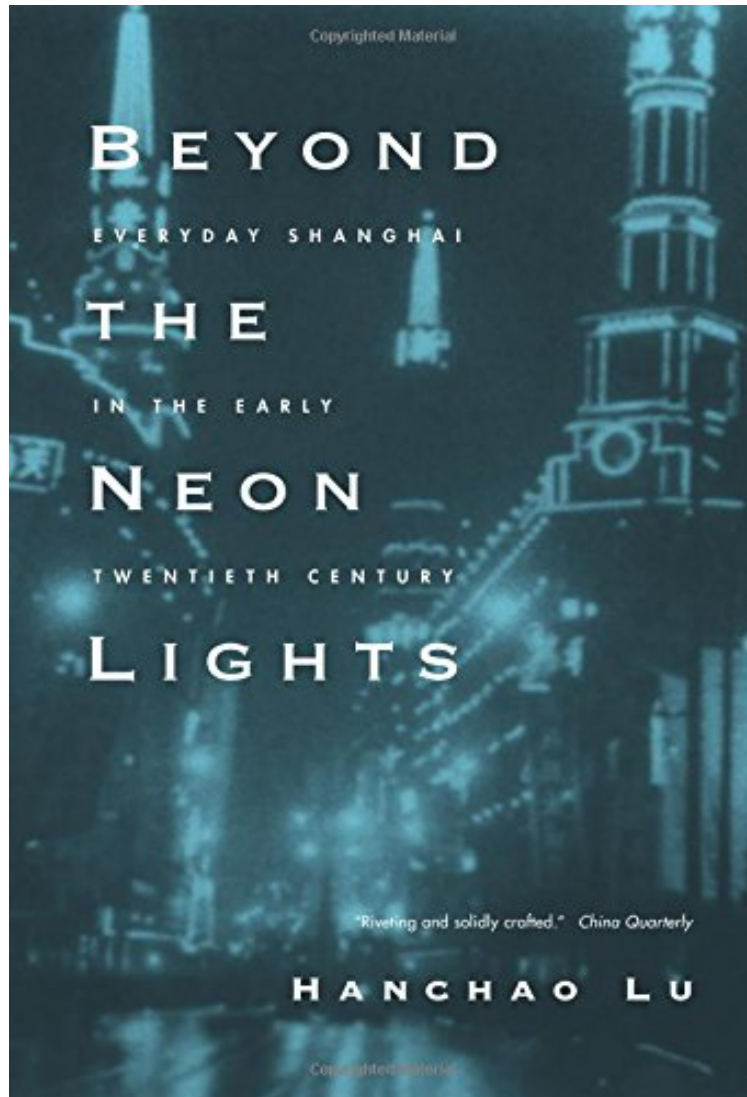


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Beyond the Neon Lights: Everyday Shanghai in the Early Twentieth Century

Hanchao Lu

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Hanchao Lu : Beyond the Neon Lights: Everyday Shanghai in the Early Twentieth Century before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond the Neon Lights: Everyday Shanghai in the Early Twentieth Century:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Masterful and elucidating commentary on the "petty urbanites" of Shanghai ...By Kya Masterful and elucidating commentary on the "petty urbanites" of Shanghai in the 20's and 30's and somewhat forward. The "tome" focuses on the majority of the Shanghai "Chinese" population. Types of row houses

lived in, the diversity of food stuffs and type of food vendors, living conditions, costs, transportation (among which rickshaw drivers predominate), entertainment, restaurants, markets, repairmen and all manner of social economic considerations for the vast Chinese "petty urbanites". Strong and focused piece. I wished only that it was 300 pages longer! Very illuminating book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Top-notch book
By Ester Benjamin Shifren
I enjoyed this informative book tremendously. It jogged my memory of my childhood home, Shanghai, Paris of the East. The alleyways (lilong), where we spent so much time, were truly beyond the Neon Lights. Wonderful descriptions and photographs of street life. It filled me with nostalgia and helped me keep my focus and elevated standards when writing my own book. Hanchao Lu has written about a side of Shanghai that is little known to tourists and foreigners. Highly recommended.
Ester Benjamin Shifren, Author *Hiding in a Cave of Trunks: A Prominent Jewish Family's Century in Shanghai and Internment in a WWII POW camp*.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed the book
By Karan Suraj
I enjoyed the book, but it wasn't too straightforward a read with the density of specific words and descriptions. It really paints a great picture of the common people of Shanghai at the time, and that was something I appreciated above all the typical historical descriptions of Shanghai that I have read before.

How did ordinary people live through the extraordinary changes that have swept across modern China? How did peasants transform themselves into urbanites? How did the citizens of Shanghai cope with the epic upheavals—revolution, war, and again revolution—that shook their lives? Even after decades of scholarship devoted to modern Chinese history, our understanding of the daily lives of the common people of China remains sketchy and incomplete. In this carefully researched study, Hanchao Lu weaves rich documentary data with ethnographic surveys and interviews to reconstruct the fabric of everyday life in China's largest and most complex city in the first half of this century.

"Lu's book attests to the vibrant state of scholarship on Chinese cities. Scholars of cities around the world will find ideas and techniques in this exemplary work of urban social history."--"The Urban History Association
From the Inside Flap"
From Hanchao Lu's clear and lively descriptions of Shanghai in the early twentieth century, we learn about the patterns of alleyways, design of row houses, rules for subletting, shapes of door-knockers, springs in rickshaw cushions, calls of hawkers, sidewalk haircuts, factory work, how nightsoil pots were emptied and cleaned, and the responsibility of neighbors to keep their noses in one another's affairs. We understand, in short, the base from which everything else about Shanghai at the time should be understood. A delightful and edifying book."
Perry Link, author of *Evening Chats in Beijing*