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Reading Round-Up: Richard McGregor's *The Party*

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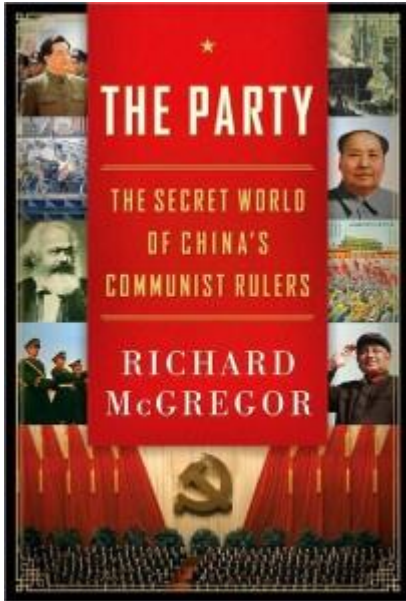
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December 2, 2011 in [Awards](#), [Books](#), [The Five-List Plan](#) by [The China Beat](#)



Financial Times journalist Richard McGregor is this year's recipient of the [Asia Society's Bernard Schwartz Book Award](#) for his 2010 investigation into Chinese leadership, [The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers](#). If you haven't caught up with McGregor's book yet, here are a few links about it to whet your appetite:

- At China Beat, we've previously featured [an interview with McGregor](#), conducted by site editor Maura Cunningham, as well as [a review](#) of *The Party* by Thomas Kellogg of the Open Society Institute.
- Jeff Wasserstrom reviewed the book at [The Daily Beast](#) and also interviewed McGregor for the [Asia Society blog](#).
- The [Washington Post](#) also ran a review of *The Party*, this one by Andrew Higgins:

At first glance, a book about the Communist Party seems curiously old-fashioned, a throwback to a time when scholars and journalists scoured the *People's Daily* for hints of who was up or down in the Politburo and competed to decipher party gobbledygook. The red flags, the portrait of Mao overlooking Tiananmen Square and the occasional retro-slogan about “workers of the world” can sometimes seem as quaintly removed from present-day reality as the portraits of Queen Elizabeth that grace the offices of British civil servants working for what is, in name at least, “Her Majesty's government.” However, it is a measure of how much China has changed that McGregor has been able to write such a lively and penetrating account of a party that, since its founding in Shanghai as a clandestine organization in 1921, has clung to secrecy as an inviolable principle.

- Subscribers to the [New York Review of Books](#) can read a review essay by Ian Johnson that deals with *The Party*, in addition to a number of other China-focused titles.
- Watch McGregor discuss his work in a talk at the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations
- And don't forget that *The Party*, in addition to being an *Economist* [best book of 2010](#), also made another "top China books" list—[Donald Trump's](#).