VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 1 | JANUARY 2026 | ISSN 2059-1632

journal of CHINESE HISTORY

中國歷史學刊

https://doi.org/10.1017/jch.2025.10054 Published online by Cambridge University Press

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

JOURNAL OF CHINESE HISTORY 中國歷史學刊

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Hilde De Weerdt, *KU Leuven, Belgium*

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Pre-Tang,
Charles Sanft,
UT Knoxville

Ming Qing,
Eric Schluessel,
The George Washington University

Tang-Song-Yuan,
Beverly Bossler,
University of California, USA

Twentieth Century,
Zhao Ma,
Washington University, St. Louis, USA

BOOK REVIEW EDITORS

Micah Muscolino, *University of California, San Diego*
Sarah Schneewind, *University of California San Diego, USA*

EDITORIAL BOARD

Pre-Tang
Erica Fox Brindley, *Pennsylvania State University*
Constance Cook, *Lehigh University, USA*
Maria Khayutina, *LMU Munich*
Keith Knapp, *The Citadel, USA*
Garret Olberding, *University of Oklahoma, USA*
Charles Sanft, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*
Hou Xudong, *Tsinghua University, China*

Tang-Song-Yuan
Zhang Cong, *University of Virginia, USA*
Tomoyasu Iiyama, *Waseda University, Japan*
Wang Jinping, *National University of Singapore, Singapore*
Ari Levine, *University of Georgia, USA*
Ruth Mostern, *University of Pittsburgh, USA*
Tansen Sen, *New York University, Shanghai, China*
Nicolas Tackett, *University of California, Berkeley, USA*

Ming-Qing
Anne Gerritsen, *University of Warwick, UK*
Dorothy Ko, *Barnard College, USA*
Tobie Meyer-Fong, *Johns Hopkins University, USA*
Emily Mokros, *University of Kentucky, USA*
Bruce Rusk, *University of British Columbia, Canada*
Matthew Sommer, *Stanford University, USA*
Nathan Vedal, *University of Toronto, Canada*

Since 1900
Janet Chen, *Princeton University, USA*
Xu Guoqi, *University of Hong Kong, China*
Max Oidtmann, *LMU Munich, Germany*
Shellen Wu, *Lehigh University, USA*
Peter Zarrow, *University of Connecticut, USA*

https://doi.org/10.1017/jch.2025.10054 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Journal of Chinese History 中國歷史學刊

Volume 10 Number 1 January 2026

Research Articles

A Speechless Monarch: Early China's Battle for Intellectual Authority ■ *Yuri Pines* 1

The Noble Rank (*Lie hou*) and the Changing Definitions of Merit (*Gong*) during the Han Dynasty (202 BCE–220 CE) ■ *Yunxin Li* 23

Empress Dowager Lou the Kingmaker: Succession, Marriage, Identity, and Politics in Northern Qi (550–577) ■ *Soojung Han* 49

Local Narratives and Political Aspirations of Puyang Literati from the Late Tang to the Early Song ■ *Weiling Chang* 82

Which Sage Should I Follow (去宗哪個聖人)? Neo-Confucian Problems with Tradition in Sixteenth-Century Ming China ■ *Immanuel Spaar* 107

Between Officialdom and Nativeness: Mutually Appropriating the State and the Nuosu-Yi Native Chieftain Clans in Southwest China ■ *Jan Karlach* 131

Fiscal Irrationality and Dynastic Succession in Eighteenth-Century China ■ *Helen Dunstan* 166

Passion and Oppression under the Patriarchal Society of Qing China: The Extraordinary Bond between Li Ti (1805–1829) and Huang Xunying (1788–1829) and Their Double Suicide ■ *Xiaorong Li* 193

Into Buddhism, Yet Hardly an Escape: Monk Dangui and the High Qing Censorship against Him ■ *Hsueh-Yi Lin* 215

The Capital Region in the Unfinished Taiping War ■ *Emily Mokros* 237

A Militarized Concept of Citizenship: The Shanghai Scouts in the Early Stages of China's War of Resistance ■ *Peter Kwok-Fai Law* 264

De-risking Death-traps in Uncontrolled Industrialization: Factory Act and Industrial Health and Safety in Republican China ■ *Ban Lee* 289

Book Reviews

Jennifer Altehenger and Aaron William Moore. *How Maoism Was Made: Reconstructing China, 1949–1965*
Reviewed by Jeremy Brown 315

James A. Anderson. *The Dong World and Imperial China's Southwest Silk Road: Trade, Security, and State Formation*
Reviewed by Leo K. Shin 318

https://doi.org/10.1017/jch.2025.10054 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Mark Baker. *Pivot of China: Spatial Politics and Inequality in Modern Zhengzhou*
Reviewed by Michael Tsin 321

Stephanie Balkwill. *The Women Who Ruled China: Buddhism, Multiculturalism, and Governance in the Sixth Century*
Reviewed by J. Michael Farmer 324

Tristan G. Brown. *Laws of the Land: Fengshui and the State in Qing Dynasty China*
Reviewed by Vivienne Shue 329

Constance A. Cook, Christopher J. Foster, and Susan Blader. *Bone, Bronze, and Bamboo: Unearthing Early China with Sarah Allan,* and *Myth and the Making of History: Narrating Early China with Sarah Allan*
Reviewed by Lothar von Falkenhausen 332

Daisy Yan Du (Lead Editor), John A. Crespi and Yiman Wang. *Chinese Animation: Multiplicities in Motion*
Reviewed by Paul G. Pickowicz 336

Hajni Elias. *Remembrance in Clay and Stone: Early Memorial and Funerary Art of Southwest China*
Reviewed by J. Michael Farmer 339

Robert S. G. Fletcher and Alec Zuercher Reichardt. *Inlands: Empires, Contested Interiors, and the Connection of the World*
Reviewed by Roy Bin Wong 344

Zev Handel. *Chinese Characters Across Asia: How the Chinese Script Came to Write Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese*
Reviewed by Christopher M. B. Nugent 348

Jessica Harrison-Hall. *China's 1800s: Material and Visual Culture*
Reviewed by Kaijun Chen 352

Xuelei Huang. *Scents of China: A Modern History of Smell*
Reviewed by Nicole Elizabeth Barnes 359

Tamara Jacka. *Ginkgo Village: Trauma and Transformation in Rural China*
Reviewed by Tani Barlow 362

Xiaofei Kang. *Enchanted Revolution: Ghosts, Shamans, and Gender Politics in Chinese Communist Propaganda, 1942–1953*
Reviewed by Jie Li 365

S. E. Kile. *Towers in the Void: Li Yu and Early Modern Chinese Media*
Reviewed by Yuming He 368

Rens Krijgsman. Vol. 6, *"Lady Wu of Zheng Admonished her Child" and Other Related Texts*
Zhou Boqun. Vol. 3, *The Yi Yin Manuscripts and Related Texts*
Edward L. Shaughnessy. Vol. 1, *The "Yi Zhou Shu" and Pseudo-"Yi Zhou Shu" Chapters*
Edward L. Shaughnessy. Vol. 2, *The "Shang Shu" and Pseudo-"Shang Shu" Chapters*
Reviewed by Heng Du 371

https://doi.org/10.1017/jch.2025.10054 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Kin Sum (Sammy) Li. *Tea, Fragrance, and Music: Ephemeral Arts and the Formation of Scholar-Artist Communities in Northern Song China*
Reviewed by Ari Daniel Levine 376

Keith McMahon. *Saying All That Can Be Said: The Art of Describing Sex in Jin Ping*
Reviewed by Shiau-Yun Chen 380

Kate Merkel-Hess. *Women and Their Warlords: Domesticating Militarism in Modern China*
Reviewed by Edward A. McCord 384

Christopher Rea, Bruce Rusk, and Zhang Yingyu. *The Book of Swindles: Selections from a Late Ming Collection*
Bruce Rusk, Christopher Rea, and Zhang Yingyu. *More Swindles from the Late Ming: Sex, Scams, and Sorcery*
Reviewed by Robert E. Hegel 387

Su Shi, Lu Cai, and Tu Benjun. *The Misadventures of Master Mugwort: A Joke Book Trilogy from Imperial China*
Reviewed by Christian de Pee 391

Barend J. ter Haar. *The Fear of Witchcraft and Witches in Imperial China: Figurines, Familiars and Demons*
Reviewed by Robert Ford Campany 394

Chun Fung TONG. *State Power and Governance in Early Imperial China: The Collapse of the Qin Empire, 221–207 BCE*
Reviewed by Lothar von Falkenhausen 397

Paul U. Unschuld. *A Catalog of Benevolent Items: Li Shizhen's Compendium of Classical Chinese Knowledge. Selected Entries from the Ben Cao Gang Mu*
Reviewed by Brian R. Dott 401

Yuanfei Wang. *Writing Pirates: Vernacular Fiction and Oceans in Late Ming China*
Reviewed by Yiwen Li 407

Corrigendum
Wenkai He. *Public Interest and State Legitimation: Early Modern England, Japan, and China*
Reviewed by Taisu Zhang 410

https://doi.org/10.1017/jch.2025.10054 Published online by Cambridge University Press