

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 xiuan 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 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 xiuan 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

in the early 1850s during the waning years of the qing dynasty word spread of a major revolution brewing in the provinces the leader of the this movement who called themselves the taiping was hong xiuquan a failed civil servant who claimed to be the son of god and the brother of jesus christ as the revolt grew and battles raged across the empire all signs pointed to a taiping victory and to the inauguration of a modern industrialized and pro western china soon however britain and the united states threw their support behind the qing soon quashing the taiping and rendering ineffective the years of bloodshed the revolution had endured in autumn in the heavenly kingdom stephen platt recounts the events of the rebellion and its suppression in spellbinding detail it is an essential and enthralling history of the rise and fall of a movement that a century and a half ago might have launched china into the modern world

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

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

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

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

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

the taiping rebellion 1850 1864 was a pivotal event in modern chinese history this civil

war was fought between the established manchu qing dynasty in power and the millenarian movement of the heavenly kingdom of peace

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the taiping rebellion alternatively termed the taiping civil war or the taiping revolution unfolded in china pitting the manchu qing dynasty against the han hakka led taiping heavenly kingdom spanning from 1850 to 1864 its echoes reverberated beyond with the final rebel faction quelled only in august 1871 post the fall of tianjing the uprising sparked subsequent revolts notably the ephemeral heavenly kingdom of the great mingshun in 1903 directly influenced by the taiping despite the victory of the established qing regime it came at a staggering cost both financially and politically navigating through one of history s deadliest civil conflicts which claimed an estimated 20 to 30 million lives at the helm of the rebellion stood hong xiuguan an ethnic hakka who proclaimed himself the sibling of jesus christ his ambitions were multifaceted blending theological nationalist and political aspirations hong s vision extended beyond religious conversion he aimed to dismantle the manchu led qing dynasty and engineer a radical overhaul of the nation s structure rather than merely targeting the ruling class the taipings sought to dismantle china s societal and ethical framework erecting the heavenly kingdom with tianjing now nanjing as its nucleus they commanded sway over vast swathes of southern china eventually encompassing a populace nearing 30 million

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

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