Tragedy in Crimson: How the Dalai Lama Conquered the World but Lost the Battle with China / Tim Johnson / 9781568586014 / 352 pages / PublicAffairs, 2011 / 2011

Tragedy in Crimson: How the Dalai Lama Conquered the World but Lost the Battle with China, by Tim Johnson. Nation Books, 333 pp., $26.99. Dalai Lama; drawing by Pancho. Buy Print. On March 10 the Fourteenth Dalai Lama made front-page news throughout the world by saying, As early as the 1960s, I have repeatedly stressed that Tibetans need a leader, elected freely by the Tibetan people, to whom I can devolve power. Now, we have clearly reached the time to put this into effect.Â As the title of his new book suggests, Tim Johnson thinks that there is no chance of such an arrangement. And if the 14th Dalai Lama were a betting man, heâ€™d probably put his money on China being the next strong power to fall. He said as much to Johnson in a meeting near the end of the journalistâ€™s tenure (from 2003 to 2009) as Beijing bureau chief for the U.S. McClatchy newspaper chain. In fact, at age 75, the exiled Tibetan leader thinks he may even outlive the Chinese Communist partyâ€”in his present incarnation, no less.Â Though some younger activists are frustrated with the Dalai Lamaâ€™s willingness to settle for Tibetan autonomy rather than independence, reverence for him prevails, impeding any meaningful dissent. For its part, the West has embraced the Dalai Lamaâ€”bestowing on him a Nobel Peace Prizeâ€”but no country recognizes his government in exile. Xv, 333 pages : 25 cm. *Tragedy in Crimson* is award-winning journalist Tim Johnson's extraordinary account of the cat-and-mouse game embroiling China and the Tibetan exile community over Tibet. Includes bibliographical references and index. The big gamble -- On Tibet's periphery -- Riding the rails to Tibet -- Holy city or devil's land -- Over the Himalayas -- Dharamsala -- The Karmapa -- The princess -- Wolves at the door -- Getting religion -- A "simple Buddhist monk" -- Thwarting the Dalai Lama -- Hollywood versus Wal-Mart -- Epilogue: China's "totally correct" policies. Tragedy in Crimson book. Read 8 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. Tragedy in Crimson is award-winning journalist Tim Johnson's extra...Â Conquered the World but Lost the Battle with China makes thinking sanguine about the emergence of Pax Sinica a tad, well, wishful. The author, Tim Johnson, was able to compile this indictment after six years as China Bureau Chief for a U.S. newspaper chain, and it combines interviews and observations with statistics and historical records. We learn here that the overwhelming Chinese majority despise Tibetans on ethnic grounds, and how the government in Beijing fans this hatred.