

## Shanghai Tai Chi

*Shanghai Tai Chi* offers a masterful portrait of daily life under socialism in a rich social and political history of one of the world's most complex cities. Hanchao Lu explores the lives of people from all areas of society – from capitalists and bourgeois intellectuals to women and youth. Wielding the metaphor of Tai Chi, he reveals how people in Shanghai experienced, adapted to, and manipulated the new Maoist political culture launched in 1949. Exploring the multifaceted complexity of everyday life and material culture in Mao's China, Lu addresses the survival of old bourgeois lifestyles under the new proletarian dictatorship, the achievements of intellectuals in an age of anti-intellectualism, the pleasure that urban youth derived from reading taboo literature, the emergence of women's liberation and the politics of greening and horticulture. Lu argues that an undercurrent of non-confrontational but nevertheless powerful and effective defiance characterized Mao's China, paved the way for the post-Mao reform, and illustrated how the public might, through accommodation and manipulation, resist even the most repressive of regimes.

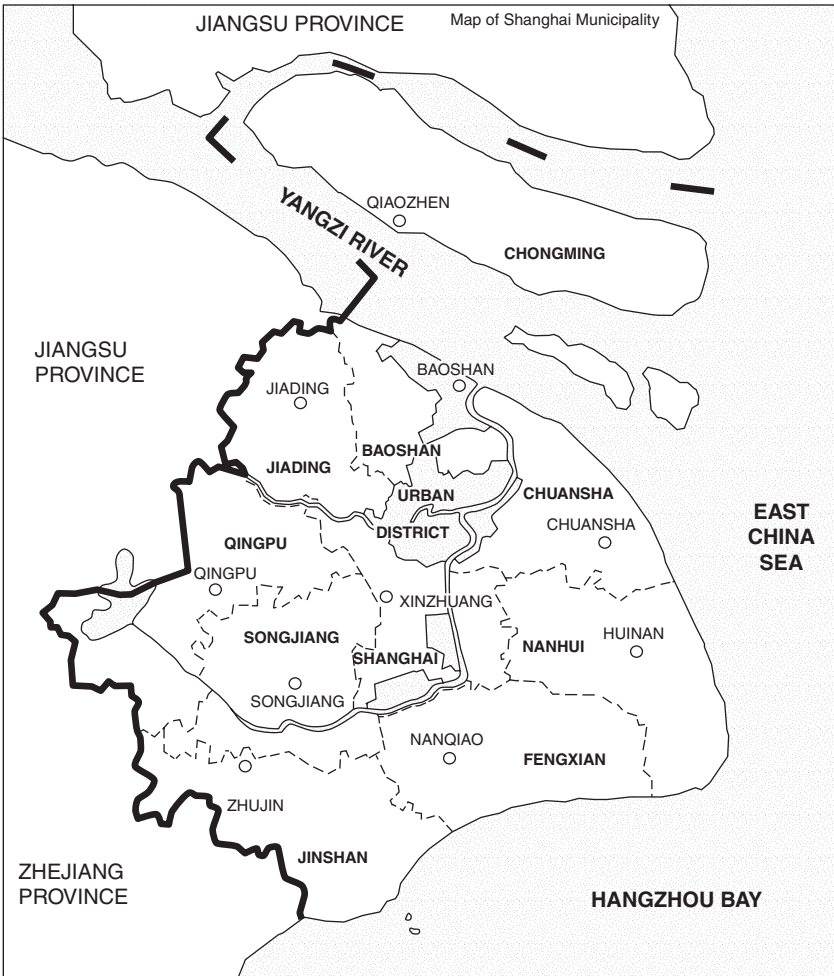
Hanchao Lu is Professor of History at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Director of the China Research Center in Atlanta. He is the author of three award-winning books: *Beyond the Neon Lights* (1999), *Street Criers* (2005), and *The Birth of a Republic* (2010).

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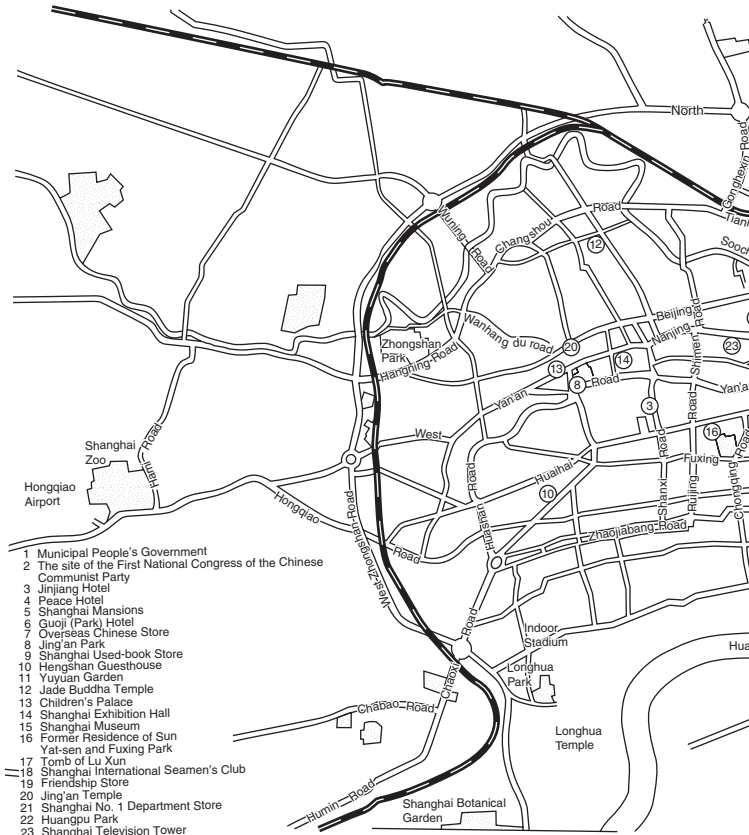
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Map 1. Shanghai Municipality

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Map 2. Shanghai's Urban Districts

# Shanghai Tai Chi

*The Art of Being Ruled in Mao's China*

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Hanchao Lu

*Georgia Institute of Technology*



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To my family on both sides of the Pacific

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## Notes on the Text

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yuan	Chinese currency. During most of the Mao era, the official exchange rate was stable, at about US\$1 = 2.46 yuan.
fen	1/100 of a yuan, referred in the text as “cent.”
catty	<i>jīn</i> , 500 grams
tael	<i>liang</i> , 50 grams (effective June 1959)
chi	one third of a meter = 1.09 feet
cun	1.3 inches
mu	0.165 acre

Chinese terms and personal names are rendered in pinyin transliteration, with a few exceptions for those that are conventionally spelled other ways, such as Chiang Kai-shek (instead of Jiang Jieshi), Hu Shih (instead Hu Shi), and tai chi (instead of taiji).

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