Books, Websites and Films about China

**Chinese History and Civilisation core course:**
The first year History and Civilisation course goes very rapidly through the whole of Chinese history, starting with archaeology in October and arriving at Xi Jinping in May. This is a lot to remember, so it will help a lot if you read a textbook ahead of time and get familiar with the main outlines of what happened. Here are some good textbooks:

This book is a fun read and really engaging, but it only takes you half way through.

A good read for the 20th century.

This book is better if you are the sort of person who likes to look at pictures and take lots of tidy notes!

The rest of this reading list is for you to choose what inspires you and learn some more.

**Politics and News:**

South China Morning Post [www.scmp.com](http://www.scmp.com) (They also have a very good app)

Up-to-date commentary and analysis

All-round news source for China, especially for business, economics and politics. The articles headed “Insight” are particularly useful.

Financial Times – China [https://www.ft.com/stream/8b82f4f1-6fdf-4fe1-91db-99cac1802016](https://www.ft.com/stream/8b82f4f1-6fdf-4fe1-91db-99cac1802016)  
News, commentary, and analysis on politics, economics, and other topics on China.

China File [http://www.chinafile.com](http://www.chinafile.com)  
Online magazine run by the Center for US-China Relations and the Asia Society, edited by Orville Schell, big-name analysts. Also includes good links to other major China stories on the web.

Hosted by the University of Nottingham but with external contributions, great source of commentary and analysis.

China Media Project [http://chinamediaproject.org/](http://chinamediaproject.org/)  
Online magazine run by Qian Gang and David Bandurski in partnership with the University of Hong Kong, focusing on politics, media, and communications.
Carnegie Tsinghua https://carnegietsinghua.org/
Beijing chapter of the Carnegie Endowment. Great analysis on politics, international relations, and law.

Jamestown China Brief https://jamestown.org/programs/cb/
China analysis for policy-makers, intelligence and military personnel, academics, journalists, and business leaders under the direction of Dr. Arthur Waldron at the University of Pennsylvania.

MERICS – Mercator Institute for China Studies https://www.merics.org/en
Berlin-based think tank working on China’s political, economic, social, technological and ecological developments, and the corresponding global impacts. It has a particular focus on China’s impact on Europe.

SupChina https://supchina.com/
Along with its widely known Sinica podcast, this is a must-know resource on Chinese news, social trends, and their analysis.

Nikkei Asian Review https://asia.nikkei.com/
Provides a view from Japan and often offers analysis and insights unavailable elsewhere.

What’s on Weibo https://www.whatsonweibo.com/
Managed by Manya Koetse. The site focuses on social trends on the Chinese social media platform Weibo and provides accompanying analysis and context.


**Classical Literature and Philosophy**

**Modern Literature**
Hu Fayun. *Such is This World@sars.come*. Dobbs Ferry: Ragged Banner Press, 2011.

**Film**
Jia Zhangke, *Still Life*, 2006
Lu Chuan, *City of Life and Death*, 2009.
__________, *In the Mood for Love*, 2000.

**History**
Note especially
Peter C. Perdue, *Rise and Fall of the Canton Trade System*
Lillian M. Li, *The Garden of Perfect Brightness*
Peter C. Perdue, *The First Opium War*
Kathryn Edgerton Tarpley, *Pictures to Draw Tears from Iron: the North China Famine of 1876-1879*
Jeffrey Wasserstrom & Rebecca Nedostup, *Shanghai’s Lens on the New(s): Dianshizhai Pictorial (1884–1898)*
John A. Crespi, *China’s Modern Sketch*


**Biographies and Memoirs**

**People’s Lives**


