



Laogai: The Machinery of Repression in China wins Nautilus Book Award Silver Medal, Eric Hoffer Book Award

May 10, 2010, Washington, DC- The Laogai Research Foundation's most recent photo journalism driven publication *Laogai: The Machinery of Repression in China* has received the Nautilus Silver Award for Socially Conscious Media and an Eric Hoffer Honorable Mention. Released October 1, 2009, *Laogai* features essays from leading China scholar Andrew Nathan and noted former political prisoner Harry Wu, as well as an in-depth examination of China's Laogai forced labor prison system.

Nautilus recognizes works which, "promote Spiritual Growth, Conscious Living, and Positive Social Change as they stimulate the imagination and inspire the reader to new possibilities for a better world." Winners are selected in a three-tier judging process by teams of book reviewers, librarians, authors, editors, book store owners, and leaders in the publishing industry.

The Eric Hoffer Book Award, "honors the memory of the great American philosopher Eric Hoffer by highlighting salient writing, as well as the independent spirit of small publishers." Recipient stories and essays are published in *Best New Writing*, and the book awards are covered in the *US Review of Books*. Editors Nan Richardson and Nicole Kempton offered the following joint statement regarding the recent accolades; "We hope that these honors will help take us one step closer to our goal of shedding light on the Laogai system. The book goes a long way towards making the Laogai system as reviled as the gulag and concentration camps it is modeled upon."

Also in 2009, Umbrage Editions published a Mandarin-Chinese edition of *Laogai* which is currently being sold in Hong Kong, SAR, and Taiwan. To purchase an English or Chinese edition of this publication, please contact publications@laogai.org or visit www.laogai.org.

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The Laogai Research Foundation is a not-for-profit organization founded by former political prisoner Harry Wu in 1992. Its mission is to gather information on and raise public awareness of the Laogai-China's extensive system of forced labor prison camps.