as a legally circumscribed form of enquiry. Magistrates were required to uncover ultimate truth, not merely a procedurally derived one. But the system was also rational in many respects. The values of consistency, predictability and universality were clearly of fundamental importance to Imperial legal officials. Huang's use of "substantive rationality" to describe the Qing legal order is certainly a challenging and well-argued thesis and, whilst it clearly requires further development, it clearly merits consideration by anyone interested in the nature of law in China.

PERRY KELLER

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