

HENNING MANKELL THE MAN FROM BEIJING 2008 (KINESEN)

(KINESEN = Chinese, Chinese Man)

In January 2006 the police made the gruesome discovery of the bodies of 19 people who had been brutally murdered in the remote hamlet of Hesjövalen in northern [Sweden](#). It is a crime unprecedented in Sweden's history and the police are under incredible pressure to solve the killings.

The [protagonist](#) Birgitta Roslin, a district judge from [Helsingborg](#), realizes she has a family connection with some of the victims. Roslin's curiosity is raised by clues found at the scene and leads her to unofficially investigate the massacre

When the police make a hasty arrest it is left to her to investigate the source of a nineteenth century diary and red silk ribbon found near the crime scene

. What she will uncover leads her into an international web of corruption and a story of vengeance that stretches back over a hundred years.

. The narrative also chronicles the lives of several characters living during the mid-19th century in [China](#) and the [United States](#), whose experiences are somehow also connected to the mass killings.

As the plot unfolds, extending across four continents, Roslin unintentionally becomes embroiled in a web of international corruption and political intrigue.

Two main themes, one is vengeance

And two is modern international politics with China as a main player.

The vengeance encompasses the treatment of the Chinese workers in America building the trans pacific railroad in 1866. They are ill treated and murdered by their brutal foreman, who happens to be Swedish.

American version of Victorian imperialism. The modern crime is a descendant of the Chinese laborers getting revenge on the families of the Swedish foreman.

The second theme encompasses modern neo - imperialism in Africa with the Chinese as the new brutal overlords. This also involves a political battle between the communist party with its liberation ideology and the new capitalist oligarchy determined to make themselves and China rich and powerful. Real politicians such as Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Guerdá of Mozambique have walk on parts with all the luxury Chinese and African junketing.

