

# China Imagined : From European Fantasy to Spectacular Power

Gregory Lee

**Gregory Lee, Professeur des universités en langue chinoise à la Faculté des langues publiera un ouvrage en novembre 2018, *China Imagined : From European Fantasy to Spectacular Power* .**

*How did China become China? And where is it leading us? We talk as if it had always existed: eternal China with its 5,000 years of uninterrupted history. But the name 'China' was first used by sixteenth-century Europeans, and its Chinese equivalent, Zhongguo, only gained currency in the mid-1800s.*

*China Imagined is a thoughtful exploration of the idea of China, from the naming and mapping of its territory and peoples to the creation and rise of the modern nation-state. China's early history describes a multilingual space, ruled by a homogeneous elite with its own minority culture—a far cry from Maoism's national mass culture, or Xi Jinping's state-controlled digital society today.*

*Gregory Lee traces this complex, diverse entity's evolution since the Opium Wars into a China made in 'our' image. Today, it is a great power integral to the global system, whether it comes to climate change, security or inequality. Given this rapid convergence with the West, Xi's China holds up a mirror to our own nations. Trump's America, Putin's Russia and post-Brexit Europe all betray echoes of 'the Chinese Dream'. If China is a product of Westernisation, is it now the West's turn to become China?*

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## L'auteur

[Gregory Lee](#)

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