

Gods Chinese Son The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom Of Hong Xiuquan

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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 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

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 basil society s china mission one of the more successful protestant missions in the nineteenth century was distinguished by the fact that most of the initial proselytizing was conducted by chinese converts in the interior rather than by western missionaries in the treaty ports thus the first viable protestant communities were not only established by chinese evangelists they were established among an ethnic minority in south china the hakka people the autobiographies of eight pioneer chinese missionaries featured in this book offer an unusual opportunity to view village life and customs in guangdong during the mid nineteenth century by providing details on hakka death and burial rituals ancestor veneration

lineages and lineage feuds geomancy the status of hakka women widespread economic hardship and civil disorder they also illustrate the appeals of christianity the obstacles to conversion and chinese opposition to christianity and western missionaries the authors commentary addresses the issue of conversion which was fueled by individual desire for solace and salvation the building of a support community amid social chaos and the possibility of social mobility through education despite an expanding role by western missionaries the chinese origins the rural interior locale and the status of the hakka as a disadvantaged minority contributed to successive generations of christian families and to early progress toward an autonomous hakka church

this work focuses on the 19th century mission conducted by chinese evangelists among the hakka an ethnic minority in south china the principal part of the text comprises the autobiographies of eight pioneer missionaries who offer insight into village life and customs of the hakka people

benjamin elman describes how education examinations and civil service fostered the world s first professional class based on demonstrated knowledge chinese civil examinations a piece of social engineering worked out over centuries prefigured the regime of meritocratic exams that undergirds higher education around the globe today

what if one man s divine vision could ignite a war that killed millions and nearly toppled an empire in god s chinese prophet hong xiuquan s visions and the religious roots of the taiping rebellion arthur vance sterling unveils the electrifying story of hong xiuquan a failed scholar whose fevered dreams of being jesus younger brother sparked the taiping rebellion 1850 1864 one of history s deadliest conflicts this gripping historical non fiction plunges you into the heart of 19th century china where a fusion of christian fervor and chinese millenarianism rallied millions to challenge the qing dynasty sterling s vivid prose captures the chaos and charisma of a prophet whose visions promised a heavenly kingdom but delivered a

cataclysm reshaping a nation's destiny for readers of historical non fiction this is a tale of faith rebellion and the shattering cost of utopian dreams step into the turbulent world of guangdong where hong's visions transformed a marginalized hakka community into a revolutionary force sterling meticulously traces how a single pamphlet from a christian missionary ignited hong's apocalyptic theology blending it with anti manchu rage to form the god worshipping society through gripping accounts of battles betrayals and the rise of the heavenly capital in nanjing this book reveals how hong's divine revelations inspired both heroic sacrifices and devastating purges with a scholar's precision and a storyteller's flair sterling draws on primary sources like the taiping heavenly chronicle and survivor memoirs to bring this seismic upheaval to life offering a front row seat to a rebellion that shook the world the taiping rebellion was no mere uprising it was a clash of cultures religions and empires sterling explores how hong's visions drew the attention of western missionaries and powers only to falter under the weight of internal strife and qing counterattacks led by the formidable zeng guofan from the bloody tianjing incident to the fall of nanjing god's chinese prophet uncovers the human toll of hong's divine mission where 20 30 million perished in a war fueled by faith historical non fiction readers will find themselves gripped by the parallels to modern ideological conflicts as sterling probes the seductive power of a prophet's call and its tragic consequences this is not just a story of the past but a mirror to our present asking how far we're willing to go for a vision of paradise sterling's masterful narrative weaves together the personal political and spiritual making god's chinese prophet a must read for those who crave history that pulses with drama and insight perfect for fans of jonathan spence's god's chinese son or stephen platt's autumn in the heavenly kingdom this book will leave you questioning the fine line between inspiration and destruction join the journey through a rebellion that changed china forever available now at all major retailers can a single dream reshape a nation and at what cost

eminent chinese of the qing period was first developed under the auspices of the us library

of congress during world war ii this much loved work edited by arthur w hummel sr was meticulously compiled and unique in its scope and quickly became the standard biographical reference for the qing dynasty which lasted from 1644 to 1911 2 amongst the contributors are john king fairbank têng ssû yü l carrington goodrich c martin wilbur fêng chia shêng knight biggerstaff and nancy lee swann the 2018 berkshire edition contains the original eight hundred biographical sketches as well as the original front and back matter including the preface by hu shih a scholar who had been china s ambassador to the united states an introduction by pamela crossley places this classic work in historical context and discusses its origins authors and editors themes style and contemporary relevance chinese names in english have been converted to the pinyin transcription system changing the book s title from ch ing to qing but the traditional chinese characters have been retained additional materials added by berkshire include a general bibliography a wade giles to pinyin conversion table and a list of qing dynasty emperors arthur w hummel sr 1884 1975 was a missionary sinologist and the first director of the orientalia division at the library of congress pamela crossley is a professor at dartmouth college and a specialist on the qing empire and modern chinese history as well as the software author and scholarly editor of the eccp reader a digital companion to the original eminent chinese of the ch ing period

the study of modern china and japan have separately become major arenas of scholarship over the past three decades in the west but little work has been done that brings these two histories together for the period prior to the twentieth century this work does just that many of these texts were built on fanciful embellishments of stories that migrated from one land to the other but the unique qualities of the sino japanese cultural bond seem to have conditioned the interaction

this volume ties together the histories of japan and china for the modern period prior to the 20th century the chapters look at chinese and japanese works which were written in response to events in the other country none of these works has received any sustained attention in

the west as a result we get a view of how chinese and japanese saw each other at a time when there were few personal contacts allowed many of these texts were built on fanciful embellishments of stories that migrated from one land to the other but the unique qualities of the sino japanese cultural bond seem to have conditioned the interaction so that these texts all reveal a fascinatingly well defined area

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

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

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