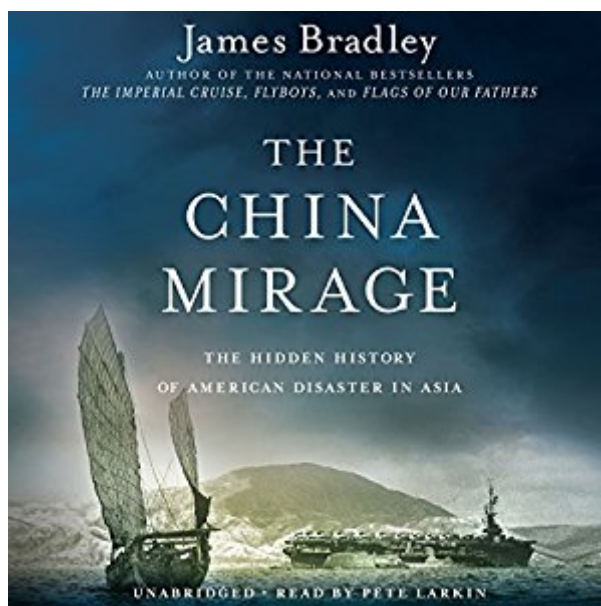


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# The China Mirage: The Hidden History Of American Disaster In Asia



## Synopsis

From the best-selling author of *Flags of Our Fathers*, *Flyboys*, and *The Imperial Cruise*, a spellbinding history of turbulent US-China relations from the nineteenth century to World War II and Mao's ascent. In each of his books, James Bradley has exposed the hidden truths behind America's engagement in Asia. Now comes his most engrossing work yet. Beginning in the 1850s, Bradley introduces us to the prominent Americans who made their fortunes in the China opium trade. As they - good Christians all - profitably addicted millions, American missionaries arrived, promising salvation for those who adopted Western ways. And that was just the beginning. From drug dealer Warren Delano to his grandson, Franklin Delano Roosevelt; from the port of Hong Kong to the towers of Princeton University; from the era of Appomattox to the age of the A-Bomb, *The China Mirage* explores a difficult century that defines US-Chinese relations to this day.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is one of the most opinionated "historical" account of Sino-American relation. James espouses a theory without proof that if US supported Mao, that China civil war and Korean War and Vietnam War would not have happened; and that China would not have expansion ambitions. Well, we are here today and China IS expanding into islands south of Japan and South China Sea, and using their economic muscle to mine the world's minerals. Mr. Bradley is indeed naive in his book as the US was naive at the time. While it is indeed true that the China Lobby conned the US, they were just smart at their game that is now normal occurrence. One thing I thought was ironic was that US wanted to make China a Christian nation and to expand trade, and had a critical role in feeding opium to the Chinese, whereas today China is exporting goods and illicit drugs to the US. My how

the tables have turned.

Easy to read history that deals with the media bias both leading up to Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and carried into US relations with both the ROC and PRC and into the Vietnam War. The author could have been more evenhanded in his reporting of facts, which, at times, seem cherry picked to support his thesis that the US was a willing dupe in entering WW II. Strongest material is that developed about the role of the China lobby and the influence on the American public thinking between WW I and WW II, then culminating in the fallout during the McCarthy period.

If you like history and have questions about our far east foreign policy in the last 100 years this is your book. I learned a great deal. I have no reason not to believe the reporting in this book although one could hope that at least a portion of it is not true. How top government officials and other experts could screw up so miserably is truly disturbing. I literally had to put the book down at times to let myself calm down over the reporting of one stupid decision after another. I'm a life long Republican so I suppose my negative view of FDR can be discounted by some. How he ever got to be viewed as one of the country's greatest presidents is beyond me. His know-it-all arrogance of cultures he did not begin to understand remind me of what is happening in the middle east today.

Review by Jerry Woolpy of James Bradley's *The China Mirage: the hidden history of American disaster in Asia*. Most of us know that our country was misled into invading Iraq by a mistaken president and his misinformed advisers. But what may surprise most of us is that Presidents Teddy Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, Eisenhower, and Johnson were similarly misled into policies that resulted in wars with Japan, Korea, and Viet Nam that did not have to happen. They misread communications and were totally misled into allying with Chiang instead of Mao and Diem instead of Minh. Loaded information came from a college friend of Teddy who became envoy to Meiji, China missionaries, China propagandists, and Time magazine. This book tells the history of the roots of our woe begotten relations with Japan, then China, then Korea, then Viet Nam. How the China Lobby in our country bamboozled our people, our government, and all but a few outcaste military, ambassadors, and intelligence officers. It explains how foreign policy may arise from the secret manipulations of presidents behind the backs of experienced officers of State and Defense. By analogy it calls attention to the dangers of foreign interested lobbyists like the AIPAC, and those currently collecting favors from presidential hopefuls like the Clintons; and it warns of the catastrophes that can result from opinion based news like Fox. You may not need to read this book,

but our presidents certainly do.

This book points out the many failures over 150+ year history of US policy in China and in Asia. It also bring to light just how deep many of the US political and economic icons were involved in the opium trade to make their fortunes. But most of all it points out the folly of getting your intelligence from biased and often totally ignorant sources, such as the Christian evangelists in the pre-1950 eras who had very close ties to Washington. The book is not perfect - it tends to gloss over a bit on other outside factors, such as Stalin, but since this is a book about China and Asia, I would not expect it to delve deep into those aspects.

Excellent rebuttal to common wisdom related to our misunderstanding a sleeping Tiger. Bradley does an excellent job of pursuing the facts, regardless of how inconvenient they may be. For over 50 years the US has made strategic decisions in Asia in a fantasy land filled with mirages. The only criticism I have of the book is a reference to B-52s being launched from islands during WWII--they were B-29s. Not sure how that slipped by the proof-readers.

A completely different version of the history of the times and the fallout for future generations. Makes the Roosevelts look like really bad people who deceived the American people. Hard to believe the some of the famous people did such treacherous things.

Another excellent book by James Bradley. I can also recommend his "Flags of our Fathers" and "Fly Boys"

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