



Wang Jun, was born in 1969 in a mountainous, poverty-stricken area in Guizhou, one of China's least developed provinces. He majored in journalism at Beijing's Renmin University and upon graduation in 1991, he began working at Xinhua News Agency, China's state news agency. Currently, he works with *Outlook*, a weekly news magazine affiliated with the Xinhua.

Wang Jun's time as a journalist coincided with an unprecedented construction boom in the Beijing. He questioned the need to do away with the ancient structures — city walls, lanes and alleys known as *hutong* — in the Chinese capital city in the midst of modernization.

With that in mind, he investigated and dug deep into the labyrinth of Beijing old and new. He did research for nearly ten years and his efforts were culminated in the publication of *Beijing Record* in 2003. The *Beijing Record* became a bestseller in China and has been reprinted for eleven times. In 2008, Shukousha published a Japanese version. This newly-translated English version has the latest update on the author's findings in the area. As the only edition printed in full color with nearly 300 illustrations, the English version powerfully showcases the stunning architecture, culture, and history of China's Dynamic Capital, Beijing.

Wang Jun's second book, *Cities as Recorded by a Journalist*, published in 2008, reveals the secret of urbanization in China's reform era — the most massive of its kind in human history. "For communication, humans rely on journalists who are faithful to facts," wrote Wang Jun. "Barriers inherent in the human race can be overcome only in societies where journalists can work as journalists, where communication is truly possible."