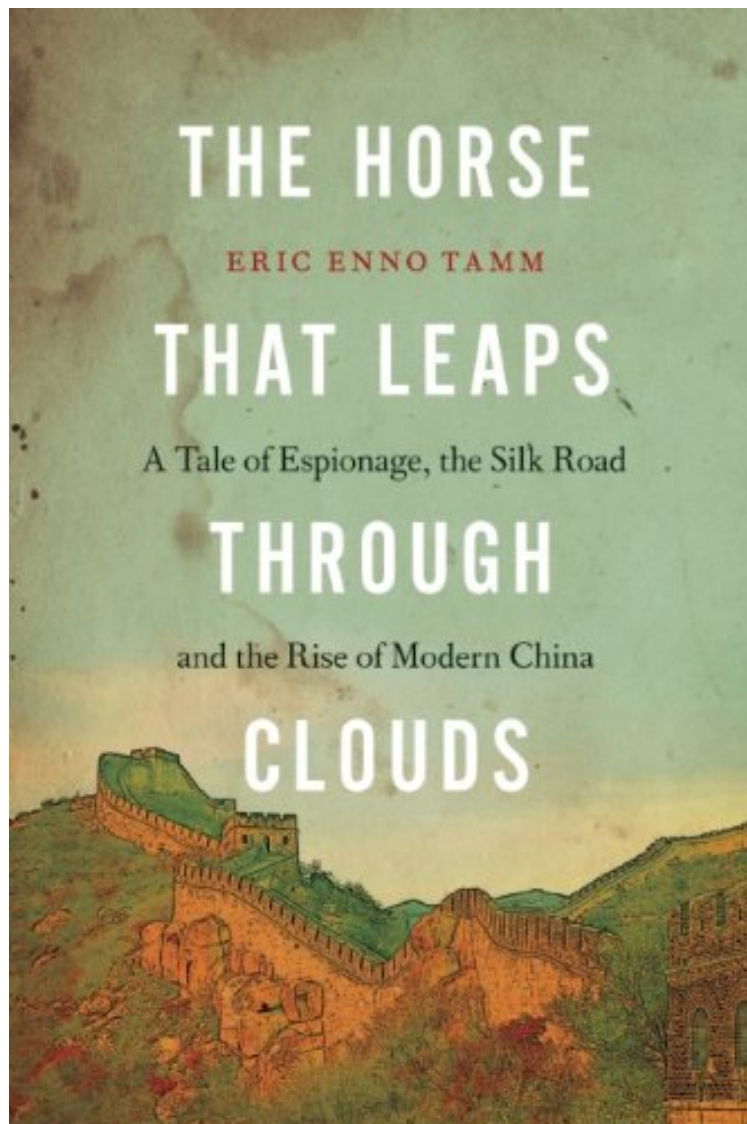


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The Horse That Leaps Through Clouds: A Tale of Espionage, the Silk Road, and the Rise of Modern China

Eric Enno Tamm

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Eric Enno Tamm : The Horse That Leaps Through Clouds: A Tale of Espionage, the Silk Road, and the Rise of Modern China before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Horse That Leaps Through Clouds: A Tale of Espionage, the Silk Road, and the Rise of Modern China:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. History repeating itselfBy Anthony McEvoyFor many years I have

been fascinated by the enigma that was, Baron Gustaf Mannerheim. A curious episode in his life was his trek through central Asia to China at the behest of Tsar Nicholas II. Having received a grubbing at the hands of the Japanese a year earlier in a war where they grossly underestimated the capabilities of their enemy, the Russian Emperor was perilously short on solid intelligence about their southern neighbours. For two years Mannerheim trekked through the southern borderlands of the Russian empire seeking to ascertain the military strength and the political intentions of the Chinese empire. Ostensibly a spying mission under the guise of an anthropological expedition, as with all things concerning Mannerheim, it wasn't as straight forward as it first seemed. Eric Enno Tamm's book retraces Mannerheim's route 100 years later. Tamm uses Mannerheim as his guide and as a framework around which he builds a fascinating travelogue. Tamm's erudite and relaxed writing style makes this a relaxing, but at the same time informative read. He wonderfully combines the observations made 100 years ago with the current situation and you are left wondering if anything really changes politically or is history destined to continue repeating itself. The only difference between then and now seems to be that man has managed to pollute horribly what was pure 100 years ago. I bought this book as a Kindle edition and at the start of each chapter there is a resource link, linked to Tamm's website which has copious information, maps and photographs related to each particular chapter. Unfortunately using this link on my Kindle was frustratingly slow and the maps were hard to discern in black and white, but I think it is a marvelous innovation on Tamm's part to have this in his book. Usually books like this are very short on such maps. Much more practical would be to peruse it on a PC instead. I found this a wonderfully engrossing book to read and Tamm's writing style is very descriptive so much so that you can almost feel the pollution, he describes, getting right up your nose. For those who know about Mannerheim you may not learn a lot of new things about the man but certainly you will learn a lot about the current state of the areas he visited 100 years ago. As to the accusation of Tamm being biased against the Chinese and China. I think you can see where that reviewer's opinions were coming from. Of course Tamm may have his opinions about China. It is hard to travel through the borderlands of China and not feel the effect of their regional power. I think that Tamm tries to be as objective as is humanly possible. He tries to put everything in context, especially for readers who may not know these lands intimately. One thing you can be assured of he is a lot more politically correct and balanced in his findings than his predecessor was a hundred years before him. If you like travelogues you will love this book especially if you like things put in their historic context. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Mannerheim on Mannerheim By Janene E Mannerheim Only 3/4 way through so far. Was expecting more comparison quoting of Mannerheim's original trek. Would also have liked photos taken in 2006 as I remember having seen some from 1906. But I guess Tamm is a writer whereas Mannerheim was an amazingly multi-faceted man was a real anthropologist linguist apart from being a spy. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. spy story a century ago but still modern By A. Brehm fantastic account of forgone years, actualised by this writer who has done the spy-trip again in modern times. Learn about the history of Russia, China, Finland and what has (not) changed.....

On July 6, 1906, Baron Gustaf Mannerheim boarded the midnight train from St. Petersburg, charged by Tsar Nicholas II to secretly collect intelligence on the Qing Dynasty's sweeping reforms that were radically transforming China. One of the last Tsarist secret agents, Mannerheim chronicled almost every facet of China's modernization, from education reform and foreign investment to Tibet's struggle for independence. On July 6, 2006, writer Eric Enno Tamm boards that same train, intent on following in Mannerheim's footsteps. Initially banned from China, Tamm devises a cover and retraces Mannerheim's route across the Silk Road, discovering both eerie similarities and seismic differences between the Middle Kingdoms of a century ago and today. Along the way, Tamm offers piercing insights into China's past that raise troubling questions about its future. Can the Communist Party truly open China to the outside world yet keep Western ideas such as democracy and freedom at bay, just as Qing officials mistakenly believed? What can reform during the late Qing Dynasty teach us about the spectacular transformation of China today? As Confucius once wrote, Study the past if you would divine the future, and that is precisely what Tamm does in *The Horse That Leaps Through Clouds*.

Praise for *The Horse That Leaps Through Clouds* "A complicated, ambitious travel adventure through modern Inner Asia . . . a truly inspired journey." Kirkus Following in the footsteps of Baron Carl Gustav Mannerheim, the last Tsarist spy in the so-called Great Game, Tamm has written a grand sweep of a narrative. It combines a long and arduous physical journey—9 months and 17,000 kilometers from St. Petersburg across the Tibetan Plateau and the Gobi desert to Beijing—with the revelations of high-stakes history—espionage in virtually unknown territory in the early years of the twentieth century. At its core, this is a journey into the soul of the Middle Kingdom, and the roots of modern China. Full of wild characters, harsh geography, and historical surprise, Tamm's journey reveals him to be at once an intrepid adventurer, fine writer, and discerning historian. Altogether a wonderful book. Wade Davis Praise for *Beyond the Outer Shores* Tamm's account of Ricketts's short life . . . is an engrossing memoir. Freelance writer Tamm smartly weaves in-depth literary analysis of Steinbeck's fiction into his narrative, though writing relatively little about mythologist Joseph Campbell's spiritual explorations . . . Tamm writes with impassioned honesty about his subjects many dimensions. Publishers Weekly Tamm . . . presents an affecting and mind-expanding group portrait of three

