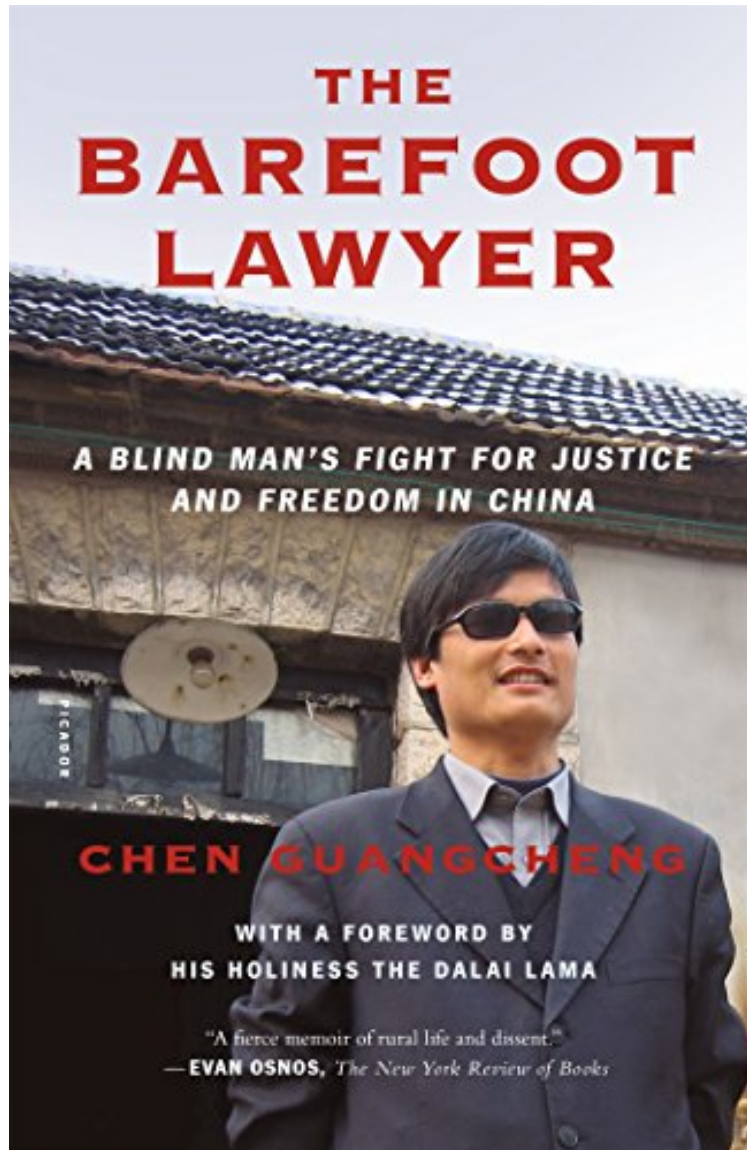


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# The Barefoot Lawyer: A Blind Man's Fight for Justice and Freedom in China

Chen Guangcheng

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#467232 in Books Guangcheng Chen 2016-03-01 2016-03-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .94 x 5.861, .0 #File Name: 1250081599352 pagesThe Barefoot Lawyer A Blind Man s Fight for Justice and Freedom in China | File size: 35.Mb

**Chen Guangcheng : The Barefoot Lawyer: A Blind Man's Fight for Justice and Freedom in China** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Barefoot Lawyer: A Blind Man's Fight for Justice and Freedom in China:

45 of 45 people found the following review helpful. A memoir of Chen Guangcheng the blind Chinese activist who ...By MelindaA memoir of Chen Guangcheng the blind Chinese activist who inspired millions with the story of his fight for justice and his belief in the cause of freedom.Chen Guangcheng is a man full of drive, determination, fighting for the basic human rights of others, he is quite an inspiration, an unsung hero. Undeterred by the consequences of his government or politicians he takes on hard-hitting issues rights for the disabled, polluted water, forced sterilization and abortions.Chen Guangcheng provides the reader with his challenging background, despite his blindness he finds a way to compensate and make use of his other gifts with steely determination and grit to fight for justice. Suffering prison for four torturous years for his activism accompanied by beatings, unimaginable conditions and general cruelty he survives. His mettle tested once again as he endures years of house arrest where he makes a heroic escape ready to continue his battle for justice to all.An enthralling read from the first page. One mans story of a successful fight for justice no matter the trials and tribulations faced proving your voice can make a huge difference in improving issues along with your quality of life.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A BLIND MAN FIGHTS INJUSTICE AND INSENSITIVITYBy Schuyler T WallaceTHE BAREFOOT LAWYER REVIEWImagine wending your way through your house and yard then down the street to your mailbox in total darkness. There would be the usual impediments along the way; furniture, doorways, planters, gates, garden hoses, cars, curbs, trashcans. You could not see them.In The Barefoot Lawyer, author Chen Guangcheng describes a much more dangerous passage. Totally blind since an infant, Chen had to negotiate the backyards of his poor Chinese neighborhood, through gates, over walls, and through goat pens as he made a desperate attempt to escape his captors who were holding him under house arrest. A civil rights activist in modern China, Chen, after being released from four years in prison, had been subjected to two years of brutal confinement in his tiny house. He needed to escape and subsequently get his family to safety.It took eight hours to negotiate the first 100 feet. Along the way, he broke an ankle, sent a herd of goats into a braying frenzy, caused an mentally ill adult to break into a screaming fit for his mother, but somehow escaped detection from some twenty four guards who were specifically deployed to keep an eye on him. Several days later he turned up at the American embassy in Beijing, dehydrated, hungry, and filthy dirty.Chens memoir is an illuminating account of animosity towards Chinas system of oppressive government that features brutality, oppression, and total disregard for human dignity. Today he is an important voice for human rights in China and the amazing story of his flight to freedom will stir the heart and soul of every person who reads this saga.There is much to learn in the book about the oppressive and inhumane policies in China. It is also a mesmerizing account of the handicap of being blind and the struggle to exist in a world of darkness, misunderstanding, and harassment, every day occurrences for those who cannot see.Another shocker is that after escaping the clutches of a brutal government, Chen found that his safe haven of democracy, freedom, and human rights advocacy was, in fact, a nest of United States officials who were prone to giving in to Chinas demands. In his book Chen is careful to thank the Americans for their shelter, but is still troubled by their condescending partnership with his oppressors.It is difficult to imagine the world of the blind. In a particularly beautiful passage in the book, Chen, as a young student, is asked to describe a waterfall. Drawing from images in his mind, he describes it as a screen of pearly beads, a depiction that both enthralls his teacher and produces a tirade at the rest of the students who cant describe something they can actually see.This is a good book that, along with uncovering the treacherous Chinese government, will make you more appreciative of the constant struggles of the blind.Schuyler T WallaceAuthor of TIN LIZARD TALES6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. ExcellentBy MDAn important contribution to understanding the difference between China under its current (60 year) old government and the people (and civilization) that have endured for so much longerFascinating how the tactics of indiscriminate (unofficially sanctioned), 'snitch-on-you-neighbor' intimidation of the currently most powerful Socialist state mirror so closely those previously used in the formerly most powerful Socialist state (the Soviet Union and Russia)Frightening how the US executive branch of 2012 found common cause so easily with the leftist ideals of a political party bent on self preservation, making choices for its citizens at all costs and brazenly claiming that its own -clearly illegal - behavior fell within the rules

[Chens] story is a reminder that the desire for basic human rights . . . arises from the deep well of the human spirit.The New York Times Book ReviewIt was like a scene out of a thriller: One night in April 2012, Chinas most famous political activista blind, self-taught lawyerclimbed over the wall of his heavily guarded home and escaped. After he turned up at the American embassy in Beijing, high-level negotiations finally led to his release and a new life in the United States. Chen Guangcheng is a unique figure on the world stage, but his story is even more remarkable than we knew. The son of a poor farmer in rural China, he was determined to educate himself and fight for the rights of his countrys poor, despite his disability. Repeatedly harassed, beaten, and imprisoned by Chinese authorities, in the end Chen made the most dangerous choice of all: freedom. Both a riveting memoir and a revealing portrait of modern China, The Barefoot Lawyer tells the story of a man who has never accepted limits and always believed in the power of the human spirit to overcome any obstacle.

A fierce memoir of rural life and dissent.Evan Osnos, The New York of Books[Chens] story is a reminder that the

desire for basic human rights . . . arises from the deep well of the human spirit. The New York Times Book How [Chen Guangcheng,] a blind man, escaped such a lockdown alone and on foot, navigating toward a neighboring village via smells and a kind of batlike echolocation, is an amazing tale. The Wall Street Journal Riveting . . . It is remarkable how Chen's lone voice was able to shake the state to its foundations. . . . Chen has lived most of his life in darkness but here casts a beacon of light into the shadows. . . . Poignant yet inspiring. The Washington Post [A] riveting memoir Chen has an excellent sense of pace and attention to detail, and he knows how to fill in the cultural gaps for those less familiar with China. The result is an eminently readable, albeit chilling memoir that will grip the attention of readers everywhere. Publishers Weekly Tense and tightly written, [The Barefoot Lawyer] is a suspenseful window onto Chen's struggle, with disaster constantly on the horizon. Richly layered and vibrant, Chen's stirring tale of bravery and perseverance in the face of oppression is a moving call to arms for the ideas of human dignity and the rule of law. Kirkus sAn astonishing story of one man's fight to overcome personal odds for himself and for the cause of justice for the citizens of his nation. Booklist Chen Guangcheng has a life story unlike any other you will ever read. His memoir--eloquent, accessible, and necessary--is not only about his improbable path to prominence as a human-rights activist in China. It is, above all, about the universal power of will. Evan Osnos, author of Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China This exceptional book will join the ranks of classic accounts of individual bravery, principle, and vision in the face of cruelty and repression. Chen Guangcheng is known around the world for the daring of his escape from captivity; as The Barefoot Lawyer makes clear, his journey and the accomplishments before that were at least as remarkable. Anyone who wants to understand the struggle for China's future, being waged inside that country and by friends of China around the world, will want to read this book. James Fallows, national correspondent for The Atlantic Monthly and author of China Airborne The life story of this blind, self-taught lawyer is a morality tale for our time. Chen Guangcheng's unflinching sense of moral purpose pitted him against the might of the Chinese state, and ended up exacting an extraordinarily high price on his entire family. In his tenacious search for justice, Chen became a pawn in high-level geopolitical maneuvering between the world's two superpowers. This gripping book provides a sobering vision of the brute power of a rising China. Louisa Lim, author of The People's Republic of Amnesia: Tiananmen Revisited The Chinese government warns its citizens against universal values, 'calling them a Western plot. But anyone who needs evidence that notions of truth and justice are inherent in human beings everywhere need look no further than Chen Guangcheng. Born to dirt-poor conditions in a small Chinese village, barred from grade school because he was blind, Chen has the gifts of tenacious intellect and a devotion to principle so unbending that, at the end of his saga, it proves stronger than those of U.S. diplomats who are schooled in human rights. Perry Link, author of An Anatomy of Chinese: Rhythm, Metaphor, Politics and co-editor of The Tiananmen Papers Chen Guangcheng. The barefoot lawyer from rural China. Think Huckleberry Finn growing up to be Atticus Finch. In this brave and undaunted book, Guangcheng proves himself the very best kind of trouble-maker. He fights monsters. Monsters who hide behind officialdom and party uniforms. Monsters of lazy sadism who flaunt the rule of law and violently oppose any chance for human dignity. A gritty and insanely inspiring story of a man who has been through Hell and come out smiling, The Barefoot Lawyer represents the ultimate victory over cynicism and cruelty. Tyrants Beware! Christian Bale, actor About the Author Chen Guangcheng, known to many as "the barefoot lawyer," was born in the village of Dongshigu in 1971. Blind since infancy, illiterate until his late teens, he nonetheless taught himself law and became a fiery advocate for tens of thousands of Chinese who had no voice. His escape from inhuman house arrest in China made international headlines, as did his flight to the American embassy in Beijing. In 2012 he became a student at New York University Law School; since 2013 he has been a senior research fellow at Catholic University, the Witherspoon Institute, and the Lantos Foundation. He now lives with his wife and two children in the Washington, D.C. area.