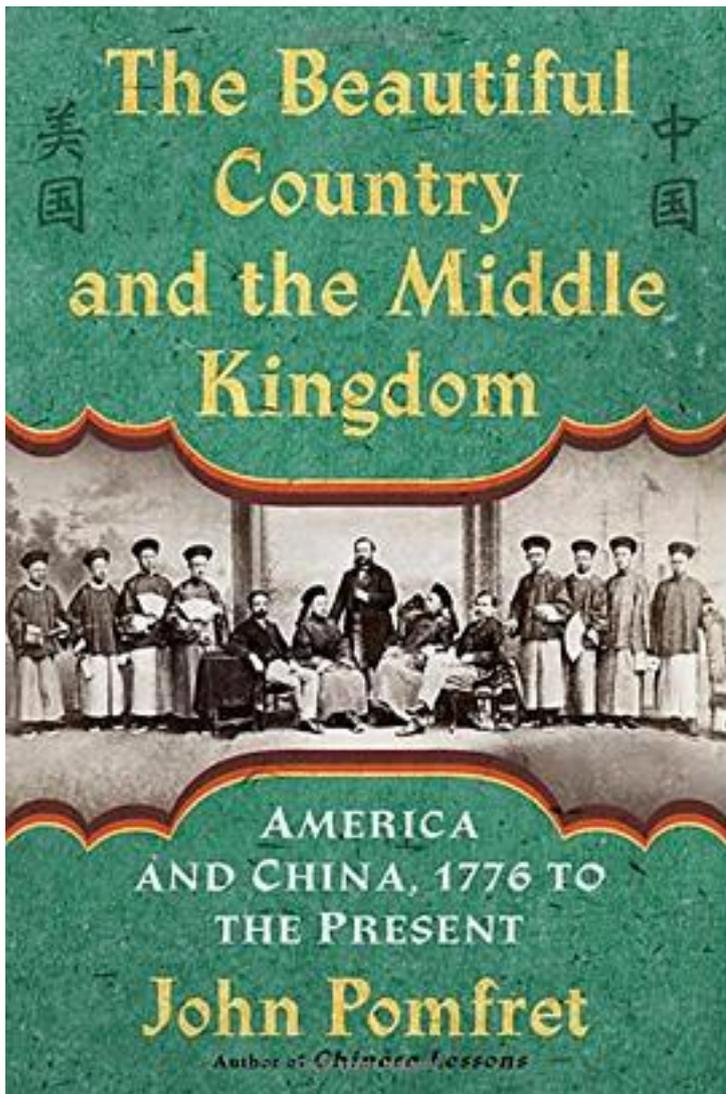


# The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom



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From the clipper ships that ventured to Canton hauling cargoes of American ginseng to swap Chinese tea, to the US warships facing off against China's growing navy in the South China Sea, from the Yankee missionaries who brought Christianity and education to China, to the Chinese who built the American West, the United States and China have always been dramatically intertwined. For more than two centuries, American and Chinese statesmen, merchants, missionaries, and adventurers, men and women, have profoundly influenced the fate of these nations. While we tend to think of America's ties with China as starting in 1972 with the visit of President Richard Nixon to China, the patterns—rapturous enchantment followed by angry disillusionment—were set in motion hundreds of years earlier.

Drawing on personal letters, diaries, memoirs, government documents, and contemporary news reports, John Pomfret reconstructs the surprising, tragic, and marvelous ways Americans and Chinese have engaged with one another through the centuries. A fascinating and thrilling account, *The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom* is also an indispensable book for understanding the most important—and often the most perplexing—relationship between any two countries in the world.

#### 作者介绍:

John Pomfret served as a correspondent for the Washington Post for two decades, covering wars, revolutions, and China. He is the author of the acclaimed book *Chinese Lessons*, and has won awards for his reporting on Asia, including the Osborne Elliot Prize. He holds a BA and MA from Stanford University and was one of the first American students to go to China after relations were normalized. Pomfret was expelled from China after the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989. Most recently, he was a Fulbright senior scholar in Beijing.

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## 标签

历史

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海外中国研究

JohnPomfret

中美关系

History

英文原版

SinoUS

## 评论

1776年至今的美中关系史。以故事和人物串起两百多年中美之间的爱恨情仇。读罢才发现，中美对对方影响之深超乎想象。双方在美丽幻想与幻想破灭之间循环往复，延续至今。不得不说，中美两国未来之路，从历史之中或许可以窥见一斑。

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潘文用 “The Middle Kingdom” 而非 “China” 更能体现出历史的动态性

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回溯了自晚清以来的中美关系，洋洋洒洒，纵横捭阖，解疑释惑，正本清源。两国对对方各有各的美好想象，高涨的希望，与随后的彻底失望。抗日战争那一章对国共美苏之间的纠葛写的尤为翔实精彩。对在美华人的描述则略显简略。

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标记给《中国教训》，页面最近被删了。读完后深深叹口气，挺难受。由几位中国同学的命运构成的中国近代史。毛时代的印记渐渐被抹去，再后来，人们也渐渐忘却所有历史的创伤，接受了自己迥乎不同，魔幻现实的命运。老一代人选择忘记，沉默，犬儒或者在记忆中沉湎。新一代中国人享乐，无知，同时也彷徨，痛苦，承受新世纪的压力。隐隐约约有一种无形的力量压在所有人身上，不知以后又是如何。

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美之邦与中之国的关系史，重点相当明确：一方的稳定与强大符合另一方的基本利益。中方就不说了，美方的问题就是心存不切实际的幻想，致使其政策摇摆不定，极度缺乏战略眼光。所谓不破不立，随着 COVID-19 后全球经济衰退，各国民族主义抬头，工业制造业重组回流，两国关系想必有重大改变。这本书还是太乐观了。

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The first 2/3 of the book makes truly fascinating listening!

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学点历史还是可以帮助自己拨开迷雾一定程度遇见未来的

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历数中美上百年的爱恨情仇。美国一方面有用民主和自由解放全人类的理想。一方面有在全球追逐利益的实际需求，希望中国有稳定统一开放市场。每当理想和需求冲突，理想就暂且放放。所以帮慈禧打过太平天国，支持过袁世凯称帝，在国共间摇摆不定，气得蒋介石常常向日记哭诉。两次世界大战都牺牲了中国作为战胜国的权益。毛早在巴黎和会后就丧失了对美国的信任。中国一方面向往和学习美国的技术和知识，一方面视其制度和意识形态为洪水猛兽。上百年来都在探寻一个共同的课题，只学技术，摒弃制度，到底可不可行，爱恨在这两者之间纠结。全书纵贯上百年历史，读的过程中常有原来是这样，怎么会是这样，果然讲到这个，等等等等，由不得想要拍案。感想万千，不能尽诉。

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Pomfret的这本长篇巨制没让我失望，花了差不多一个月读完了，中美两国200多年的爱恨情仇尽收眼底，令人唏嘘感叹，偶尔又会心一笑。两个国家乃至人类社会的未来，仍然取决于这两大文明之间的相处将向何方发展。

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书评

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