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Crisis And Transformation In Seventeenth-Century China: Society, Culture, And Modernity In Li Yu's World



Synopsis

The seventeenth century was a time of great social and political upheaval in China. In *Crisis and Transformation in Seventeenth-Century China*, Chun-shu Chang and Shelley Hsueh-lun Chang offer a detailed and engaging analysis of society, culture, and the state in China during this critical period. The main thread of the book follows the life and works of a remarkable figure of the period, Li Yǎn (1611-80), whose vast array of accomplishments and experiences mirror seventeenth-century China in all its complexity and excitement. Li Yǎn's China was a world of unprecedented changes in almost all spheres of life. A thriving commercial and industrial economy, stupendous population growth, and the emergence of a new age of science and technology were accompanied by intense urbanization, radical views on money, wealth, and luxury, liberal attitudes toward sexuality, and developments that would change the nature of the literary and intellectual world. The Changs' exhaustive exploration of Chinese historical and literary sources of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries is combined with a selective application of interpretive insights and analytic techniques from the major theoretical schools. An important resource for scholars in history, literature, and Asian studies, *Crisis and Transformation* extends its appeal to those interested in the history of science, issues of gender and social transformation, and popular culture movements. Chun-shu Chang is Professor of History, University of Michigan, and Honorary Professor of Chinese History, China. Shelley Hsueh-lun Chang is Visiting Associate Professor of History and Research Associate, Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan.

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Customer Reviews

It is very difficult to find accurate information in English on 17th century China. But this book combines an interesting story with in depth (understandable!) information-- highly recommended.

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