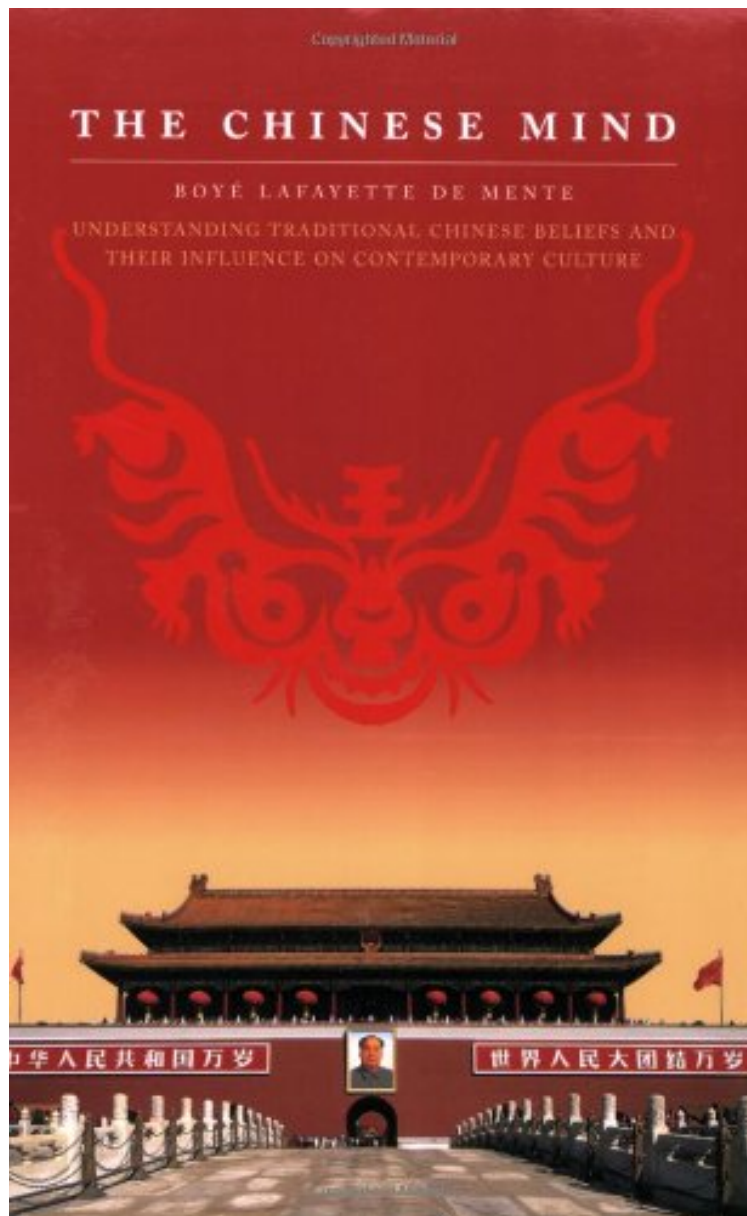


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The Chinese Mind: Understanding Traditional Chinese Beliefs and Their Influence on Contemporary Culture

Boye Lafayette De Mente

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#597480 in Books De Mente, Boye 2009-03-10 2009-03-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .60 x 5.501, .60 #File Name: 0804840113192 pages | File size: 45.Mb

Boye Lafayette De Mente : The Chinese Mind: Understanding Traditional Chinese Beliefs and Their Influence on Contemporary Culture before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all

praised *The Chinese Mind: Understanding Traditional Chinese Beliefs and Their Influence on Contemporary Culture*:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Uneven Writing, Wrong Word Pronunciations By BigB After reading the other reviews I was excited to consider this book for recommending to my students. After reading it, I had to lean toward the previous review that calls this book laughably bad. For the "uneven writing" part of my review title:- The writing was very uneven with some good sections containing useful information interspersed with trite sections containing little information at all.- The book starts with a section on Yin and Yang which doesn't provide a definition of what it is or how it really influences Chinese culture, but it does say that it pervades all cultures. This is common to many of the sections of the book which contain what I felt were generalizations and shallow statements that didn't say much of anything at all. Another glaring example for me was the section on the influence of computers and the internet on Chinese culture which said essentially that the internet has changed Chinese culture by importing other ideas from around the world.- The unfortunate thing is that there *were* some good sections of the book including those on: situational ethics, the soft "no", and Chinese way of viewing law. My problem is the good sections were simply too short, too few and too far apart.- In the end the book felt to me like different parts were written by different people, or that it was assembled by cutting and pasting. (I agree with the "freshman writing" sentiment of the other reviewer). For the "pronunciations" part of my review title:- The pronunciations given for many words were wrong and should not be relied on. Using many of them will only result in confusion.- Example: on the first page, Hanzi is not pronounced "Han Jee" and saying it that way will get you nothing but a blank stare. That was only the first of many, many.- Even simple words were butchered: the word "bao" (pronounced as in "bow to the king") was written to be pronounced as Bah-oh - a 2 syllable word ??? I would have liked to recommend this book as there were a few good sections. But overall, there are much better books out there on learning how the Chinese think and how they do things. An easy choice for me is another book by the same publisher ("*It's All Chinese to Me: An Overview of Culture Etiquette in China*").

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The writer raises some interesting points, but his analysis ... By Charles S Stubin The writer raises some interesting points, but his analysis is faulty. He provides no examples to illustrate his assertions. He appears to have a sketchy understanding of Chinese history. He provides a list of key words in Chinese, but he uses Romanization, rather than Chinese characters. It seems to me that he is not a competent Chinese speaker, for many of the words he cites appear to be inaccurate.. In short, he is not an expert.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Part IV of this Book is Invaluable By Edward J. Barton This book presents a broad but very basic introduction to Chinese culture and how modern Chinese culture has been shaped and impacted by the opening of the country post-1976. The author does a decent job in the first half of the book providing a brief but very approachable summary of Chinese culture - including religion, social and family customs, language, philosophy and food. At the end of each section are a set of questions and essay topics best suited to a textbook on Chinese culture. The real gem of the book - which elevated the rating from 3 to 4 stars - is Part IV. Eliminating the pedagogic questioning, Part IV dives into the many Chinese "key words" that reveal key elements of the Chinese mind. Discussing elements as broad as guanxi, guo cui, sheng, zhong fu and mianzi - it will enable the reader to begin to embark on a journey towards becoming a Zhongguo Tong. Worth reading for Part IV alone for the novice getting exposed to Chinese thought and culture.

The Chinese: understanding a people and their culture through key words and language. *The Chinese Mind* pinpoints areas of China's traditional values and behaviors that play a significant role in the business and social relationships of the Chinese. It also identifies key areas of Chinese culture that have changed as a result of the adoption of a market-based economy and other elements of Western culture. It includes discussion topics and questions, along with an extensive selection of Chinese "code words" that explain the essence and role of key elements of the traditional culture that have survived into modern times. Covering everything from the importance of Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher, to the influence of foreign fast food and video games, this book provides a wide-ranging glimpse into the seemingly opaque Chinese mind. *The Chinese Mind* is an excellent overview of Chinese tradition, history, and culture that is perfect for the classroom, tourists or outsiders living or doing business in China. Some of the vital concepts explored here include: Yin and Yang, the search for balance in all things Mianji, the importance of face Hong, looking at things holistically De, the power of virtue Guo cui, the national essence of the Chinese Zhong fu, the pursuit of insight Bi, unity the Chinese way

About the Author Boye Lafayette De Mente has been involved with Japan, China, and Korea since the late 1940s as a member of a U.S. intelligence agency, student, trade journalist, editor, and author working out of Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong, and Singapore. He is a graduate of Jochi University in Tokyo and The American Institute for Foreign Trade (now Thunderbird: The School of Global Management). His 70-plus books include *Etiquette Guide to China*, *Instant Chinese* and *Survival Chinese*.