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Queer Marxism in Two Chinas

Petrus Liu

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Petrus Liu : Queer Marxism in Two Chinas before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Queer Marxism in Two Chinas:

In *Queer Marxism in Two Chinas* Petrus Liu rethinks the relationship between Marxism and queer cultures in mainland China and Taiwan. Whereas many scholars assume the emergence of queer cultures in China signals the end of Marxism and demonstrates China's political and economic evolution, Liu finds the opposite to be true. He

challenges the persistence of Cold War formulations of Marxism that position it as intellectually incompatible with queer theory, and shows how queer Marxism offers a nonliberal alternative to Western models of queer emancipation. The work of queer Chinese artists and intellectuals not only provides an alternative to liberal ideologies of inclusion and diversity, but demonstrates how different conceptions of and attitudes toward queerness in China and Taiwan stem from geopolitical tensions. With *Queer Marxism in Two Chinas* Liu offers a revision to current understandings of what queer theory is, does, and can be.

"In this quite stunning book, Petrus Liu offers a new intervention into gender and sexuality studies. He establishes queer perspectives as a way of thinking about the doubleness of China, and tracks how sexuality has been produced as a new ethnic identity within an emerging pluralist framework, and how queer Marxism contests this production. Liu argues for a complex materialist social theory that takes into account the relationship between labor power, the reproduction of society, and the material status of sexuality. In the end, he refuses to identify materialism with economic reductionism, showing instead how the reproduction of society requires its cultural articulation, and how the effort to navigate two Chinas produces a nonstate-centered form of queer critique. For Liu, queer theorists are in a powerful position to call the theory of the state into question a move that holds out serious consequences for a new geopolitical reading of Marxism through the powerful framework of sexuality."