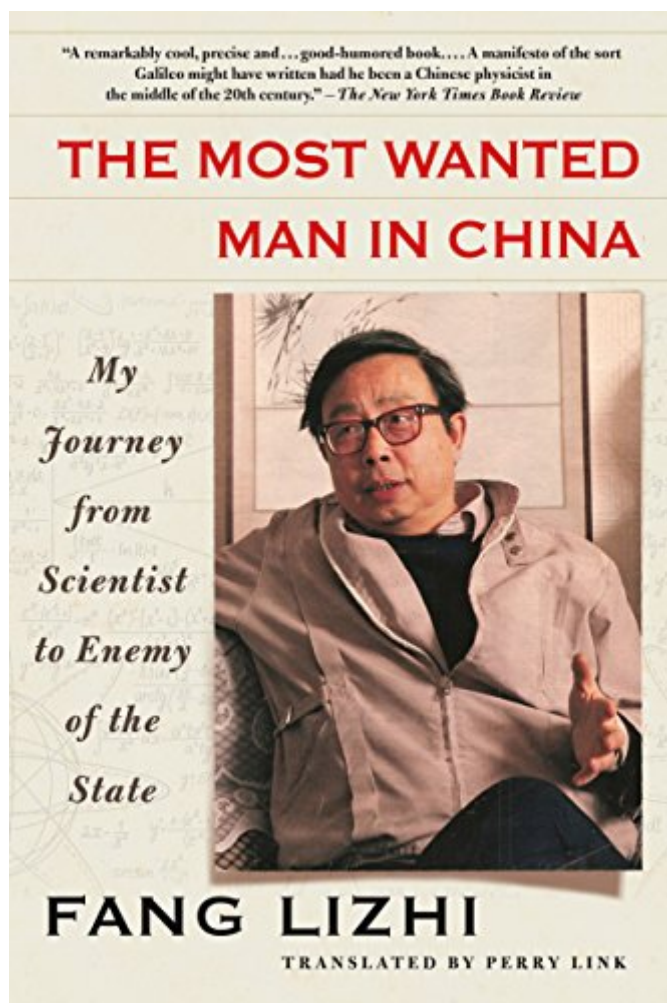


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The Most Wanted Man In China: My Journey From Scientist To Enemy Of The State



Synopsis

The long-awaited memoir by Fang Lizhi, the celebrated physicist whose clashes with the Chinese regime helped inspire the Tiananmen Square protests. Fang Lizhi was one of the most prominent scientists of the People's Republic of China; he worked on the country's first nuclear program and later became one of the world's leading astrophysicists. His devotion to science and the pursuit of truth led him to question the authority of the Communist regime. That got him in trouble. In 1957, after advocating reforms in the Communist Party, Fang -- just twenty-one years old -- was dismissed from his position, stripped of his Party membership, and sent to be a farm laborer in a remote village. Over the next two decades, through the years of the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, he was alternately denounced and rehabilitated, revealing to him the pettiness, absurdity, and horror of the regime's excesses. He returned to more normal work in academia after the death of Mao Zedong in 1976, but the cycle soon began again. This time his struggle became a public cause, and his example helped inspire the Tiananmen Square protests. Immediately after the crackdown in June 1989, Fang and his wife sought refuge in the U.S. embassy, where they hid for more than a year before being allowed to leave the country. During that time Fang wrote this memoir *The Most Wanted Man in China*, which has never been published, until now. His story, told with vivid detail and disarming humor, is a testament to the importance of remaining true to one's principles in an unprincipled time and place.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was written in Chinese and translated into English by Perry Link. It conveys the tumultuous times of Fang Lizhi. The reader is taken through what the subtitle terms "a journey from scientist to enemy of the state." Fang felt compelled as a scientist to speak out against aspects of communism. This act of rebellion got him into a heap of trouble. Fang joined a Communist front organization at a very young age. He continued to find himself in and out of favor with the party throughout his career as an astrophysicist. Daring to speak his views earned him the punishment of hard labor. In the aftermath of such suffering, he did not shun from speaking his mind when he thought it important to let people know his feelings. One who is in disfavor in China can face insurmountable obstacles. When President George H.W. Bush visited China in February of 1989, Fang and his wife intended to appear at a banquet hosted by the American president. The Chinese government thwarted their efforts to attend the Texas-style barbecue. The pair of dissidents were forced a few months later to go into a year of hiding in the U.S. embassy at Beijing. They sought that refuge during the infamous Tiananmen Square massacre. Fang and wife Li Shuxian eventually found their way to the United States, where he would die at the age of 76 in Tucson. He had spent time at Cambridge and Princeton before taking a professorship at the University of Arizona. His death was sudden, on April 6, 2012. The world should be grateful that he penned *The Most Wanted Man in China*. Likewise we should all be grateful to Fang's longtime friend Perry Link for giving us this beautiful English translation.

You want a new hero - Fang Lizhi gives you China from the inside, from a man who was never bowed, never afraid to follow the evidence. He takes his place with Andrei Sakharov among those I most admire, who was brave and true and paid a price.

In 1948, at the age of 12, Fang Lizhi (1936-2012) joined the Communist Party of China. As he advanced his love of mathematics (and later, physics), he also advanced within the Communist Party. However, as time went on, he found that his physics training taught him to question everything, while the Communist Party taught that one should question nothing. But, Dr. Fang could not accept unquestioned hypocrisy and incompetence that was the result of Communism,

and before he knew it, he became an enemy of the state, and later, the most wanted man in China! This autobiography was mostly written by Dr. Fang during his more than twelve-month stay in the U.S. embassy in Beijing. It's a very, VERY interesting look at the man's physical journey through the China of lifetime, and his intellectual journey from Communist student to human-rights activist. The book is very well written, and ably translated by Perry Link, a friend of Dr. Fang's. If you are interested in recent Chinese history, then you really should read this book. It's a wonderful read in its own right, and a fascinating look at China during the Revolution, the Cultural Revolution, and beyond! It's a great book, and I give it my highest recommendations!

An incredible story of life and suffering and survival in a brutal dictatorship. I cannot decide if the author has enormous courage or is completely oblivious of his actions and likely consequence.. I have the greatest admiration for this man and am certain that (given the population of China) he is one in a billion. sorry about spelling

Page turner.....true life story.....a highly educated man and wife survive brutal treatment in early years of communist China.....you must read this to believe it---testament to the power of educated people to change the world. Beautifully written. A moving story.

A most interesting book that gives the reader insight into Chinese culture, the collective Chinese brain, and its evolving political system. Reading the memoir of an academic was particularly enlightening. One wonders how China has been able to excel so powerfully when, at the same time, it inhibits free thinking and expression.

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