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when the british occupied the tiny island of hong kong during the first opium war the chinese empire was well into its decline while great britain was already in the second decade of its legendary imperial century from this collision of empires arose a city that continues to intrigue observers melding chinese and western influences hong kong has long defied easy categorization john m carroll s engrossing and accessible narrative explores the remarkable history of hong kong from the early 1800s through the post 1997 handover when this former colony became a special administrative region of the people s republic of china the

book explores hong kong as a place with a unique identity yet also a crossroads where chinese history british colonial history and world history intersect carroll concludes by exploring the legacies of colonial rule the consequences of hong kong s reintegration with china and significant developments and challenges since 1997

rewriting hong kong s history from the bottom up the chapters investigate vital but hitherto obscured aspects of the colony s rise they cover the chinese collaboration with the colonial regime legal discrimination and intimidation rural politics social movements government business relations industrial policy flexible manufacturing and colonial historiography drawing together contributions from historians sociologists and political scientists the book highlights the role played by a variety of social actors in hong kong s history and differs both from recent celebrations of british colonialism and anti colonial chinese nationalism

this historical study traces unrest and social transformation in hong kong and explores how merchants the intelligentsia and labourers played important roles in china s social and political movements from the mid 19th century until the first years of the chinese republic

this major history of hong kong tells the remarkable story of how a cluster of remote fishing villages grew into an icon of capitalism the story began in 1842 with the founding of the crown colony after the first anglo chinese war the original opium war as premier power in europe and an expansionist empire britain first created in hong kong a major naval station and the principal base to open the celestial chinese empire to trade working in parallel with the locals the british built it up to become a focus for investment in the region and an international centre with global shipping banking and financial interests yet by far the most momentous change in the history of this prosperous capitalist colony was its return in 1997 to mother china the most powerful communist state in the world

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a detailed history of hong kong from a chinese perspective focusing on the opium war subsequent colonization of the island by great britain includes the complete text of the 1842 treaty the 1984 joint declaration the basic law of hong kong special administrative region

this book aims at providing an accessible introduction to and summary of the major themes of hong kong history that has been studied in the past decades each chapter also suggests a number of key historical figures and works that are essential for the understanding of a particular theme however the book is by no means merely a general survey of the recent studies of hong kong history it tries to suggest that the best way to approach hong kong history is to put it firmly in its international context

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