



Governing Hong Kong: Administrative Officers from the 19th Century to the Handover to China, 1862-1997 (International Library of Colonial History)

Steve Tsang

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Hong Kong is at the heart of modern China's position as a regional -- and potential world -- superpower. In this important and original history of the region, Steve Tsang argues that its current prosperity is a direct by-product of the British administrators who ran the place as a colony before the handover in 1997. The British administration of Hong Kong uniquely derived its practices from the best traditions of Imperial Chinese government and its philosophical, Confucian basis. It stressed efficiency, honesty, fairness, benevolent paternalism and individual freedom. The result was a hugely successful colony, especially in industry and finance, and it remains so today with its new status of Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. This definitive history of the colorful individuals who administered the colony on behalf of the British government sheds light on two empires inextricably linked in nature and philosophy of government.

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