



A History of Pain: Trauma in Modern Chinese Literature and Film (Paperback)

By Michael Berry

Columbia University Press, United States, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 231 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The portrayal of historical atrocity in fiction, film, and popular culture can reveal much about the function of individual memory and the shifting status of national identity. In the context of Chinese culture, films such as Hou Hsiao-hsien s City of Sadness and Lou Ye s Summer Palace and novels such as Ye Zhaoyan s Nanjing 1937: A Love Story and Wang Xiaobo s The Golden Age collectively reimagine past horrors and give rise to new historical narratives. Michael Berry takes an innovative look at the representation of six specific historical traumas in modern Chinese history: the Musha Incident (1930); the Rape of Nanjing (1937-38); the February 28 Incident (1947); the Cultural Revolution (1966-76); Tiananmen Square (1989); and the Handover of Hong Kong (1997). He identifies two primary modes of restaging historical violence: centripetal trauma, or violence inflicted from the outside that inspires a reexamination of the Chinese nation, and centrifugal trauma, which, originating from within, inspires traumatic narratives that are projected out onto a transnational vision of global dreams and, sometimes, nightmares. These modes allow Berry to connect...



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