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China: Empire And Civilization



Synopsis

To Western eyes, China is one of the most mysterious and intriguing of all civilizations. The legacy of its long dynastic rule, extending back more than 3,000 years, includes fascinating contributions to philosophy, religion, art, science, and mythology that continue to influence the modern world. China explores the ideas and achievements of this unique culture through a combination of authoritative, accessible scholarship and magnificent imagery. Drawing on the most recent discoveries and theories, the book presents China's history, society, and beliefs from the legends of prehistory to the end of imperial power in 1912. It investigates the key cultural, spiritual, and artistic traditions of this vast civilization and describes the country's major scientific and technological innovations, such as gunpowder, printing, and the compass. An investigation of trading routes, both by land and sea, challenges the conventional view of China as an isolated, insular civilization, stressing instead the impact of its sophisticated society upon the world. A final section discusses the continuing legacy of the imperial period through the turbulent years of the twentieth century up to the present day. A wealth of color photography and imaginative artwork, together with a lively and authoritative text, vividly evokes the pinnacles of Chinese civilization as well as the realities of everyday life, from life in the Imperial court to the most rural villages.

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Customer Reviews

"A penetrating exploration of the Chinese cultural pantheon.... A fine book, breathtakingly beautiful in its presentation."--History

Edward L. Shaughnessy is Professor of Early Chinese History at the University of Chicago. A well respected scholar, his books include I Ching: The Classic of Changes and The Cambridge History of Ancient China. He lives in Chicago.

Great condition, wonderfully colorful photos.

Very good.

Pictures are vivid and are excellent tools to help students visualize and understand the content.

Very good

Great book. Looks like new and I am enjoying every page of it!

perfect

this was one of my text requirment book!so i have to get it!it has a lot of ideas in it, but not very interesting. good for text book!

If you are a beginner who wants to study Chinese history (especially ancient Chinese history), this book will be a good choice. It talks about ancient Chinese rituals, Chinese myths and different dynasties. As a native Chinese, I am not really satisfied with this book since the information is too superficial for me. However, it is good for the beginners who want to know about ancient Chinese history.

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