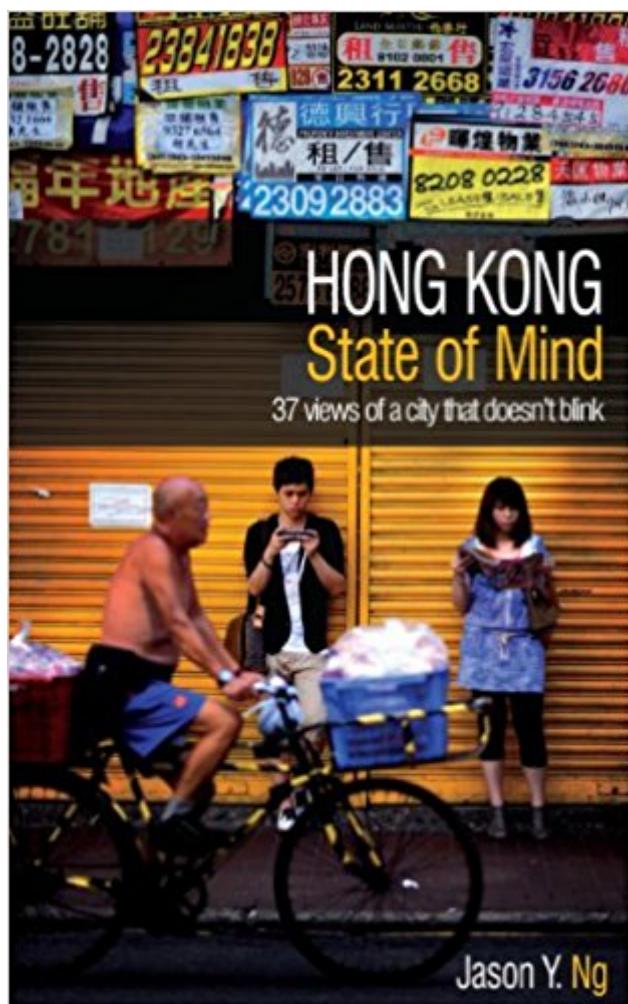


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Hong Kong State Of Mind: 37 Views Of A City That Doesn't Blink



Synopsis

Hong Kong is a city where limousines outnumber taxi cabs, party-goers count down to Christmas every December 24, and giant billboards of fortune tellers and cram school tutors compete with breathtaking skylines. This collection of essays zeroes in on the city's idiosyncrasies with deadpan precision. An outsider looking in and an insider looking out, Jason Y. Ng has created a travel journal for the passing visitor, and a user's manual for the wide-eyed expat.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Hong Kong's colorful history and vibrant street life come alive in a vivid account of the pleasures and contradictions of this Asian metropolis." —Zeb Eckert, Bloomberg Television

Jason Y. Ng is a lawyer, blogger and newspaper columnist who lived in Europe, the US and Canada before returning to Hong Kong.

"Hong Kong State of Mind" is a quick read not only because Ng is an entertaining and thought-provoking writer, but also one of the most knowledgeable about today's Hong Kong issues. As stated in the book's subtitle "37 Views of a City that Doesn't Blink" each chapter looks into a specific issue relative to Hong Kong or other parts of Asia (the last section depicts his travels around the region). He writes about education and politics, pollution, the mainland-Hong Kong culture clash, and the Tiananmen remembrances in Victoria Park, just to name several. Born in Hong Kong, Jason Ng

went abroad for high school and university (including business and law school). After a stint practicing law in New York, Ng returned to Hong Kong in 2005. In his book, he looks at Hong Kong from both an insider's and outsider's perspective. "Hong Kong State of Mind" is a great book for Hong Kong locals, novices, and everyone in between. Be sure to check out his other books, too.

Wonderful book for anyone interested in the culture of Hong Kong or the specifics of the city itself. I bought this for my dad and he loved it as well. The writer is a former blogger. He was born in Hong Kong but now lives in Canada. He is a gifted writer and my dad and I both enjoyed this book. Would make a great gift for anyone interested or planning a trip to Hong Kong. Cheers!

If you are looking for a tourist guidebook, look away. But if you long for a somewhat deeper understanding and appreciation of why Hong Kong is Hong Kong, this book could offer you some insight, such as Hong Kongers view on the city icon- double deckers.

The title of this book is exactly what I was hoping to read, and to some extent that's what you get. I visit Hong Kong frequently and I have a love and interest for that country and its people that I cannot fully explain. Maybe it's the kind of romanticism you can only get with something familiar yet exotic, a culture you understand but not quite. Or maybe it's just the idea of the evolution of a culture apropos the topography of the geography it inhabits. Either way I keep going back. I wasn't looking for anything specific when I ordered this book, except that I could read something slightly more nuanced than my own understanding of everyday life and culture of the country. The book, divided into many short essays -- many of them having absolutely nothing to do with Hong Kong -- reads more like one person's blog: views of someone originally from Hong Kong who loves the place; occasionally about the country, and often about other things. The book reads more like a personal journal, with a tone that sometimes borders on ranting that makes you wonder why you are reading an anonymous memoir when that's not what you were looking for. The author is clearly well-traveled and would make a fantastic conversationalist for anyone with a love of culture and travel. I would absolutely be delighted to talk to Ng over some milk tea, but I won't discuss the book.

If you love Hong Kong and everything Cantonese - like me - then this is not to be missed. Ng is an engaging, affable companion - but he has strong opinions he's not afraid to share. He has the good essayist's trick for offering an observation you haven't heard before and making it sound obvious in

retrospect. As an added treat, the book is filled with vibrant illustrations by the author's father, a newspaper illustrator and fine artist. I started out as a reader simply curious for good bits of information on Hong Kong, and ended up pulled in by the author's quirky personality. He's very Hong Kong - he apparently lives to eat and shop - but there's also the outsider's eye of a young man who grew up in Toronto and worked in New York City before moving back home. I breezed right through these essays - and hope there will be a second volume. Whether he's chatting about food, politics, geography or simply his penchant for wearing flip-flops, Ng is a pleasure to spend time with.

I really enjoyed reading this book about Hong Kong through the eyes of the author. The book is very well written and very insightful. It gives you an idea of what life in Hong Kong and different metropolitan cities within Asia is like. This is a must read if you are looking for an interesting read. The author is very talented and I can guarantee the reader will really enjoy reading this book - because I know I did!

Brilliant, kaleidoscopic, riveting, there is no other word for this title. A must-read for all alike, not only for those seeking a penetrating portrayal of Hong Kong, but for anyone who relishes a broader perception of the ongoing human values and social / political checking in life. Jason's pen maps out continents, from North America to China. An undoubted 5-star rating, or rather, 5 times 5-star if we can have it. Jason, you've got to keep writing, you owe it to all of us feeding on every stroke off your nib to do so.

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