



# The Forbidden Game: Golf and the Chinese Dream

*Dan Washburn*

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**The Forbidden Game: Golf and the Chinese Dream** Dan Washburn

**In China, just because something is banned, doesn't mean it can't boom...** Statistically, zero percent of the Chinese population plays golf, still known as the "rich man's game" and considered taboo. Yet China is in the midst of a golf boom — hundreds of new courses have opened in the past decade, despite it being illegal for anyone to build them. Award-winning journalist Dan Washburn charts a vivid path through this contradictory country by following the lives of three men intimately involved in China's bizarre golf scene. We meet Zhou, a peasant turned golf pro who discovered the game when he won a job as a security guard at one of the new, exclusive clubs and who sees himself entering the emerging Chinese middle class as a result; Wang, a lychee farmer whose life is turned upside down when a massive, top-secret golf resort moves in next door to his tiny village; and Martin, a Western executive maneuvering through China's byzantine and highly political business environment, ever watchful for Beijing's "golf police." *The Forbidden Game* is a rich and arresting portrait of the world's newest superpower and three different paths to the new Chinese Dream.

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