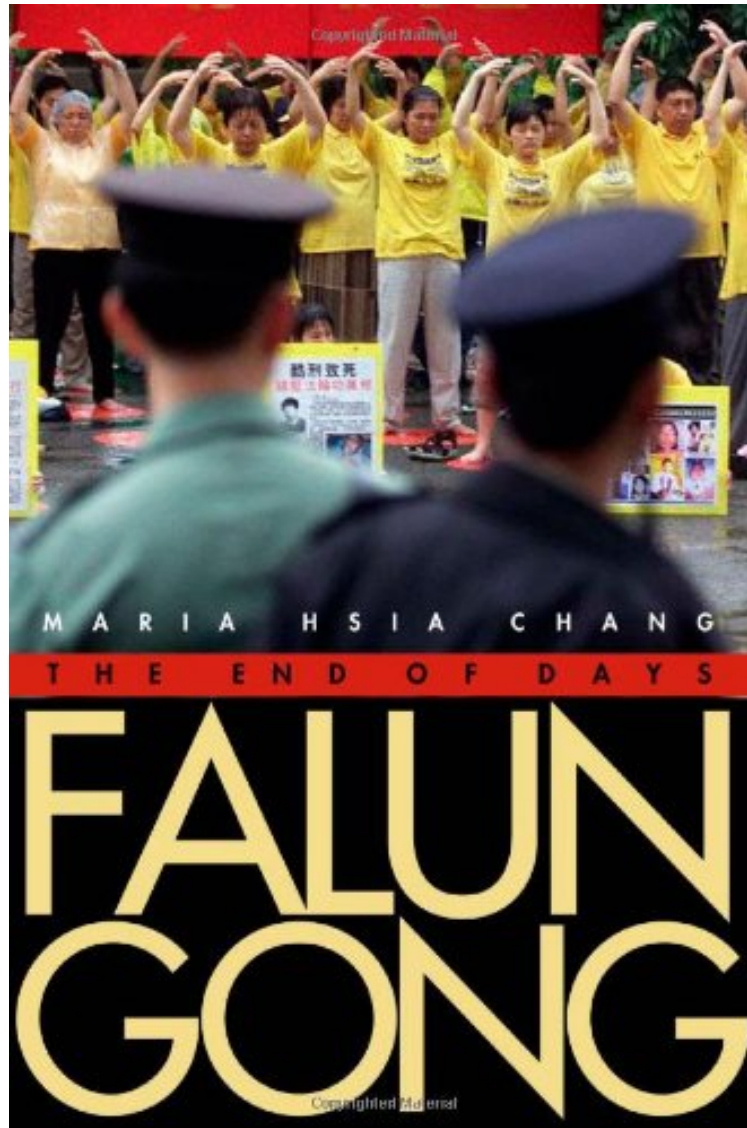


[Download pdf ebook] Falun Gong: The End of Days

Falun Gong: The End of Days

Maria Hsia Chang

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#2596616 in Books 2004-04-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .77 x 5.76 x 8.44l, .83 #File Name:
0300102275208 pages | File size: 58.Mb

Maria Hsia Chang : Falun Gong: The End of Days before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Falun Gong: The End of Days:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. More than what meets the eye: A religion with bizarre teachingsBy E. JohnsonIt's an older book and much has changed in the decade+ since it was written. However, it's valuable and provides a good insight into this fascinating religion. I only wish there was something like it written in the past few years. The book makes it clear that this is not an innocent religion. Yes, it has been persecuted by the Chinese

government in many ways, which I don't like. But the things revealed by Maria Hsia Chang will completely floor a rational person. What people are willing to do for a religious lie!

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An in depth look into a cult

By spin_ninI read this book and was constantly wondering if what I was reading was factual. Between the way the government continually and immediately reacts to the Falun Gong, and the way Li Hongzhi proclaims to be a deity, this was all just too hard to swallow. Li is delusional and the people following him are paying with their lives while he safely lives in the USA. Pathetic. A deity shouldn't have to hide in another country. Similar to Christian Scientists, Li has the Falun Gong believe they don't need medical treatment for their ailments and that he will protect his followers. Conversely, the Chinese government clearly staged some of the prosecutions of Falun Gong members on youtube. This is just a fairy tale. Both sides aren't telling the truth.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Both sides of a complex issue

By JOHN A. BROUSSARD In the twenty years since its founding, the Falun Gong has been sufficiently discussed to have provided the English reading public with at least an approximate idea of this particular group's beliefs. Maria Hsin Chang has gone far beyond providing that kind of sketch. The Falun Gong, she points out, is a syncretic religion which draws its beliefs from Daoism, Confucianism, Christianity, Chinese traditional religion, science, pseudo science, ufology, magic--all mingled in with a belief in demons, karma, levitation, pre-cognition, millenarianism and a complex cosmology that will make most minds boggle. In addition, the author presents a succinct explanation for why the Chinese Communist Party has become so adamant in its opposition to and persecution of this bizarre sect. In her words, the Party's leaders have reacted in this way because of the "underlying problems and instability in Chinese society," and because the autocratic regimes in this nation's history have habitually taken similar stands against any "peoples' religion" that seems, however unlikely, to be a threat to the regime. For anyone seeking a fuller understanding of this sect, its beliefs and the reason for the Chinese Communist Party's drastic reaction to the Falun Gong, this is an excellent place to start looking.

The world first took notice of a religious group called Falun Gong on April 25, 1999, when more than 10,000 of its followers protested before the Chinese Communist headquarters in Beijing. Falun Gong investigates events in the wake of the demonstration: Beijing's condemnation of the group as a Western, anti-Chinese force and doomsday cult, the sect's continued defiance, and the nationwide campaign that resulted in the incarceration and torture of many Falun Gong faithful. Maria Hsia Chang discusses the Falun Gong's beliefs, including their ideas on cosmology, humanity's origin, karma, reincarnation, UFOs, and the coming apocalypse. She balances an account of the Chinese government's case against the sect with an evaluation of the credibility of those accusations. Describing China's long history of secret societies that initiated powerful uprisings and sometimes overthrew dynasties, she explains the Chinese government's brutal treatment of the sect. And she concludes with a chronicle of the ongoing persecution of religious groups in China, of which Falun Gong is only one of many, and the social conditions that breed the popular discontent and alienation that spawn religious millenarianism.

From Publishers Weekly This is an objective and scholarly account of one of the most challenging mass phenomena to emerge from China in recent years. Falun Gong ("Law Wheel Cultivation"), founded in 1992, had attracted millions of practitioners in China and worldwide by the time the Chinese banned it as an "evil cult" in 1999. Chang, a professor of political science at the University of Nevada, Reno, presents a highly readable account of the origins and beliefs of the group. Although Falun Gong's practices are rooted in traditional Chinese qigong, which involves meditation to cultivate qi (life force), Falun Gong has broader goals of moral salvation, drawing on concepts from China's traditional religions, including Buddhism and Taoism. Since the group's founder and leader, Li Hongzhi, fled China to become a resident in the United States in 1998, he has become increasingly critical of the Chinese government. He encourages his followers to stand up for Falun Gong, despite fierce Chinese government repression, even at the risk of their lives. Chang is unsparing in detailing the illegal and deceptive methods the Chinese government has used to repress Falun Gong. At the same time, she explains why the authorities fear such a movement, situating the repression of Falun Gong in the broader context of China's persecution of certain other religious faiths and its history of revolts led by millenarian movements. The author relates how rapid change, disillusionment with the increasingly irrelevant official Marxist ideology, and growing corruption in China have made many people feel anxious for some moral and spiritual anchor.

Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist Political scientist Chang provides a brief and accessible introduction to Falun Gong that places the movement in political and historical context, and she offers a critique of the Chinese government's policy toward religion that raises important questions about relations between quasi-religious groups such as Falun Gong and modern states. Though Chang is most concerned with criticizing the practice of "socialism with Chinese characteristics," many of the questions she raises are relevant beyond China and beyond single-party states. Her overview of religious and millenarian movements in Chinese history makes it clear that ostensibly apolitical groups have had profoundly political impacts, and this lends credence to at least one rationale for the Chinese government's hostile reaction to Falun Gong. At the same time, her analysis of the extent to which hostile government reaction has transformed religious and quasi-religious groups into revolutionary political movements amounts to a cautionary tale for modern

states and a compelling argument for a practice of religious freedom that extends beyond mainstream and established religions. Steven Schroeder Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "This very readable book is the best introduction available to the Falun Gong and the issues raised by its emergence and struggle with the Chinese state." Jan S. Prybyla, Pennsylvania State University"