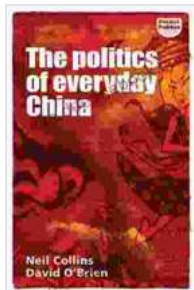


The Politics of Everyday China: Pocket Politics



The politics of everyday China (Pocket Politics)

by Jahara Matissek

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3018 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 304 pages

Lending : Enabled



In the bustling streets and vibrant communities of China, politics is not confined to the halls of power or the grand pronouncements of leaders. Instead, it permeates everyday life, shaping the interactions between individuals, communities, and the state. This article explores the concept of 'pocket politics' in China, examining how everyday forms of power and resistance shape political life in the country.

Drawing on ethnographic research, the article argues that pocket politics offers a lens to understand the complexities of everyday life in China. It reveals how individuals and groups navigate and negotiate the boundaries of state power and social norms, engaging in subtle acts of resistance and accommodation. Pocket politics thus provides a window into the hidden transcripts of everyday life, revealing the ways in which people make sense of and respond to the political realities of their everyday lives.

Everyday Forms of Power and Resistance

In everyday China, power is not simply exercised through formal institutions and structures. Instead, it is also embedded in the mundane interactions and practices of daily life. This everyday power can be seen in the ways in which people interact with each other, the decisions they make, and the ways in which they navigate the social and physical spaces around them.

One example of everyday power is the concept of *guanxi*, or social connections. In China, *guanxi* is essential for getting things done, whether it's finding a job, securing a loan, or solving a problem. The strength of one's *guanxi* network can determine their access to resources, opportunities, and support. This form of everyday power is not limited to the wealthy or powerful, but can be cultivated by anyone who is willing to invest time and effort in building relationships.

Another example of everyday power is the ability to negotiate and resist. In China, as in many other societies, people often find themselves in situations where they must negotiate with others in order to get what they want. This can be anything from bargaining with a vendor at the market to negotiating with a landlord over rent. The ability to negotiate effectively is a valuable skill that can help people to improve their lives and protect their interests.

Resistance can also be a form of everyday power. In China, resistance often takes the form of subtle acts of defiance or evasion. For example, people may refuse to obey a government order, or they may find ways to circumvent regulations that they find unfair or unjust. These acts of resistance may not be overtly political, but they can still be seen as a way of challenging the status quo and asserting one's own agency.

The Boundaries of State Power

The Chinese state is a powerful force in the lives of its citizens. It has a vast bureaucracy, a large military, and a sophisticated surveillance apparatus. However, the state's power is not absolute. There are limits to what the state can control, and there are always ways for people to find ways to resist or evade its authority.

One of the most important limits to state power is the fact that it is not monolithic. The Chinese state is a complex organization, and there are often competing interests within the bureaucracy. This can create opportunities for people to find allies within the state who can help them to achieve their goals or protect their interests.

Another limit to state power is the fact that it is not always able to effectively penetrate into the lives of its citizens. The Chinese state has a vast surveillance apparatus, but it cannot be everywhere at once. This means that there are always spaces where people can escape the gaze of the state and engage in activities that are not sanctioned by the government.

Finally, the Chinese state is limited by the fact that it needs the cooperation of its citizens in order to function effectively. The state cannot force people to do things that they do not want to do, and it must rely on the cooperation of its citizens to implement its policies and programs.

Social Norms and Everyday Life

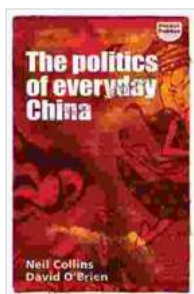
In addition to state power, everyday life in China is also shaped by social norms. These norms are often unspoken and unwritten, but they are nevertheless powerful forces that can influence people's behavior and choices.

One of the most important social norms in China is the concept of face. Face is a complex concept that refers to one's social reputation and standing. It is important to maintain one's face in all social interactions, and losing face can be a serious matter.

Another important social norm in China is the concept of guanxi. As mentioned above, guanxi refers to social connections and relationships. It is important to cultivate and maintain good guanxi with others, as this can provide access to resources and opportunities. Losing guanxi can be damaging to one's social and economic standing.

Social norms can shape everyday life in China in a variety of ways. For example, they can influence the way people interact with each other, the decisions they make, and the way they navigate the social and physical spaces around them.

The concept of pocket politics offers a lens to understand the complexities of everyday life in China. It reveals how individuals and groups navigate and negotiate the boundaries of state power and social norms, engaging in subtle acts of resistance and accommodation. Pocket politics provides a window into the hidden transcripts of everyday life, revealing the ways in which people make sense of and respond to the political realities of their everyday lives.



The politics of everyday China (Pocket Politics)

by Jahara Matisek

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3018 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 304 pages

Lending : Enabled

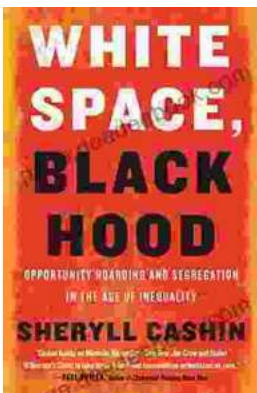
FREE

DOWNLOAD E-BOOK



Every Cowgirl Loves Rodeo: A Western Adventure

Every Cowgirl Loves Rodeo is a 2021 American Western film directed by Catherine Hardwicke and starring Lily James, Camila Mendes, and Glen...



Opportunity Hoarding and Segregation in the Age of Inequality

In an age marked by profound inequality, the concepts of opportunity hoarding and segregation have emerged as pressing concerns. These phenomena...