



# The Compelling Ideal: Thought Reform and the Prison in China, 1901-1956

*Jan Kiely*

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## **The Compelling Ideal: Thought Reform and the Prison in China, 1901-1956** Jan Kiely

In this groundbreaking volume, based on extensive research in Chinese archives and libraries, Jan Kiely explores the pre-Communist origins of the process of systematic thought reform or reformation (*ganhua*) that evolved into a key component of Mao Zedong's revolutionary restructuring of Chinese society. Focusing on *ganhua* as it was employed in China's prison system, Kiely's thought-provoking work brings the history of this critical phenomenon to life through the stories of individuals who conceptualized, implemented, and experienced it, and he details how these techniques were subsequently adapted for broader social and political use.

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