

Gods Chinese Son The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom Of Hong Xiuquan

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occupying much of imperial china s yangzi river heartland and costing more than twenty million lives the taiping rebellion 1851 64 was no ordinary peasant revolt what most distinguished this dramatic upheaval from earlier rebellions were the spiritual beliefs of the rebels the core of the taiping faith focused on the belief that shangdi the high god of classical china had chosen the taiping leader hong xiuquan to establish his heavenly kingdom on earth how were the taiping rebels professing this new creed able to mount their rebellion and recruit multitudes of followers in their sweep through the empire thomas reilly argues that the taiping faith although kindled by protestant sources developed into a dynamic new chinese religion whose conception of its sovereign deity challenged the legitimacy of the chinese empire the taiping rebels

denounced the divine pretensions of the imperial title and the sacred character of the imperial office as blasphemous usurpations of shangdi's title and position in place of the imperial institution the rebels called for restoration of the classical system of kingship previous rebellions had declared their contemporary dynasties corrupt and therefore in need of revival the taiping by contrast branded the entire imperial order blasphemous and in need of replacement in this study reilly emphasizes the christian elements of the taiping faith showing how protestant missionaries built on earlier catholic efforts to translate christianity into a chinese idiom prior studies of the rebellion have failed to appreciate how hong xiuquan's interpretation of christianity connected the taiping faith to an imperial chinese cultural and religious context the taiping heavenly kingdom shows how the bible in particular a chinese translation of the old testament profoundly influenced hong and his followers leading them to understand the first three of the ten commandments as an indictment of the imperial order the rebels thus sought to destroy imperial culture along with its institutions and confucian underpinnings all of which they regarded as blasphemous strongly iconoclastic the taiping followers smashed religious statues and imperially approved icons throughout the lands they conquered by such actions the taiping rebellion transformed at least for its followers but to some extent for all chinese how chinese people thought about religion the imperial title and office and the entire traditional imperial and confucian order this book makes a major contribution to the study of the taiping rebellion and to our understanding of the ideology of both the rebels and the traditional imperial order they opposed it will appeal to scholars in the fields of chinese history religion and culture and of christian theology and church history

a gripping account of china's nineteenth century taiping rebellion one of the largest civil wars in history autumn in the heavenly kingdom brims with unforgettable characters and vivid recreations of massive and often gruesome battles a sweeping yet intimate portrait of the conflict that shaped the fate of modern china the story begins in the early 1850s the waning years of the qing dynasty when word spread of a major revolution brewing in the provinces led by a failed civil servant who claimed to be the son of god and brother of jesus the taiping rebels drew their power from the poor and the disenfranchised unleashing the ethnic rage of millions of chinese against their manchu rulers this homegrown movement seemed all but unstoppable until britain and the united states stepped in and threw their support behind the manchus after years of massive carnage all opposition to qing rule was effectively snuffed out for generations stephen r platt recounts these events in spellbinding detail building his story on two fascinating characters with opposing visions for china's future the conservative confucian scholar zeng guofan an accidental general who emerged as the most influential military strategist in china's modern history and hong ren'an a brilliant taiping leader whose grand vision of building a modern industrial and pro western chinese state ended in tragic failure this is an essential and enthralling history of the rise and fall of the movement that a century and a half ago might have launched china on an entirely different path into the modern world

a magnificent tapestry a story that reaches beyond china into our world and time a story of faith hope passion and a fatal grandiosity washington post book world whether read for its powerful account of the largest uprising in human history or for its foreshadowing of the terrible

convulsions suffered by twentieth century china or for the narrative power of a great historian at his best god s chinese son must be read at the center of this history of china s taiping rebellion 1845 64 stands hong xiuquan a failed student of confucian doctrine who ascends to heaven in a dream and meets his heavenly family god mary and his older brother jesus he returns to earth charged to eradicate the demon devils the alien manchu rulers of china his success carries him and his followers to the heavenly capital at nanjing where they rule a large part of south china for more than a decade their decline and fall wrought by internal division and the unrelenting military pressures of the manchus and the western powers carry them to a hell on earth twenty million chinese are left dead

the taiping uprising in china led by hong xiuquan was a massive movement that in its violent rise fall between 1845 1864 cost 20 million chinese their lives the taiping succeeded in overturning the authority of the ruling qing dynasty throughout a massive territory in southern china this the taiping ruled as their heavenly kingdom from their seat in nanjing for 11 years until they were overcome spence takes us into the fevered dream world of hong xiuquan hong s movement ignites the volatile situation of a china ruled by a dynasty in decline beset by pirates bandits pressed by western traders to embrace opium western missionaries the word of god arms dealers the new weapons of the industrial revolution illustrations

discover the remarkable history of the taiping rebellion in 1837 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 hong 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 reforms of the shield king the 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

this book examines the theological worldview of the taiping rebellion 1850 64 a chinese revolutionary movement whose leader hong xiuquan 1814 64 claimed to be the second son of god and younger brother of jesus despite the profound impact of christian books on hong s religious thinking previous scholarship has neglected the localized form of christianity that he and his closest followers created filling that gap in the existing literature this book analyzes the localization of christianity in the theology ethics and ritual practices of the taipings carl s kilcourse not only reveals how confucianism and popular religion acted as instruments of localization but also suggests that several key aspects of the taipings localized religion were inspired by terms and themes from translated christian texts emphasizing this link between vernacularization and localization kilcourse demonstrates both the religious identity of the taipings and their wider significance in the history of world christianity

the study of modern chinese history has developed rapidly in recent decades and has seen increased exploration of new topics and innovative approaches resulting from a special issue of modern chinese history studies this volume is devoted to showcasing the healthy development of chinese modern history studies and has already been revised twice in the original language this three volume set exhibits major achievements in the study of modern chinese history and shows how the role of history has been in debate transformation and re evaluation throughout this tortuous yet prosperous period this volume investigates the critical movements such as the taiping heavenly kingdom movement and the chinese people s war of resistance against japanese aggression that contribute to the establishment of the people s republic of china in addition it includes valuable summaries of various perspectives in modern chinese history studies such as the translation of overseas studies and pioneering topics that historians have examined between 2009 and 2019 this book will benefit scholars and students of chinese history especially those who are interested in modern chinese history

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this imagines what would have happened if hong xiuquan had lived to be 100 years old and the taiping rebellion would have been successful

it was the year 1858 and three young run aways jason brandt son of a hong kong missionary his friend wu sek chong and the beautiful and defiant black jade set off to find the capital of the rebel taiping tienkuo the heavenly kingdom of great peace established in 1851 by a failed civil service candidate who claimed to be the little brother of christ the semi christian taiping kingdom had made a dramatic and bloody bid to overthrow the confucian rule of the ch ing dynasty the three young people s search for the heavenly kingdom and what they eventually found among the taipings is the central plot of this historical novel of journey and self discovery in 19th century china

the taiping revolution in the mid 19th century cost 20 million lives it was led by hong xiuquan a visionary who believed he had been charged to destroy the demon devils who did not share his beliefs after many battles massacres and sieges hong s ar

encapsulating the themes of his 1996 book *god s chinese son* jonathan spence in this edmondson historical lecture interprets the social and political milieu of mid nineteenth century china that gave rise to the apocalyptic taiping rebellion here spence traces the events surrounding the life of hong xiuquan the self styled heavenly king who had learned through his encounter with christian religious texts that he was not only a religious leader but also the younger brother of jesus hong s rise to power in southern china eventually led to his military seizure of one of china s largest cities nanjing where he established his heavenly capital on earth for eleven years included in this study is the author s analysis of hong s intellectual development spence gives special attention to hong s introduction to christian texts and his eventual use of christian scripture to interpret his role as god s chinese son spence poignantly articulates how hong interpreted scripture not only to maintain his spiritual and political leadership over his followers but also to anticipate the apocalyptic conclusion to his earthly kingdom

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