

TRAVEL & GEOGRAPHY

★ Meyer, Michael. *The Road to Sleeping Dragon: Learning China from the Ground Up*. Bloomsbury Pr. Oct. 2017. 320p. notes. ISBN 9781632869357. \$28; ebk. ISBN 9781632869371. TRAV

Former Peace Corps volunteer Meyer (*The Last Days of Old Beijing*) continues to present his fascinating and worthwhile impressions of China. He explains that, unlike his first book, this latest work is mostly chronological impressions of lessons learned over time. Readers have an additional treat here in that Meyer shares his charming and challenging courtship of Frances, his wife whom he met while living in China. Frances's story brings further depth and insights to Meyer's observations and experiences of the country. For example, her mother used to tell her to finish what was on her plate because there were starving people in America. Meyer's comments are priceless; when his apartment was as cold as an icebox, he reported, "I called Frances and asked her how to turn on the radiator. She laughed. 'You can't. Beijing turns it on for you.'" **VERDICT** Those planning an actual trip to China as well as armchair travelers will be enlightened and entertained by this exceptional book.—
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