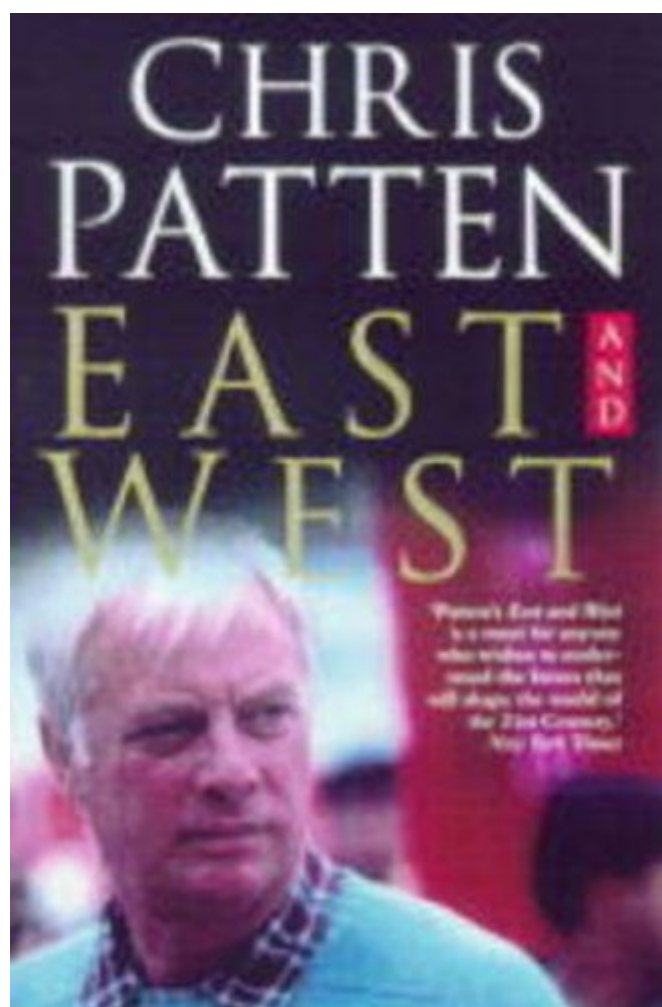


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# East And West



## Synopsis

In June of 1997, over a century and a half of British rule in Hong Kong came to an end. Chris Patten writes about his experiences as the last governor of the colony of Hong Kong. He explains why he adopted the stance that he did, and how he fought his battles.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An American friend in Beijing once said that anyone who has spent time among the Chinese eventually concocts a "grand unified theory of China." To a remarkable extent, Chris Patten didn't. Patten was the last British governor of Hong Kong, and during his five years there he gained a reputation as a combative opponent of the Chinese Communist government and as a champion of Hong Kong's nascent democracy. One might expect, therefore, that his book would be another example of the "China-bashing" so popular among those Western opinion-makers who relish a fight with Beijing. Instead, Patten offers calm, non-alarmist advice, with the wise observation that we would be better off not treating China as a special case. "The alleged uniqueness of China," he says, "blurs comprehension and mangles policy-making." He notes that one side of the how-to-deal-with-China debate is dominated by appeasement-minded "Old China Hands," while

the other features hardliners who see China as "the last evil empire." Both outlooks are wrong, Patten says: "We are lured into thinking that there is a special, an exact way of dealing with China - which turns out on close examination to be one part correct and four parts mumbo-jumbo." While both the confrontational and appeasement mindsets distort Western policy, what is even worse is the Western tendency to oscillate between the two approaches.

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