



Tongzhi Living: Men Attracted to Men in Postsocialist China

By Tiantian Zheng



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Tongzhi, which translates into English as “same purpose” or “same will,” was once widely used to mean “comrade.” Since the 1990s, the word has been appropriated by the LGBT community in China and now refers to a broad range of people who do not espouse heteronormativity.

Tongzhi Living, the first study of its kind, offers insights into the community of same-sex-attracted men in the metropolitan city of Dalian in northeast China. Based on ethnographic fieldwork by Tiantian Zheng, the book reveals an array of coping mechanisms developed by tongzhi men in response to rapid social, cultural, and political transformations in postsocialist China. According to Zheng, unlike gay men in the West over the past three decades, tongzhi men in China have adopted the prevailing moral ideal of heterosexuality and pursued membership in the dominant culture at the same time they have endeavored to establish a tongzhi culture. They are, therefore, caught in a constant tension of embracing and contesting normality as they try to create a new and legitimate space for themselves.

Tongzhi men’s attempts to practice both conformity and rebellion paradoxically undercut the goals they aspire to reach, Zheng shows, perpetuating social prejudice against them and thwarting the activism they believe they are advocating.



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Editorial Review

Review

"*Tongzhi Living* is ethnographically rich, beautifully written, and poignantly descriptive of many social spaces in urban China. Through the lens of tongzhi struggles, desires, and community organizing, we witness people working against marginalization, silence, and invisibility."—Ralph Litzinger, Duke University

About the Author

Tiantian Zheng is the author and co-author of eight books and professor of anthropology at the State University of New York, Cortland. Tiantian Zheng's book *Red Lights* (University of Minnesota Press, 2009) was the winner of the 2010 Sara A. Whaley Book Prize from the National Women's Studies Association. Her book *Ethnographies of Prostitution in Contemporary China* was the winner of the 2011 Research Publication Book Award from the Association of Chinese Professors of Social Sciences in the United States.

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This *Tongzhi Living: Men Attracted to Men in Postsocialist China* book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is actually information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This kind of *Tongzhi Living: Men Attracted to Men in Postsocialist China* without we recognize teach the one who examining it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't always be worry *Tongzhi Living: Men Attracted to Men in Postsocialist China* can bring if you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even cell phone. This *Tongzhi Living: Men Attracted to Men in Postsocialist China* having good arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

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Ira Atwood:

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