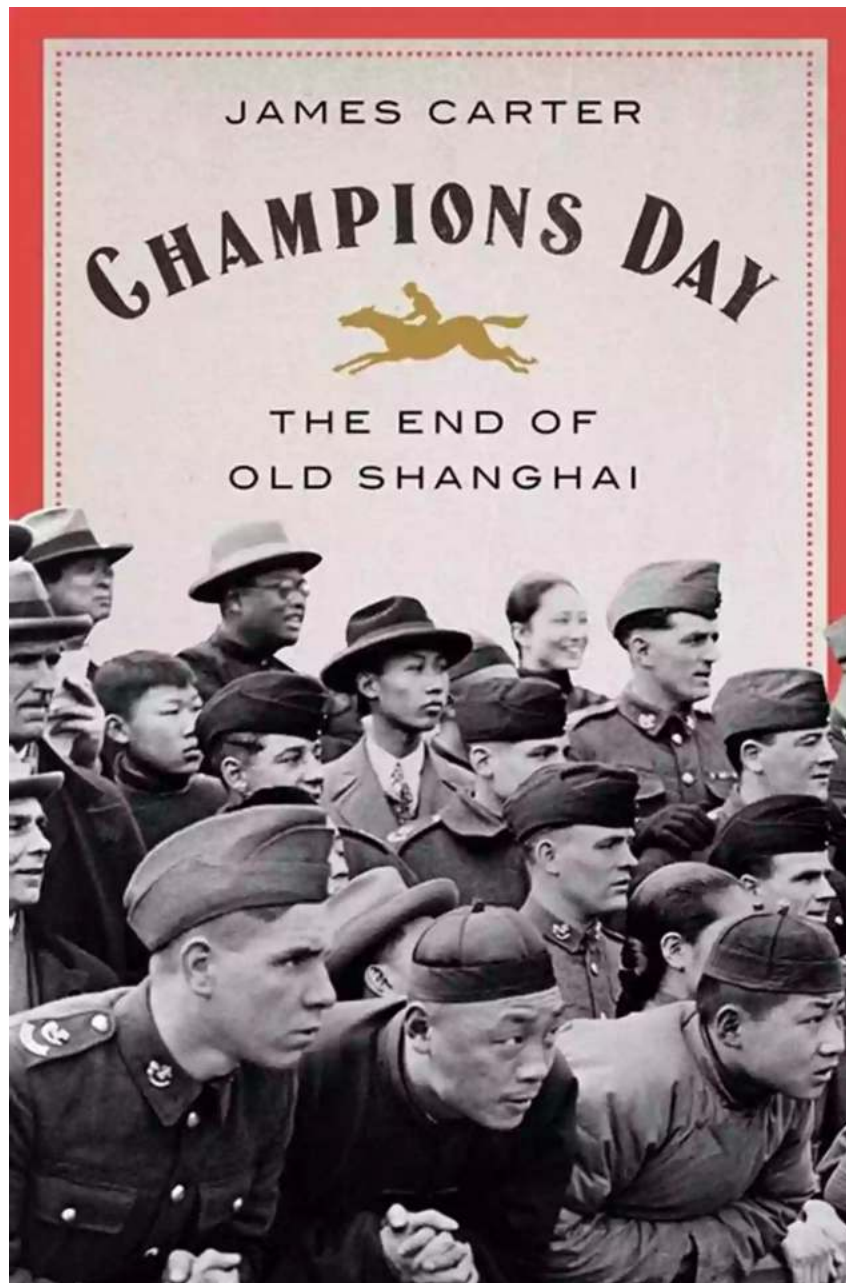


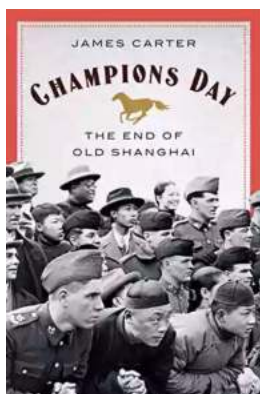
# Champions Day: The End Of Old Shanghai



Shanghai, known for its rich history and vibrant culture, has experienced a significant transformation over the years. From a small fishing village to a bustling metropolis, the city has witnessed various eras come and go. One such era, marked by greatness and opulence, was the time of Champions Day - a celebration that epitomized the end of Old Shanghai.

## The Rise of Old Shanghai

Before delving into the significance of Champions Day, it is essential to understand the context in which it existed. Old Shanghai, also known as the "Paris of the East," emerged as a prominent international hub in the early 20th century. It became a melting pot of cultures, attracting people from all corners of the world - entrepreneurs, artists, and adventurers seeking new opportunities and experiences.



### Champions Day: The End of Old Shanghai

by James Hugh Carter (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 31990 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 351 pages



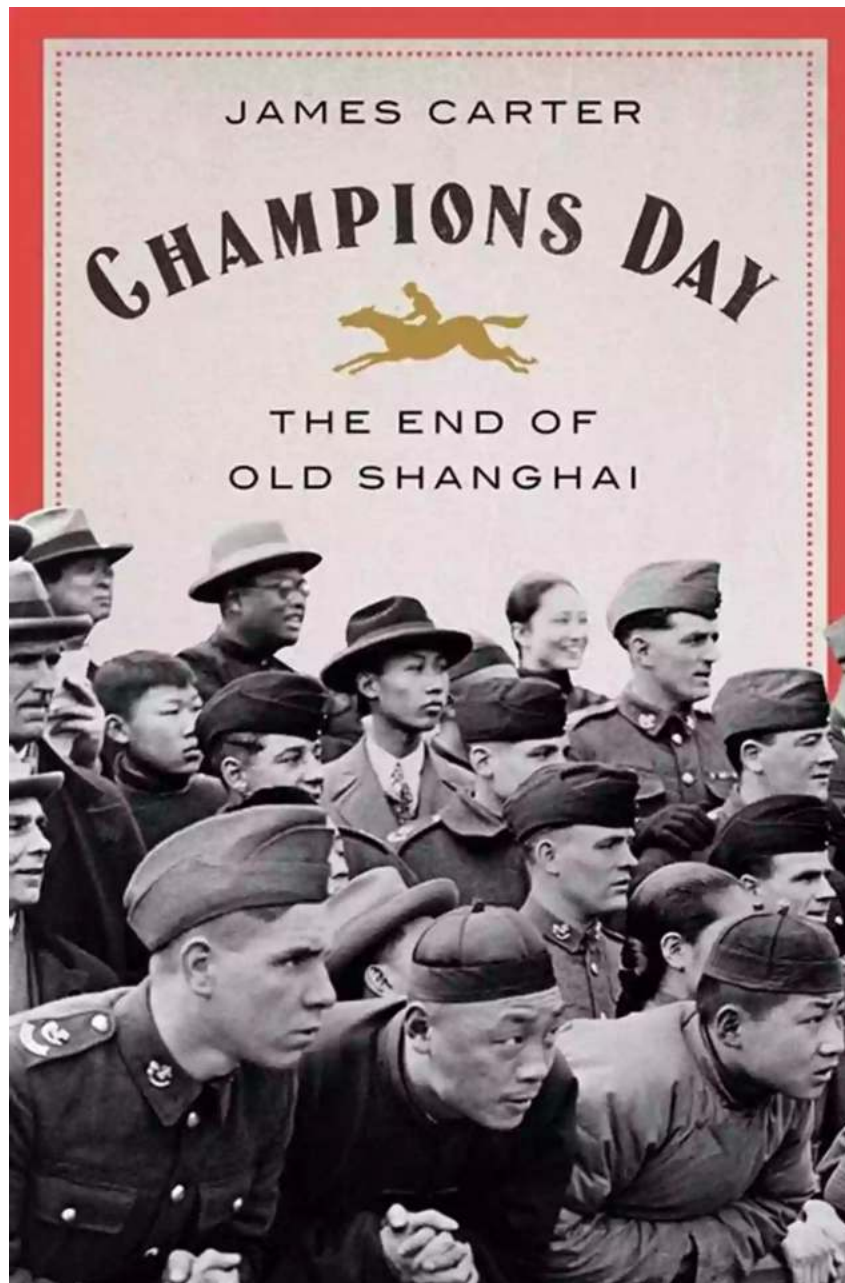
With its bustling ports, luxury hotels, and extravagant nightlife, Old Shanghai exuded an aura of sophistication and decadence. The city's cosmopolitan atmosphere blended elements of Chinese, Western, and Continental cultures, creating a unique and vibrant tapestry that captured the imagination of both locals and foreigners alike.

## The Birth of Champions Day

Champions Day was conceived as a grand spectacle to bid farewell to the golden age of Old Shanghai. Organized by the elite social clubs and prominent business

tycoons, this extravagant event aimed to celebrate the city's achievements, recognize its prominent figures, and create lasting memories before the winds of change swept over the city.

On the final Sunday of every year, Shanghai would come alive with a mesmerizing display of parades, horse races, and glamorous parties. The city's iconic Bund waterfront promenade would be adorned with colorful lights and decorations, transforming it into a magical wonderland that captured the spirit and allure of Old Shanghai.



## **The Glamour and Opulence**

Champions Day was a symphony of luxury and elegance. The city's wealthiest and most influential residents would gather at the renowned clubs and ballrooms, adorned in their finest attire and accompanied by beautiful companions. These opulent affairs would feature live entertainment, gourmet feasts, and extravagant decorations.

The highlight of the event was the Shanghai International Horse Race, where the city's finest racehorses competed for fame and glory. Thousands of spectators would gather at the Shanghai Racecourse, cheering on their favorite horses as they raced towards the finish line. The atmosphere was electric, and the cheers reverberated throughout the city, symbolizing the collective passion and pride of Old Shanghai.

## **The End of an Era**

As China underwent political and social changes in the mid-20th century, Old Shanghai's grandeur and allure began to fade. The once-flourishing city faced a period of turmoil, leading to the eventual decline of Champions Day. The event's last iteration took place in 1948, marking the end of an era that would forever be etched in Shanghai's history.

Today, remnants of Old Shanghai can still be found in the cityscape: the European-style architecture, the quaint alleys, and the tales passed down by previous generations. While the glitz and glamour may have faded, the spirit of Old Shanghai continues to inspire and captivate those who seek to understand the city's past.

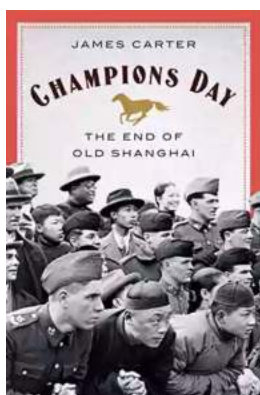
## **Reviving Old Shanghai's Legacy**

Efforts have been made to revive the memories of Old Shanghai and pay tribute to its bygone era. The Shanghai History Museum, located in the heart of the city, chronicles the rise and fall of Old Shanghai, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in its dazzling history.

Additionally, various cultural events and exhibitions aim to capture the essence of Old Shanghai, providing a glimpse into the extravagant lifestyle and vibrant character that defined the city.

Champions Day served as a grand finale to Old Shanghai, an era of beauty, decadence, and cultural fusion. This event represented the end of an era but left a lasting legacy in the hearts of those who experienced its grandeur.

As Shanghai continues to evolve and embrace its modern identity, the memories of Old Shanghai and Champions Day are cherished as a reminder of the city's rich heritage and resilience.



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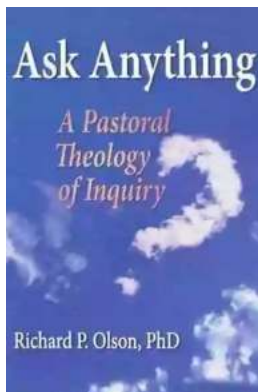
How a single day revealed the history and foreshadowed the future of Shanghai.

It is November 12, 1941, and the world is at war. In Shanghai, just weeks before Pearl Harbor, thousands celebrate the birthday of China's founding father, Sun Yat-sen, in a new city center built to challenge European imperialism. Across town, crowds of Shanghai residents from all walks of life attend the funeral of China's wealthiest woman, the Chinese-French widow of a Baghdadi Jewish businessman whose death was symbolic of the passing of a generation that had seen Shanghai's rise to global prominence. But it is the racetrack that attracts the largest crowd of all. At the center of the International Settlement, the heart of



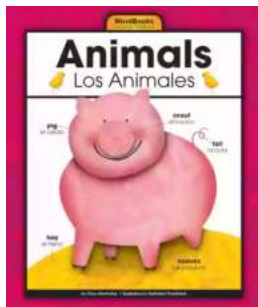
Western colonization—but also of Chinese progressivism, art, commerce, cosmopolitanism, and celebrity—Champions Day unfolds, drawing tens of thousands of Chinese spectators and Europeans alike to bet on the horses.

In a sharp and lively snapshot of the day's events, James Carter recaptures the complex history of Old Shanghai. Champions Day is a kaleidoscopic portrait of city poised for revolution.



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