



# The Spirit of Chinese Politics: A Psychocultural Study of the Authority Crisis in Political Development

By Lucian W. Pye

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One of the best-known and most knowledgeable observers of the Chinese scene, unfolds in this book a deep psychological analysis of Chinese political culture. The dynamics of the Cultural Revolution, the behavior of the Red Guards, and the compulsions of Mao Tse-tung are among the important symptoms examined. But going much beyond the front page of today's events, Pye explores the more enduring qualities of Chinese culture and the stable elements of the national psychology as they have been manifested in traditional, Republican, and Communist periods. He also scans several possible paths of future development. The emphasis is on the roles long played by authority, order, hierarchy and emotional quietism in Chinese political culture as shaped by the Confucian tradition and the institution of filial piety, and the resulting confusions brought about by the displacements of these traditions in the face of political change and modernization.

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