



Blood Red Sunset: A Memoir of the Chinese Cultural Revolution

By Ma Bo

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Blood Red Sunset: A Memoir of the Chinese Cultural Revolution By Ma Bo

First banned in its native land, this earthy, unflinching memoir has become one of the biggest bestsellers in the history of China.

In 1968, a fervent young Red Guard joined the army of hotheaded adolescents who trekked to Inner Mongolia to spread the Cultural Revolution. After gaining a reputation as a brutal abuser of the local herd owners and nomads, Ma Bo casually criticized a Party Leader. Denounced as an “active counterrevolutionary” and betrayed by his friends, the idealistic youth was brutally beaten and imprisoned.

Charged with passion, never doctrinaire, *Blood Red Sunset* is a startlingly vivid and personal narrative that opens a window on the psyche of totalitarian excess that no other work of history can provide. This is a tale of ideology and disillusionment, a powerful work of political and literary importance.

“A deceptively straightforward story carried forward by deep currents of insight.”—*The Washington Post*

“A genuine, no-holds-barred, unadorned piece of writing...echoing the realities of contemporary China.”—Liu Binyan, *The New York Times Book Review*

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"We were dupes of class struggle" the author says of the 1966-76 national aberration known as the Cultural Revolution, "made to howl at the moon like a pack of dogs." When the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party launched the One-Smash-and-Three-Oppose Campaign in 1970, the author was a fervent Red Guard. But his best friend betrayed him and Ma Bo was denounced as an "active counterrevolutionary," charged with slandering Chairman Mao and sentenced to labor reform in the quarries of Inner Mongolia. An irrepressible, pugnacious young man, Ma Bo launched a campaign to convince the authorities to reopen his case. The upshot was a period of official ostracism and personal isolation; how he managed to cope with this while suffering the tortures of unrequited love forms a major portion of this compelling memoir. In 1976 the Party unexpectedly changed the verdict on him to "serious political errors" and ordered his conditional release. A huge bestseller in China, this richly detailed record is told with raw narrative power. Ma Bo is writer-in-residence at Brown University.

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From Library Journal

The latest in a spate of excellent memoirs recalling the horrors of the Cultural Revolution.

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Language Notes

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carlo Young:

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Jennifer Byler:

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Cody Smith:

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