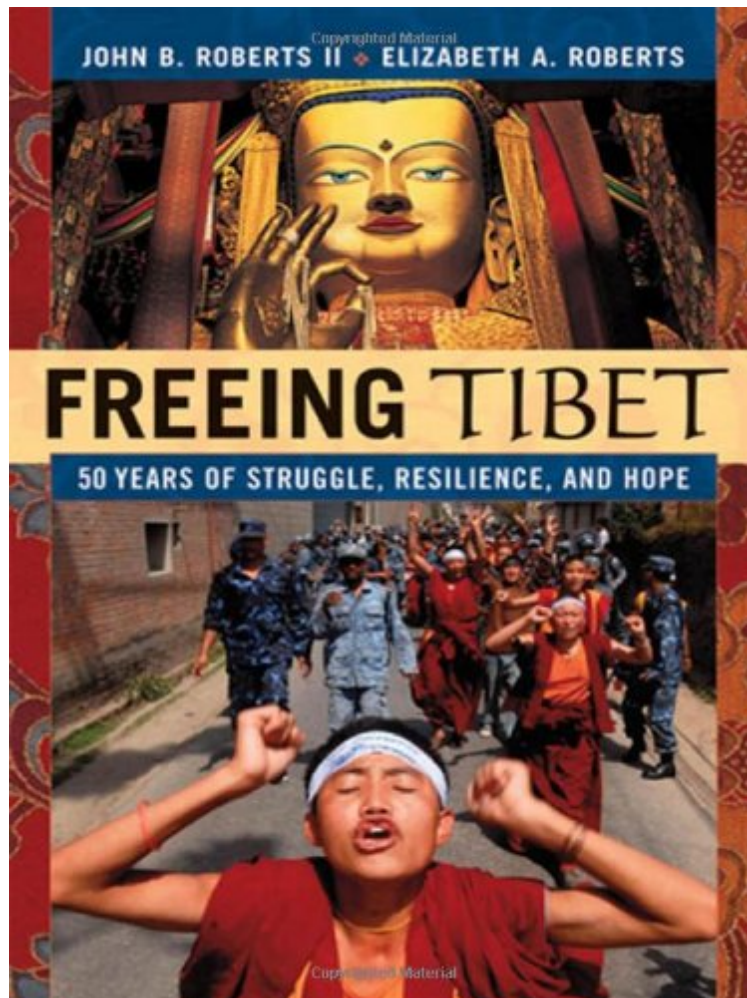


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Freeing Tibet: 50 Years of Struggle, Resilience, and Hope

John B. Roberts II, Elizabeth A. Roberts

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John B. Roberts II, Elizabeth A. Roberts : Freeing Tibet: 50 Years of Struggle, Resilience, and Hope before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Freeing Tibet: 50 Years of Struggle, Resilience, and Hope:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating read, useful information By EJSI initially read this book for a class paper, not expecting to particularly like it. I was wrong. This book tells the fast-paced story of how the modern Free Tibet movement came to be. Its coverage of the history of the CIA involvement in the movement to free Tibet was particularly fascinating. Both the content and the writing style made this a very engaging and informative read. This is a fascinating book for those interested in either Tibet or U.S. - China relations. 8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Espionage turns into counterculture and then protests By John L Murphy Credit Allen Ginsberg! His Beat quest crossed, in New Jersey, with Geshe Wangyal's Kalmyk refugees who founded the first

Tibetan Buddhist monastery in a garage. While Ginsberg's popularization of the dharma, repeated in this book, is well-known, Wangyal and his Tibetan colleagues provide the other side of a symbiotic relationship between the counterculture and the Establishment in their struggle to raise not only consciousness but funds and resistance within the occupied homeland for the cause of freedom. The CIA, as the first part documents (within limits as much remains classified), tried to work within Cold War tensions, India-China frontier clashes, and propaganda benign and black to support Khampa freedom fighters in the Eisenhower administration. But, after secret guerrilla training in Saipan and Colorado, and airlifts into Tibet, the People's Liberation Army, in 1961, slaughtered the rebels in a "second Bay of Pigs" that today still is largely hush-hush, even to the Beltway-insider authors, who in this narrative rely on CIA operatives and released security directives to explain the role of spies and arms in the failed first stage for Tibet's struggle against Communism. With the Asian geopolitical tensions rising in the early '60s, Tibet was abandoned by Washington. Part Two shows how Beats and then hippies-- and Ginsberg seems to be always in the vanguard-- took over the "ethical obligation" to Tibet. It concludes with an intriguing reflection. After the CIA's failure to support a popular uprising against vicious PLA reprisals, "shared spiritual values instead of political expedience" entered the awareness of the West. Therefore, "what appeared as a double-cross by the American government-- cold-hearted renegeing on solemn promises to support the Dalai Lama during his exile-- was in reality a criss-cross, a moment in time when the surging counterculture took over from an establishment that had discarded the goal of Tibetan liberation." (173) Published in 2008 after the latest uprising, Part Three therefore shows the little we know, given Chinese manipulation and censorship-- of the protests that March, that failed to derail international acclaim for the Beijing Olympics, and that did not result in Western leaders having the courage to boycott the most favored of all trading partners. Yet, the Roberts pair insist that, as with apartheid-era South Africa, divestment and boycotts can and would work against China to force a sort of Catalan autonomy within Spain parallel for Tibet. Their proposals, on economic, moral, and environmental grounds, dovetail nicely with the book also from 2008 by an advocate they both quote often, Robert Thurman in his "Why the Dalai Lama Matters." What frightens one in the last stages of the Roberts book is that the present, aging Dalai Lama may not reincarnate, or that his reincarnation may be stage-managed as the Panchen Lama has by the Chinese. The steady erosion of Tibetan culture, where 8 monasteries out of 6000 survived intact after the invasion and then the Cultural Revolution, continues. Native tour guides in Lhasa are replaced by Han Chinese parroting the party line of a grateful nation happy to be released from serfdom and pits of scorpions run by mad monks. The rail brings in immigrants; Tibetan is not taught but Chinese remains a must for traders and advancement of the dwindling indigenous population against the incomers who bring capitalism without ethics or respect for the Buddhist and local traditions. While this efficient account moves smoothly through such details, it stumbles a bit in the early section, perhaps burdened inevitably by lots of diplomatic minutiae that historians and analysts will nonetheless welcome. The second part, with the Beats and hippies, moves more fluidly; the third part weighs one down with the realization that cheap labor and high profits from the PRC trump any commitment by the East or West to lasting Chinese reform. I'd have added a couple of clarifications. The 1904 British occupation of Lhasa by Col. Younghusband did lead to a treaty that forced Tibet's trade with the British in exchange for the Empire's recognition of its independence, but it also meant that the Chinese could twist this treaty with a foreign power into a reason to take over Tibet. The Manchus were deposed but the new Republic of China never ratified the Simla Conference of 1913-14 that acknowledged Tibetan independence. This issue is not mentioned by the Roberts, who maybe march too rapidly over early 20th century diplomatic foundations upon which the present Chinese later justified their long domination of Tibet. Also, in the Dorje Shukden controversy, the "rival sect" possibly entangled with the murderous debate over the 17th Karmapa seems worthy of more coverage. The Roberts do not elaborate, but the controversy over the New Kadampa Tradition (NKT) in the West that has spread an anti-Dalai Lama campaign taken up often by pro-PRC media appears deserving of attention, as this plays into the current political and cultural skirmishes over the Dalai Lama and his role in governing Tibetan affairs from his Dharamsala exile. Still, these are minor asides compared to the moral necessity that most in East and West have shirked-- outside of a few celebrities, musicians, more low-key activists, and brave protesters. Our leaders tell us to trust in "blind faith that capitalism has some magical quality to transform China from a one-party communist state to a multi-party democracy." (246) We buy cheap goods, we send them our factories, and we rely on them to support our debt. But, we fail to make them a fairer regime for the Han let alone Tibetans. I hope this book finds an audience, and I hope it changes the complacency and indifference with which many dismiss Tibet today. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A 'must' for any library strong in global issues and world politics. By Midwest Book Review. FREEING TIBET: 50 YEARS OF STRUGGLE, RESILIENCE, AND HOPE provides an inside story of how the 'free Tibet' movement was born and why it has lasted. Interviews with former CIA officers, government executives, and others provides new details on all aspects of Tibet's struggles, offering unusual insights into a movement maintained by millions around the world. A 'must' for any library strong in global issues and world politics.

In March of 1959, a 23-year-old Tibetan youth named Tenzin Gyatso burst onto the world stage. Fleeing his native country to govern in exile from India, the Dalai Lama would go on to become one of the great leaders of our time.

Then, in March 2008, the diplomat, icon, and winner of the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize was blamed for inciting violence in Tibet's traditional capital of Lhasa. As 2009 marks the 50th anniversary of the Dalai Lama's rule in exile, the situation in Tibet has become more volatile than ever. Now, China must decide if it will give Tibet the right to govern itself and what the consequences will be for its economy and its place on the world stage. Freeing Tibet is the incredible, heroic story of Tibet's arduous struggle to keep freedom alive. From the national uprising in 1959, which cost more than 85,000 Tibetans their lives, to the rise of the Tibetan freedom fighters; the aftereffects of Nixon's historic visit to China, and preparations for the Dalai Lama's successor, this seminal history offers an insider's view of the 50-year struggle for autonomy. As a former Reagan White House political strategist, author John B. Roberts has had unprecedented access to the Dalai Lama's inner circle. Based on interviews with CIA and political insiders, this epic story gives readers a new understanding of a conflict that continues to fascinate the world. Timely, impeccably researched, and hopeful, this is the book that will change the way we understand Tibet.

From Publishers Weekly Former Reagan strategist Roberts and journalist Elizabeth Roberts draw on unprecedented access to the Dalai Lama's circle and U.S. government insiders to recount Tibet's resistance movement and its unlikely allies. Featuring recently declassified information, the book reveals the extent to which the CIA was involved in the Dalai Lama's flight into exile in northern India and in arming and training the Tibetan military resistance movement. During the cold war, the U.S. government regarded Tibet as another front from which to fend off the threat of global communism and spent millions on military and propaganda operations the authors term the Himalayan Bay of Pigs. After the Sino-Soviet split, the U.S. shifted its attention to the war in Vietnam and the cause of Tibet's human rights was embraced by the U.S. counterculture and, later, academics and Hollywood celebrities. The authors argue that Tibet's only hope lies in global economic divestment and boycotts against the Chinese government, actions that were effective in urging the end of apartheid in South Africa. Despite its somewhat simplistic solutions, this book offers a clear overview of the key issues and conveys why Tibet's situation is more urgent than ever. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Former Reagan strategist Roberts and journalist Elizabeth Roberts draw on unprecedented access to the Dalai Lama's circle and U.S. government insiders to recount Tibet's resistance movement and its unlikely allies. this book offers a clear overview of the key issues and conveys why Tibet's situation is more urgent than ever. --Publishers Weekly "A treasure trove of information about Tibet's ordeal....[an] informative take on an important aspect of Asian political history." --Kirkus s "While this book has been expertly and technically crafted, at heart it is a passionate act of advocacy that had become, in the short months since its release, a part of the campaign committed to freeing Tibet. Read the book and, if you can, join the struggle." --Tom Blankley, syndicated columnist "Written in an engaging, narrative style, Freeing Tibet is the story of a culture that has been struggling to survive for half a century... Freeing Tibet is not the chronicle of a hopeless causeau contraire. It tells how an engaged global community could liberate the Tibetans." --Shambhala Sun From the Inside Flap In March of 1959, a 23-year-old Tibetan youth named Tenzin Gyatso burst onto the world stage. Fleeing his native country to govern in exile from India, the Dalai Lama has become one of the great leaders of our time. With Tibet occupied by communist China, he and others envisioning a free Tibet have worked ceaselessly to save his country's civilization, culture, and freedom while advocating negotiation and non-violence. Freeing Tibet is the story of this fifty-year long struggle, from its Cold War beginnings to the present. U.S. backing for Tibet's guerrillas in their fight against China started as a secret CIA operation during the Eisenhower Administration, with National Security Directive 5412/2. Freeing Tibet reveals fresh details of this Cold War history, including a secret CIA propaganda campaign and a tragic abandonment of Tibet's freedom fighters in a Himalayan Bay of Pigs. In an extraordinary shift of patronage, after the Nixon Administration cut off funds for the Tibetans, the charge of freeing Tibet was taken up by the sixties counterculture movement. Ultimately, the cause was embraced by celebrities, artists, musicians, students, and world leaders. Freeing Tibet illustrates the many twists and turns in this unlikely saga, including: How former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt became an unwitting participant in the CIA's Tibetan operation. How some reports of Chinese atrocities in Tibet were CIA propaganda. How Henry Kissinger unilaterally shut down the CIA's Tibetan operation years before Nixon's opening to China. How the U.S. government's decision to cut aid to the Tibetans helped propel the Dalai Lama's emergence as a global spiritual leader and world celebrity. How China will try to hijack Tibetan Buddhism by controlling the selection of the next Dalai Lama. Timely, impeccably researched, and hopeful, this is the book that will change the way we understand Tibet. Far from chronicling a lost cause, Freeing Tibet shows the way that an engaged global community will save this land. The greatest civil rights issue of the 21st century is freedom and democracy, not only for Tibetans, but for China's billion citizens as well. This is a book for people who want to know history not just to understand the world but to change it. John B. Roberts II is a consulting producer for The McLaughlin Group and has been featured on NBC's Dateline and in The New York Times, The Washington Times, The Washington Post, and USA Today. Roberts served in the Reagan White House for two terms, and has been a political strategist in emerging democracies, including those in Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Russia, Romania, Ukraine, South Africa, and Pakistan. He is the author of Rating the First Ladies. Roberts lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with his wife, Elizabeth A. Roberts. Elizabeth A. Roberts is a writer and the author of the book, Living with

IBD IBS. Her political experience includes positions as assistant press secretary on Herb Kohls U.S. Senate campaign in 1988, research associate for the prestigious Cook Political Report, and publicist for Jean Kennedy Smiths Very Special Arts foundation. Ms. Roberts has published in Oxford Today; American Guardian; The Washington Post; Womens Outlook; International Business; The Tahoe Daily Tribune; The Beachcomber; and The Navarre Press.