China Between Empires: The Northern And Southern Dynasties

History Of Imperial China

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perceptions of ‘others’ as a function of the same historical process. Based on both archaeological and textual sources, this book also introduces a new methodological approach to Chinese frontier history, which combines extensive factual data with a careful scrutiny of the motives, methods, and general conception of history that informed the Chinese historian Su-ma Ch’ien.

In the Later Han period the region covering the modern provinces of Gansu, southern Ningxia, eastern Gansu, northern Sichuan, and western Shaanxi, was a porous frontier zone between the Chinese regions and their nomadic neighbours, which have been increasingly incorporated into the Chinese realm until the first century BCE. Not surprisingly the region had a large concentration of men of martial background, from which a regional culture characterized by warrior spirit and skills prevailed. This military elite was generally respected by the imperial centre, but during the Later Han period the ascendency of eastern-based scholar-officials and the constant increased emphasis on values and de-militarization fundamentally transformed the attitude of the imperial state towards the northwestern frontiersmen, leaving them struggling to achieve high political and social status and to overcome the imperial stereotypes of the northern barbarians and to reconceptualize the imperial core as a northwestern military force, the designation of the emperor and the installation of a new one, which triggered the disintegration of the empire. Based on extensive original research, and combining cultural, military and political history, this book examines fully the jerking of military regional identity in the northwest borderlands and the consequences of this for the early Chinese empires.

Just over a thousand years ago, the Song dynasty emerged as the most advanced civilization on earth. Within two centuries, China was home to nearly half of all humankind. In this concise history, we learn why the invention of this era has been favorably compared with the European Renaissance, which in many ways the Song transformation surpassed. With the chaotic dissolution of the Tang dynasty, the old aristocratic families of scholar-officials —predominantly from the Northern Song dynasty—were the task of reshaping Chinese examined by adopting the concept of Confucianism to a rapidly changing world. Through fiscal reforms, these elites liberalized the economy, eased the tax burden, and paper money into circulation. Their redesigns capitalized on trade between cities, and the educational system offered advanced to talented men of modest means. Their rationalistic approach led to innovations in printing, shipbuilding, seawaring, ceramics manufacture, mining, and agriculture. With a realist’s eye, they studied the nature of government and politics in art and science, and experiments in the souls of diplomacy, they peace over war with the aggressors on their borders. Yet persistent military-threats from these nomadic tribes—which the Chinese viewed as their cultural inferiors—redrew China’s understanding of its place in the world and solidified a sense of what it meant to be Chinese. The Age of Conquering Rule is an essential introduction to this transformative era. “A scholar should congratulate himself that he has been born in such a time” (Zhou Yuan, 1194).

In this history of China for the 900-year span of the late imperial period, Mote highlights the personal characteristics of the rulers and dynasties and probes the cultural theme of Chinese adaptations to recurrent alien rulers. Generational events, personalities, and the spirit of the age combine to yield a comprehensive history of the civilization.

In this fascinating and detailed profile, Benn paints a vivid picture of life in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), traditionally regarded as the golden age of China. 40 illustrations.

This book addresses a largely untouched historical problem: the fourth centuries AD witnessed remarkably similar patterns of foreign invasion, conquest, and political fragmentation in Rome and China. Yet while the western Roman empire was never re-established, China was reunified at the end of the sixth century. Taking a comparative approach to the study of the broader historiographical and ethnographic traditions in the classical Greco-Roman and Chinese worlds, the book turns to the late antiquity medieval period, when the western Roman Empire fell and China was re-constituted as a united empire after centuries of foreign conquest and political division. Analyzing the discourse of ethnic identity in the original texts, with translations by D. Ford, it explores the extent to which notions of Self and Other, of ‘barbarian’ and ‘civilised’, help us understand both the transformation of the Roman world as well as the restoration of a unified imperial China.

The Tang dynasty is often called China’s “golden age,” a period of commercial, religious, and cultural connections from Korea and Japan in the Korean Gulf, and a time of unparalleled literary creativity. Mark Lewis captures a dynamic era in which the empire reached its greatest geographical extent under Chinese rule, painting and ceramic arts flourished, women played a major role both as rulers and in the economy, and China produced its finest epic poets in Wang Wei, Li Bo, and Du Fu.

This first book in a six-volume series begins at the creation of an ancient imperial order whose major features would endure for two millennia. It illuminates many formative events in China’s long history of imperialism, events whose residual influence can still be discerned today.

This innovative sourcebook builds a dynamic understanding of China’s early medieval period (220–589) through an original selection and arrangement of literary, historical, religious, and critical texts. A tumultuous and formative era, these centuries saw the largest stretch of political fragmentation in China’s imperial history, resulting in new social formations, the rise of powerful clans, and a pervasive divide between north and south. Deploying thematic categories, the editors sketch the period in a novel way for students and, by featuring many texts translated into English for the first time, recast the evas for specialists. Thematic topics include regional definitions and tensions, governing mechanics and social reality, ideas of self and other, relations with the unknown world, everyday life, and cultural concepts. Within each section, the editors and translators introduce the selected texts and provide critical commentary on their historical significance, along with suggestions for further reading and research.

Lavish now sheds light on the early Chinese empires through an ambitious examination of evolving ideas about honor and shame.

Empires and Exchanges in Eurasian Late Antiquity offers an integrated picture of Rome, China, Iran, and the Steppe during a formative period of world history. In the half millennium between 250 and 750 CE, settled empires underwent deep structural changes, while various nomadic peoples of the steppes (Huns, Avars, Turks, and others) experienced significant interactions and movements that changed their societies, culture, and fate. Before the Transnational era, when China, Persia, Iran, and Christendom and Buddhist cross-over the Eastern lands together with merchants and armies. It was a time of greater outreach of Chinese influence. This volume provides a conceptual frame for locating these developments in the same space and time. Without arguing for uniformity, it illuminates the interconnections and networks that tied countless local cultural expressions to far-reaching inter-regional ones.

A timely look at the impact of China’s booming emergence on the countries of Southeast Asia Today, Southeast Asia stands uniquely exposed to the rising power of the New China. Three of its nations border China and five are directly impacted by its claims over the South China Sea. All dwell in the lengthening shadow of its influence: economic, political, military, and cultural. As China seeks to restore its former status at Asia’s preeminent power, the countries of Southeast Asia face an increasingly stark choice: flourish within Beijing’s orbit or languish outside of it. Meanwhile, as rival powers including the United States take concerted action to curb Chinese ambitions, the region’s economic and political stability is threatened. Bringing together leading historians, political scientists and international relations scholars from across the globe, Echoes of Empire explores the impact of China’s rise on Southeast Asia, the varied ways in which the region of the country are responding, and what it might mean for the future balance of power in the Indo-Pacific.

In a brisk revisionist history, William Roger challenges the standard narrative of Qin as a desolate, inward-looking state that failed to keep pace with the modern West. This original, thought-provoking history of China’s last empire is a must-read for understanding the challenges facing China today.

Comprehensive account of the intense biological, commercial, and cultural exchanges, and the creation of global connections, between 1400 and 1800.

The fall of the Han dynasty, China divided along a north-south line. Lewis traces the changes that underlay and resulted from this split in a period that saw China’s geographic redefinition, more engagement with the outside world, significant changes to family life, literary and social developments, and the introduction of new religions.

How does our colonial past echo through today’s global politics? How have former empire-builders sought vindication or atonement, and formerly colonized states revered or resented their legacy? This groundbreaking book presents a panoramic view of attitudes to empires past and present, not only through the hard politics of international power structures but also through the nuances of memory, historiography and national and minority cultural identities. Bringing together leading historians, political scientists and international relations scholars from across the globe, Echoes of Empire explores the impact of China’s rise on Southeast Asia, the varied ways in which the region of the country are responding, and what it might mean for the future balance of power in the Indo-Pacific.

Examinations of the Han empire from political, geographical, material, and cultural perspectives.

How empires have used the shape the world order for more than two millennia Empires—past states of territories and peoples united by force and ambition—have dominated the political landscape for more than two millennia. Empires in World History explores deep cultural changes, and the creation of global connections, between 1400 and 1800. Comprehensive account of the intense biological, commercial, and cultural exchanges, and the creation of global connections, between 1400 and 1800.

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A critical new interpretation of the early history of Chinese civilization based on the most recent scholarship and archaeological discoveries.

How transnational modernity is taking shape in and in relation to Asia Fashion and Beauty in the Time of Asia considers the role of bodily aesthetics in the shaping of Asian modernities and the formation of the so-called "Asian Century." S. Heijin Lee, Christina H. Moon, and Thuy Linh Nguyen Tu train our eyes on sites as far-flung, varied, and intimate as Guangzhou and Los Angeles, Saigon and Seoul, New York and Toronto. They map the transregional connections, ever-evolving aspirations and sensibilities, and new worlds and life paths forged through engagements with fashion and beauty. Contributors consider American influence on plastic surgery in Korea, Vietnamese debates about "the fashionable," and the costs and commitments demanded of those who make and wear fast fashion, from Chinese garment workers to Nepalese nail technicians in New York who are mandated to dress "fashionably." In doing so, this interdisciplinary anthology moves beyond common characterizations of Asians and the Asian diaspora as simply object laborers or frenzied consumers, analyzing who the modern Asian subject is now: what they wear and how they work, move, eat, and shop.

Empire’s Tracks boldly reframes the history of the transcontinental railroad from the perspectives of the Cheyenne, Lakota, and Pueblo Native American tribes, and the Chinese migrants who toiled on its path. In this meticulously researched book, Maria Karuka situates the railroad within the violent global histories of colonization and capitalism. Through an examination of legislative, military, and business records, Karuka deftly explains the imperial foundations of U.S. political economy. Tracing the shared paths of Indigenous and Asian American histories, this multidisciplinary study connects military occupation to exclusionary border policies, a linked chain spanning the heart of U.S. imperialism. This highly original and beautifully wrought book unveils how the transcontinental railroad laid the tracks of the U.S. Empire.

International scholars and sinologists discuss culture, economic growth, social change, political processes, and foreign influences in China since the earliest pre-dynastic period.

Discover the remarkable history of the Taiping Rebellion in 1833, Hong Xiuquan failed the notoriously difficult exam to gain entry to the Chinese Civil Service and suffered a nervous breakdown. In a weakened state, he had visions which he later interpreted to be messages from God, telling him that he is the younger brother of Jesus Christ and, therefore, the second son of God. By 1850, he had built an army, challenged an empire, and plunged China into the bloodiest civil war in human history, one that lasted fourteen years and cost more lives than the First World War. This is the story of Hong Xiuquan’s Taiping Rebellion, of his Heavenly Kingdom, and the death and destruction that came with it. Discover a plethora of topics such as The Visions of Hong Xiuquan Fighting the Xiang Army, Coups within the Taiping Kingdom, The Reform of the Shield King’s Ever-Victorious Army, The End of the Taiping Rebellion: Death by a Thousand Cuts And much more! So if you want a concise and informative book on the Taiping Rebellion, simply scroll up and click the "Buy now" button for instant access!

The Northern Wei was a dynasty which originated outside China and ruled northern China when the south of China was ruled by a series of dynasties which originated inside China. Both during the time that the Northern Wei dynasty was in power and over many centuries subsequently, the legitimacy of the Northern Wei dynasty has been questioned. This book outlines the history of the Northern Wei dynasty, including its origins and the history of its southern rivals; considers the practices adopted by both the Northern Wei dynasty and its rivals to establish legitimacy; and examines the debates which preoccupied Chinese scholars subsequently. The book casts light on traditional ideas about legitimate rule in China, ideas which have enduring relevance as tradition continues to be very significant in contemporary China.

The stories of the Chinese great emperors reflect the ancient Chinese philosophy, ideology, their wisdom and their ways of administration. Liu Bang is an outstanding example. Rising from a peasant background to become Emperor, he founded the Han Dynasty which lasted for about four hundred years and essentially laid the foundations of China as we know it. Liu Bang (256 BC-195 BC), posthumously called Emperor Gaozu, was a low-ranking functionary in an obscure corner of the realm when he caught the wave of the great uprisings against the Qin Dynasty. First as leader of a local contingent and then as general of larger and larger armies, he eventually overthrew the despotic Qin emperor. Today, the Han are the majority ethnic identity in China. This is the story of the rise of Emperor Gaozu, his alliances and his rivalries, and the priceless partnership provided by his chief military strategist Zhang Liang, who planned victorious campaigns from a distance of 1000 miles; Xiao He, who stabilized the state, pacified the people, and assured the food supply to the army; and General Han Xin, who commanded the Han army in its conquest of the State of Wei, the State of Zhao, the State of Yan and the State of Qi and played a great role in the defeat of Xiang Yu.

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