

# Delve Deeper into "Up The Yangtze"

A film by Yung Chang

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Shaun Briley of the San Diego Public Library provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Up The Yangtze" that premieres on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 10 PM (check local listings at [www.pbs.org/pov/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/))

*Nearing completion, China's massive Three Gorges Dam is altering the landscape and the lives of people living along the fabled Yangtze River. Countless ancient villages and historic locales will be submerged, and 2 million people will lose their homes and livelihoods. The Yu family desperately seeks a reprieve by sending their 16-year-old daughter to work in the cruise ship industry that has sprung up to give tourists a last glimpse of the legendary river valley. With cinematic sweep, "Up the Yangtze" explores lives transformed by the biggest hydroelectric dam in history, a hotly contested symbol of the Chinese economic miracle. An Official Selection of the 2008 Sundance Film Festival. An EyeSteelFilm/National Film Board of Canada production in association with American Documentary | P.O.V. A co-presentation with the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM).*

## ADULT NONFICTION

**Bonavia, Judy.** *The Yangtze River & The Three Gorges.* New York: W.W. Norton & Co (2004). An informative illustrated guide to the river and its many cultures.

**Butler, Linda.** *Yangtze Remembered: The River Beneath the Lake.* Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press. (2004). A series of photos shot between 2000 and 2003 of the landscape and human environment, before, during, and after the opening of the dam.

**Chen, Guidi and Wu Chuntao.** *Will the Boat Sink the Water? The Life of China's Peasants.* New York: Public Affairs. (2006). Chronicles the powerlessness of peasants in the face of government corruption and heavy-handed treatment.

**Chetham, Deirdre.** *Before the Deluge: The Vanishing World of the Yangtze's Three Gorges.* New York, N.Y.: Palgrave Macmillan. (2002). A last look at the communities about to be destroyed by the dam, including the social and political history of the area.

**Cowles, Ben.** *Through the Dragon's Mouth: Journeys into the Yangzi's Three Gorges.* Santa Barbara, Calif.: Fithian Press. (1999). An account of life along the Yangtze before the dam was built.

**Elvin, Mark.** *The Retreat of the Elephants: An Environmental History of China.* New Haven: Yale University Press. (2004). A history of the environment in China, and the impact it has had on the population from prehistoric times to the present.

**Gifford, Rob.** *China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power.* New York: Random House. (2007). The Chinese equivalent of Route 66, Route 312 provides the backdrop for author Rob Gifford's journey across a China with an ever-changing social and economic face.

**Hessler, Peter.** *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze.* New York: HarperCollins Publishers. (2001). An English teacher on a Peace Corps assignment describes his surroundings, and recounts his experiences with rural Chinese adolescents.

**Hewitt, Duncan.** *Getting Rich First: Life in a Changing China.* New York: W. W. Norton (2008). A former BBC correspondent and *Newsweek* journalist examines the upheaval in the lives of ordinary people caused by the rapid changes taking place in China.

**Hutchings, Graham.** *Modern China: A Guide to a Century of Change.* Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. (2001). A former China correspondent for London's *Daily Telegraph* summarizes important aspects of modern China.

**Lynn, Madeleine.** *Yangtze River: The Wildest, Wickedest River on Earth.* New York: Oxford University Press. (1997). An anthology of writings about the Yangtze River, from ancient Chinese poetry to modern travel writers like Paul Theroux.

**Lloyd, Barbara.** *China: Travels Between the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers.* Milano: Skira. (2006). A book of photographs, which captures the landscape of China on and between its two great rivers.

**Ma, Jun.** *China's Water Crisis.* Norwalk, CT: EastBridge. (2004). In the context of large water projects like the Three Gorges Dam, this book gives a bleak outlook for China's water supply and outlines predicted water shortages for population centers.

**Pomfret, John.** *Chinese Lessons: Five Classmates and the Story of the New China.* New York: H. Holt. (2006). An exchange student from Stanford and four Chinese classmates give their accounts of the rapid transformation of China.

**Qing, Dai et al.** *The River Dragon Has Come! The Three Gorges Dam and the Fate of China's Yangtze River and Its People.* Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe. (1998). A compilation of critical essays about the human and environmental costs of the dam, by a woman who was imprisoned for her opposition to it.

**Shaw, Raynor et al.** *Three Gorges of the Yangtze River: Chongqing to Wuhan.* Hong Kong: Odyssey. (2007). An illustrated guide to the region with coverage of its dramatic social and economic history.

**Van Slyke, Lyman.** *Yangtze: Nature, History, and the River.* Reading, Mass.: Addison-Wesley Pub. Co. (1988). Discusses the role played by this river - which runs from Tibet to Shanghai and contains a third of China's population in its watershed - in China's history.



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**Wilkinson, Philip.** *Yangtze.*

London: BBC Books. (2007). Follows the 3,900 mile river from start to finish, exploring the flora, fauna, human activity and the effects of the controversial dam.

**Winchester, Simon.** *The River at the Center of the World: A Journey Up the Yangtze, and Back in Chinese Time.* New York: H. Holt. (1996). Chronicles a British author's journey by boat, train, car, bus, plane and foot along the length of the Yangtze, describing the people and countryside he encounters on the way.

**Ying, Hong and Howard Goldblatt.** *Daughter of the River: An Autobiography.* New York: Grove Press. (1998). The autobiography of a woman who grew up in desperate poverty on the banks of the Yangtze.

**Leslie, Jacques.** *Deep Water: The Epic Struggle over Dams, Displaced People, and the Environment.* Picador, 2006. A look at dams and the complex issues surrounding them.

**McCully, Patrick.** *Silenced Rivers: The Ecology and Politics of Large Dams.* Zed Books, 2001. A great study of the many problems surrounding the world's largest dams.

**Economy, Elizabeth C.** *The River Runs Black: The Environmental Challenge To China's Future.* Cornell University Press, 2005. An exploration of China's growing environmental crisis and its implications on the country's future.

**Mertha, Andrew C.** *China's Water Warriors: Citizen Action and Policy Change.* Cornell University Press, 2008. Studies the effect widespread opposition to dam projects throughout China have had on the country's political atmosphere.

**Guidi, Chen and Wu Chuntao.** *Will the Boat Sink the Water? The Life of China's Peasants.* PublicAffairs, 2007. A surprising exposé on China's brutal treatment of its peasants.

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## ADULT FICTION

**Hersey, John.** *A Single Pebble.* New York: Knopf. (1956). A fictionalized travelogue describing the ageless Yangtze and its effects on an American engineer sent to find a location for a dam.

**N.S, Millie.** *Hungry River: A Yangtze Novel.* Chesterton, Ind.: Stone Light Books. (2005). A Swedish-American family flees down the Yangtze during the 1901 Boxer Rebellion, in which the Chinese rebelled against outsiders.

**See, Lisa.** *Dragon Bones: A Red Princess Mystery.* New York: Random House. (2003). The construction of the Three Gorges Dam is the backdrop for this mystery adventure involving a Chinese inspector and her American lawyer husband.

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## NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

**Bo, Zhiyue.** *The History of Modern China.* Philadelphia: Mason Crest Publishers. (2006). A comprehensive account of China's historical evolution from ancient empire to semi-colonial nation to the modern Communist state. Grades 7-8.

**Bowden, Rob.** *The Yangtze.* Chicago, IL: Raintree. (2004). Describes the land and people of the Yangtze including information on the dam and gorge cruises.

**Gross, Susan.** *Women in Traditional China: Ancient times to modern reform.* Hudson, WI: G.E. McCuen Publications (1980). Describes social conditions for women in China from a historical perspective.

**Waterlow, Julia.** *The Yangtze.* Milwaukee, WI: World Almanac Library. (2003). Discusses the river, the people who live alongside it and environmental issues. Grades 5-8.

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## FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

**Chrisman, Arthur Bowie.** *Shen of The Sea: Chinese Stories for Children.* New York, Dutton. (1968). A Newbery Medal winning collection of folktales about China.

**Flack, Marjorie.** *The Story About Ping.* New York: Grosset & Dunlap. (2000). The tale of a little duck alone on the Yangtze River, with vivid illustrations of river life. Grades 2-5.

**Lewis, Elizabeth.** *Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze.* New York: Henry Holt. (2007). A classic Newbery Award winner about a 13-year-old from the countryside arriving in a Chinese city in the 1920s.

**Ma, Yan & Haski, Pierre.** *The Diary of Ma Yan: The Struggles and Hopes of a Chinese Schoolgirl.* New York: HarperCollins. (2005). The story of a Chinese girl's struggle to raise the necessary fees to receive an education and escape rural poverty. Grades 4-6.

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## FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

**"Great Wall Across The Yangtze".** A film by Ellen Perry. PBS Home Video, 2000. (57 min.). Actor Martin Sheen narrates this documentary about the 15-year project to build the world's largest dam and hydroelectric power plant. [www.shoppbs.org](http://www.shoppbs.org)

**"Three Gorges: Biggest Dam in the World".** A film by Jodie Foster & Justin Albert. Discovery Channel, 2006. (52 min.). Issues surrounding the building of the Three Gorges Dam are discussed with the help of expert interviews and computer simulation. [www.shopping.discovery.com](http://www.shopping.discovery.com)

**"China's Mega Dam – Engineering Marvels."** A film by Justin Albert & Michael Carroll. Discovery Channel, 2006. (85 min.). A behind-the-scenes look at the largest public works project in history: The Three Gorges Dam. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**"Drowned Out."** A film by Franny Armstrong. (87 min.). The story of one family's stand against the destruction of their land, homes, and culture brought on by the building of India's Narmada Dam. [www.bullfrogfilms.com](http://www.bullfrogfilms.com)



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**"Still Life". A film by Jia Zhangke. New Yorker Films, 2006. (108 min).** This film tells the story of two people in search of their spouses in Fengjie, a city submerged by the Three Gorges Dam project. In Mandarin with English subtitles.  
[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**"Wild China". A film by BBC Video. BBC Video, 2008. (300 min).** This six hour miniseries was produced by the BBC and China's CCTV and invites viewers into a country steeped in tradition and moving towards modernity.  
[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

