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WILL THE BOAT SINK THE WATER THE LIFE OF CHINA'S PEASANTS

Chen Guidi and Wu Chuntao

"A heartbreaking tale of what can happen when ordinary Chinese try to demand justice and accountability from their leaders."

—The Wall Street Journal

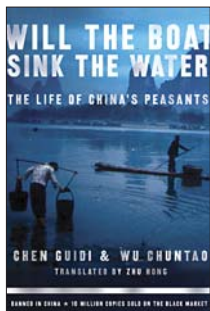
The Chinese economic miracle is happening despite, not because of, China's 900 million peasants. They are missing from the portraits of booming Shanghai, or Beijing, and many of China's underclass live under a feudalistic system unchanged since the fifteenth century. Wu Chuntao and Chen Guidi undertook a three year survey of what had happened to the peasants in one of the poorest provinces, Anhui, asking the question: have the peasants been betrayed by the revolution undertaken in their name by Mao and his successors? The result is a brilliant narrative of life among the poor, a vivid portrait of the petty dictators that run China's villages and counties, and the consequences of their bullying despotism on the people they administer. Told principally through four dramatic narratives, *Will the Boat Sink the Water* gives voice to the unheard masses and looks beneath the gloss of the new China to find the truth about its vast population of rural poor.

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CHEN GUIDI and his wife **WU CHUNTAO** were born into peasant families. Guidi received the Lu Xun Literature Achievement Award—one of the most important literary prizes in China. Both authors have received awards from the journal *Contemporary Age* for groundbreaking reportage.



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