

THE FRONTIERS OF CHINA

By
FRANCIS WATSON



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By the same author

WALLENSTEIN, SOLDIER UNDER SATURN

ART LIES BLEEDING

DAWSON OF PENN

BOOKS THAT MATTER

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THE FRONTIERS OF CHINA

A Historical Guide

FRANCIS WATSON

When it assumed power in 1949, the Government of the Chinese People's Republic declared that it would re-examine treaties concluded by its predecessors and either "recognize, abrogate, revise, or renegotiate them." With this threat—and with her huge population, her Communist ideology, and her newly acquired nuclear capability—China has been able to hold a form of suspended sentence over her many neighbors.

In *THE FRONTIERS OF CHINA*, Francis Watson surveys the history of Chinese border problems with each of those neighbors—the Soviet Union, the Mongolian People's Republic, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Burma, India, Bhutan, Sikkim, Nepal, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, as well as British Hong Kong and Portuguese Macao. While those states worry about Mao Tse-tung's territorial aspirations, the Chinese are obsessed by a condition they describe as "hostile encirclement." That obsession, combined with Mao's view of the large centralized state as "the only path to Socialism," has determined China's expansionist frontier policy and her redrawing of maps.

Against this background, Mr. Watson traces the major developments of Chinese frontier policy since the Communist seizure of power. He probes the significance of China's annexation of Tibet and the subsequent flight of the Dalai Lama, the undeclared border war with India, China's interference in the India-Pakistan fighting over Kashmir, the pledge made by the Chinese at the Bandung Conference to respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of other

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