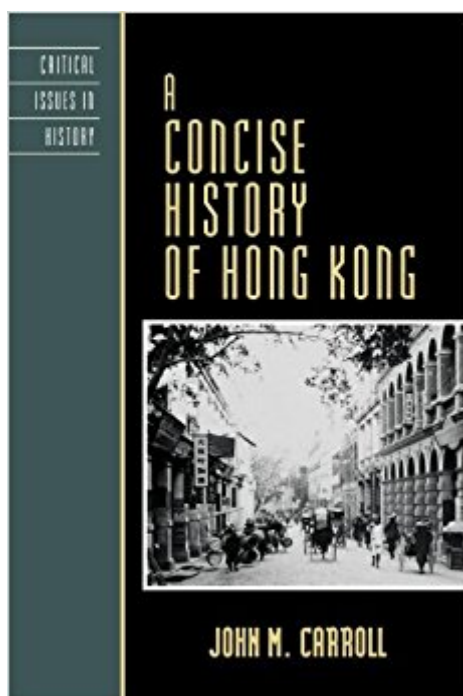


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A Concise History Of Hong Kong (Critical Issues In World And International History)



Synopsis

When the British occupied the tiny island of Hong Kong during the First Opium War, the Chinese empire was well into its decline, while Great Britain was already in the second decade of its legendary "Imperial Century." From this collision of empires arose a city that continues to intrigue observers. Melding Chinese and Western influences, Hong Kong has long defied easy categorization. John M. Carroll's engrossing and accessible narrative explores the remarkable history of Hong Kong from the early 1800s through the post-1997 handover, when this former colony became a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. The book explores Hong Kong as a place with a unique identity, yet also a crossroads where Chinese history, British colonial history, and world history intersect. Carroll concludes by exploring the legacies of colonial rule, the consequences of Hong Kong's reintegration with China, and significant developments and challenges since 1997.

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Customer Reviews

"A Concise History of Hong Kong" by John Carroll does an excellent job of covering the entire history of the the "Fragrant Harbour" of South China; from before the Treaty of Nanking that ceded

the territory to the British until ten years after it returned to Chinese rule in 1997. Easy to read and, as the title says, concise at only 270 pages. (Including the bibliography, index, and chronology of key events.) Mr. Carroll does a particularly good job of looking at things from both the Chinese and British points of view.

Objective and well-balanced. The book covers the entire history of Hong Kong from the colonial period to the post-1997 Hong Kong handover to China. The political, economic and social conditions of Hong Kong society are well narrated. The author puts much emphasis on the state-society relations and interactions and the geopolitical importance of Hong Kong to UK and China. Moreover, the text is interweaved with important but often neglected facts. After all, this is a book written by an honest and conscientious historian.

As part of the research for my next novel, I've been reading A concise history of Hong Kong, by John Carroll, and I've learned a lot. The book was written with the general public in mind and is not full of technical and historical details only relevant to historians. The focus is on the days since the founding of the British colony in 1841. I wish there had been more about the Japanese occupation from 1941 to 1945, a period I am fascinated with, but overall I found the book very interesting. The strikes and riots of 1967 are well covered, as well as all the politics around the return of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty in 1997 (almost too much). It's a good first read for anyone who's interested in the history of Hong Kong.

Great background into Hong Kong. Quick read.

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