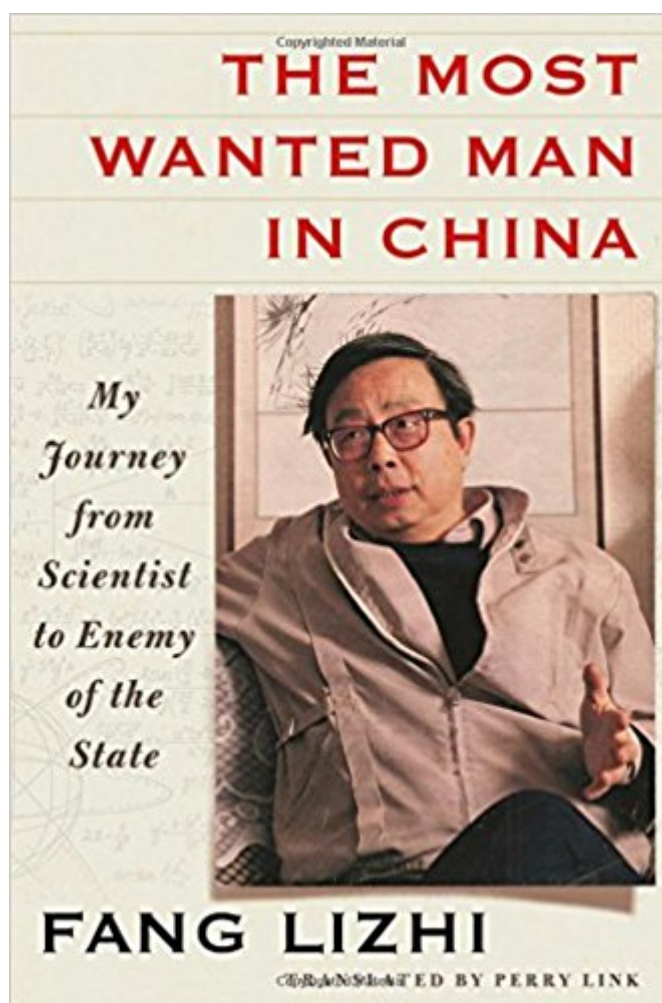


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# The Most Wanted Man In China: My Journey From Scientist To Enemy Of The State



## Synopsis

The long-awaited memoir by Fang Lizhi, the celebrated physicist whose clashes with the Chinese regime helped inspire the Tiananmen Square protests. Fang Lizhi was one of the most prominent scientists of the People's Republic of China; he worked on the country's first nuclear program and later became one of the world's leading astrophysicists. His devotion to science and the pursuit of truth led him to question the authority of the Communist regime. That got him in trouble. In 1957, after advocating reforms in the Communist Party, Fang -- just twenty-one years old -- was dismissed from his position, stripped of his Party membership, and sent to be a farm laborer in a remote village. Over the next two decades, through the years of the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, he was alternately denounced and rehabilitated, revealing to him the pettiness, absurdity, and horror of the regime's excesses. He returned to more normal work in academia after the death of Mao Zedong in 1976, but the cycle soon began again. This time his struggle became a public cause, and his example helped inspire the Tiananmen Square protests. Immediately after the crackdown in June 1989, Fang and his wife sought refuge in the U.S. embassy, where they hid for more than a year before being allowed to leave the country. During that time Fang wrote this memoir *The Most Wanted Man in China*, which has never been published, until now. His story, told with vivid detail and disarming humor, is a testament to the importance of remaining true to one's principles in an unprincipled time and place.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Though composed in the heat and terror of a dangerous moment, this is a remarkably cool, precise and in places even good-humored book; Fang generally prefers to lampoon China's authoritarian bureaucracy than to dwell on his own suffering. . . . His book is a manifesto of the sort Galileo might have written had he been a Chinese physicist in the middle of the 20th century." *The New York Times Book Review* " [The Most Wanted Man in China is a] thoughtful, funny, and still relevant memoir that recalls those tense days and years leading up to them....Fang's account of his final collision with the regime is suspenseful even now. He writes with wry humor that belies the danger he faced, and he displays a disarming modesty about his achievements." *The Wall Street Journal* "Fang Lizhi, the astrophysicist who inspired Chinese pro-democracy student protesters in the late 1980s, gives a fascinating and insightful account of his life in a memoir now published nearly four years after his death in exile." *The Washington Post*

Fang Lizhi was an astrophysicist and the vice president of the University of Science and Technology of China. A recipient of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award, he was a professor of physics at the University of Arizona until his death in 2012. Perry Link, professor emeritus of East Asian Studies at Princeton University, teaches at the University of California, Riverside. He is the author or editor of several books on Chinese literature, culture, and politics, including *The Tiananmen Papers*.

A wonderful book by a remarkable man. Perhaps the most amazing thing is that he and his wife managed to enjoy life and keep a positive attitude in spite of all the tribulations and punishments meted out by the government. Although Fang was not religious you could say he lived a Christian life, much more so than many professed Christians (like Trump) here. Somewhat surprising is the picture of Deng Xiaoping as a Party thug (people forget that he ordered the Tiananmen Square massacre). Sad is Fang's accurate forecast that China would forget the massacre within a few years. There should however be a trigger warning for some of our more sensitive souls - Sanders supporters and other socialists, those who believe in the government,.. The book will frighten you with ideas like freedom for individuals, and deluge you with multiple accounts of government thuggery, brutality, stupidity and total incompetence, like the Beijing police department's exhortatory banner "Struggle hard to fill this year's plan for the number of traffic deaths." My favorite was the central Party decision to show all the Party cadres the evil of Fang's ideas, so they made up a 200 page book of his speeches and sayings, printed 500,000 copies and sent them to every Party branch in the country, making Fang more famous and spreading his ideas across the country.

The wit, grace and charm of Fang's memoir - and Perry Link's wonderful, thoughtful translation - make this a very engaging book to read. Because Fang comes out of this whole cultural revolution mess with enlightenment, perspective and a doubling down on science as democratic free inquiry, his lack of bitterness (though deserved) adds so much credibility to his tale.

You want a new hero - Fang Lizhi gives you China from the inside, from a man who was never bowed, never afraid to follow the evidence. He takes his place with Andrei Sakharov among those I most admire, who was brave and true and paid a price.

An incredible story of life and suffering and survival in a brutal dictatorship. I cannot decide if the author has enormous courage or is completely oblivious of his actions and likely consequence.. I have the greatest admiration for this man and am certain that (given the population of China) he is one in a billion. sorry about spelling

A great memoir written while he was hole up in the US Embassy in China during the Bush I administration. What he had to endure; banishment to the coal mines, to the fields, designing nuclear reactors with an abacus(!), all for simply living the life of the mind. His passion and ability in physics was his lifeline. His story is well told and honestly, even when it doesn't necessarily flatter him. A very illuminating lens to view a half century of Chinese history through. A great physicist, teacher, and man.

This was very well written. I am amazed and yet I know that this was all going on during my lifetime. The struggle must be huge and still going on today.

An excellent book that probes the struggle of an intelligent man whose mind is in conflict over the sovereignty of the collective versus the individual, the irrational versus the rational. A lucid read concerned with why we believe what we believe. Bought additional copies for my son and son-in-law.

An incredible story of part of an astrophysicist's life. Fang Lizhi writes so well; he could have been a poet had he not opted for science. This is not a cut-and-dried account; he writes so poetically: his descriptions of countrysides are very, very well done from the soul of an artist. A lovely read from

start to finish. Also, an amazing translation done by the incomparable Perry Link.

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