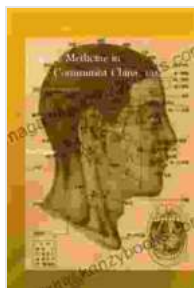


# Chinese Medicine In Early Communist China 1945 1963: A Historical Odyssey



**Chinese Medicine in Early Communist China, 1945-1963: A Medicine of Revolution (Needham Research Institute Series)** by Kim Taylor

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 12724 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 249 pages



The history of Chinese medicine is a captivating tale that spans centuries, intertwining with the rich tapestry of Chinese culture and philosophy. In the tumultuous years of early communist China, from 1945 to 1963, this ancient healing tradition faced unprecedented challenges and underwent profound transformations. 'Chinese Medicine In Early Communist China 1945 1963', a groundbreaking book by scholars Yanping Zhang and Helen F. Siu, delves into this fascinating period, shedding light on the intricate interplay between traditional practices, political ideologies, and the pursuit of scientific modernization.

## The Legacy of Traditional Chinese Medicine

For centuries, traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has played a vital role in the healthcare system of China. Its practices, rooted in ancient

philosophies of yin and yang, qi energy, and the five elements, have been passed down through generations. TCM encompasses a wide range of therapies, including acupuncture, herbal medicine, moxibustion, and massage. Despite its long history, TCM faced skepticism and criticism from Western-trained medical professionals, who often dismissed it as unscientific.

## **The Rise of Communist Ideology**

The establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949 marked a turning point for Chinese medicine. The new communist government, led by Chairman Mao Zedong, embraced a socialist ideology that prioritized the health and well-being of the masses. While Mao himself had a personal interest in TCM, the official stance of the government was to pursue a combination of traditional and Western medicine.

## **The Campaign Against "Superstition"**

In the early 1950s, the communist government launched a campaign against "superstition," which included attacks on religious practices and traditional beliefs. TCM was caught in the crosshairs of this campaign, as some of its practices were seen as incompatible with the ideals of scientific socialism. Many TCM practitioners were denounced as feudal remnants, and their clinics were closed down.

## **The Integration of TCM and Western Medicine**

Despite the setbacks it faced, TCM gradually began to regain its footing in the early 1960s. The government recognized the value of TCM in providing affordable and accessible healthcare, especially in rural areas where Western medicine was scarce. A new wave of scientific research into TCM

was initiated, with the aim of integrating its principles with modern medical science.

## **The Cultural Revolution and the Suppression of TCM**

The outbreak of the Cultural Revolution in 1966 had a devastating impact on TCM. Red Guards, zealous enforcers of Maoist ideology, targeted traditional practices as symbols of feudalism and superstition. TCM practitioners were persecuted, their texts were destroyed, and their clinics were ransacked. The legacy of TCM was on the brink of extinction.

## **The Post-Mao Era and the Revival of TCM**

After Mao's death in 1976, the Cultural Revolution came to an end. The new leadership under Deng Xiaoping pursued a policy of reform and opening up, which extended to the field of medicine. TCM was once again recognized as an important part of China's healthcare system, and efforts were made to revive and modernize its practices.

## **TCM in Modern China**

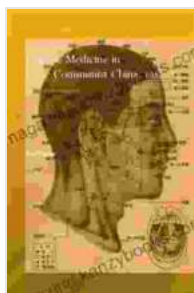
Today, TCM continues to play a significant role in the healthcare system of China. It is widely used alongside Western medicine, and many hospitals offer a combination of both approaches. TCM has also gained international recognition, with research and clinical applications being conducted in various countries around the world.

## **The Significance of 'Chinese Medicine In Early Communist China 1945 1963'**

'Chinese Medicine In Early Communist China 1945 1963' is a seminal work that provides a comprehensive and nuanced account of the complex

history of TCM during the early years of communist China. Through meticulous research and insightful analysis, the authors shed light on the political, social, and cultural factors that shaped the evolution of TCM during this transformative period.

The history of Chinese medicine in early communist China is a tale of survival, resilience, and transformation. The legacy of TCM has endured through centuries of challenges, and it continues to thrive today as an integral part of China's healthcare system. 'Chinese Medicine In Early Communist China 1945 1963' is an essential read for anyone interested in the history of medicine, Chinese history, or the intersection of politics and culture.



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