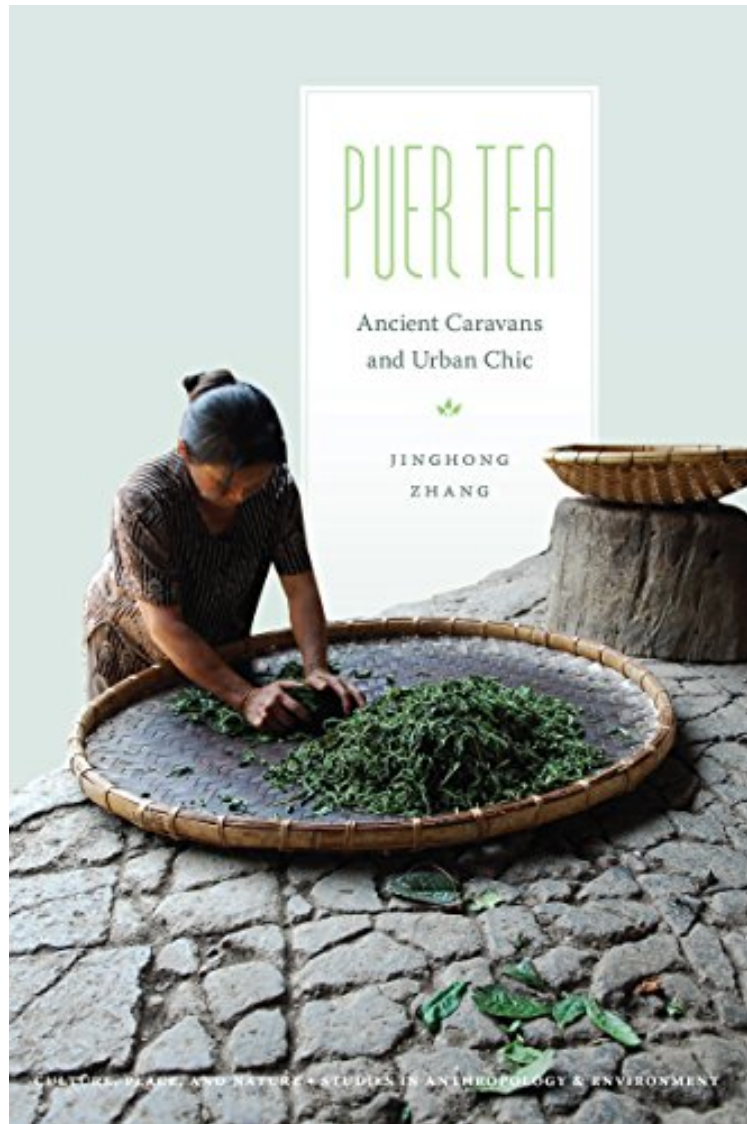


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Puer Tea: Ancient Caravans and Urban Chic (Culture, Place, and Nature)

Jinghong Zhang

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Jinghong Zhang : Puer Tea: Ancient Caravans and Urban Chic (Culture, Place, and Nature) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Puer Tea: Ancient Caravans and Urban Chic (Culture, Place, and Nature):

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Excellent work. Reads like a detective novel!By CustomerI have been studying and drinking tea for many years. Indeed, I have traveled to all the places that Dr Zhang mentions in this excellent book therefore can speak with some knowledge.I find Dr Zhang's observations and formulations to be full

and correct. Dr Zhang's knowledge of the pu'er industry in the most turbulent of times that she discusses here makes this the number one work for both general reading and academic knowledge. For the general reader this book is a "page turner". This may at first seem strange that a book on such a specialised and apparently dry subject would be like this. However, the intricacies of the relationships of the growers, producers, buyers and consumers make this read like a detective novel of the highest grade. This book is far from "dry". Still, at the end, it makes me wonder about the foibles of human beings and our quest for riches over contentment. After all, it is "just" a cup of tea - or is it? Dr Zhang's work will make sure you reconsider that statement. In the mean time you will be fully educated about the art and science of pu'er tea and the politics of this facet of business in China. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I have developed over the years a great appreciation for tea at the expense of completely giving ... By mohamed khashoggi Living in Greater China for almost 6 years now has given me an opportunity to unravel a new mystery every day. This is true for language as well as culture. I have developed over the years a great appreciation for tea at the expense of completely giving up on coffee. Pu'er is my go to morning tea. Dr Zhang in her book has done a wonderful service to the foreign Pu'er aficionado. Giving more clarity as to why the world of Pu'er is so unclear and confusing to many of us... welcome to the of the Pu'er world!!! 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Pu'er adulthood By Lewis Perin If you love Pu'er tea, you've noticed there's a lot of mystique about it. If you love Pu'er tea and read about it only in English, it sometimes seems there's only mystique. Or, if you don't want to call it mystique, call it rigid rules that don't necessarily correspond to reality. It's like being a child who's told by adults that there are simple rules for everything. When we grow up, most of us learn that life is not quite as simple as our elders had told us. Reading this book is a way for the Anglophone Pu'er tea lover to grow up. You'll see that the definition of Pu'er tea is contested and always has been, that the standards and practices you thought were immutable are far from that. You'll see that the Pu'er tea industry, from the farmers to the vendors, is made up of people who, understandably, follow their own varying interests as best they can, and that their understanding of their own interests is fallible. If you want to know where Pu'er tea comes from, how it is made, who makes it, and how it all got that way, and if you want to be told all this by someone who isn't trying to sell you anything beyond the book you hold in your hands, read this book.

Puer tea has been grown for centuries in the Six Great Tea Mountains of Yunnan Province, and in imperial China it was a prized commodity, traded to Tibet by horse or mule caravan via the so-called Tea Horse Road and presented as tribute to the emperor in Beijing. In the 1990s, as the tea's noble lineage and unique process of aging and fermentation were rediscovered, it achieved cult status both in China and internationally. The tea became a favorite among urban connoisseurs who analyzed it in language comparable to that used in wine appreciation and paid skyrocketing prices. In 2007, however, local events and the international economic crisis caused the Puer market to collapse. Puer Tea traces the rise, climax, and crash of this phenomenon. With ethnographic attention to the spaces in which Puer tea is harvested, processed, traded, and consumed, anthropologist Jinghong Zhang constructs a vivid account of the transformation of a cottage handicraft into a major industry with predictable risks and unexpected consequences. Watch the videos: http://www.washington.edu/uwpress/books/Zhang_PUER_TEA_videos.html

"An admirably coherent analysis of the complex social relationships that shaped the Pu'er market. . . . and a fine addition to the literature on the cultural biographies of commodities. . . . Recommended for the teaching of political economy, cultural economy, Chinese social transformation, and regional development studies." *China Quarterly* "A wealth of valuable information, both historical and anecdotal. should be mandatory reading for anyone interested in the subject of Puer tea." *Two Dog Tea Blog* "This fine book has so much to tell us about the political economy of Puer tea over different periods of time and with links to Hong Kong, Taiwan and beyond [I]nformative and well-written." *Tan Chee Beng, Australian Journal of Anthropology* "This is an engrossing study of the Puer tea industry and the many cultural spheres that surround it. It will be of keen interest to the Western tea trade as well as its historians, connoisseurs, and enthusiasts. Tea publications rarely, if ever, discuss the complex relationships that quite literally bring tea to the table and never is the anatomy of tea dissected in such a wide ranging, thorough, and engaging way." *Steven D. Owyong, cotranslator of Korean Tea Classics* About the Author Jinghong Zhang is a lecturer at Yunnan University.