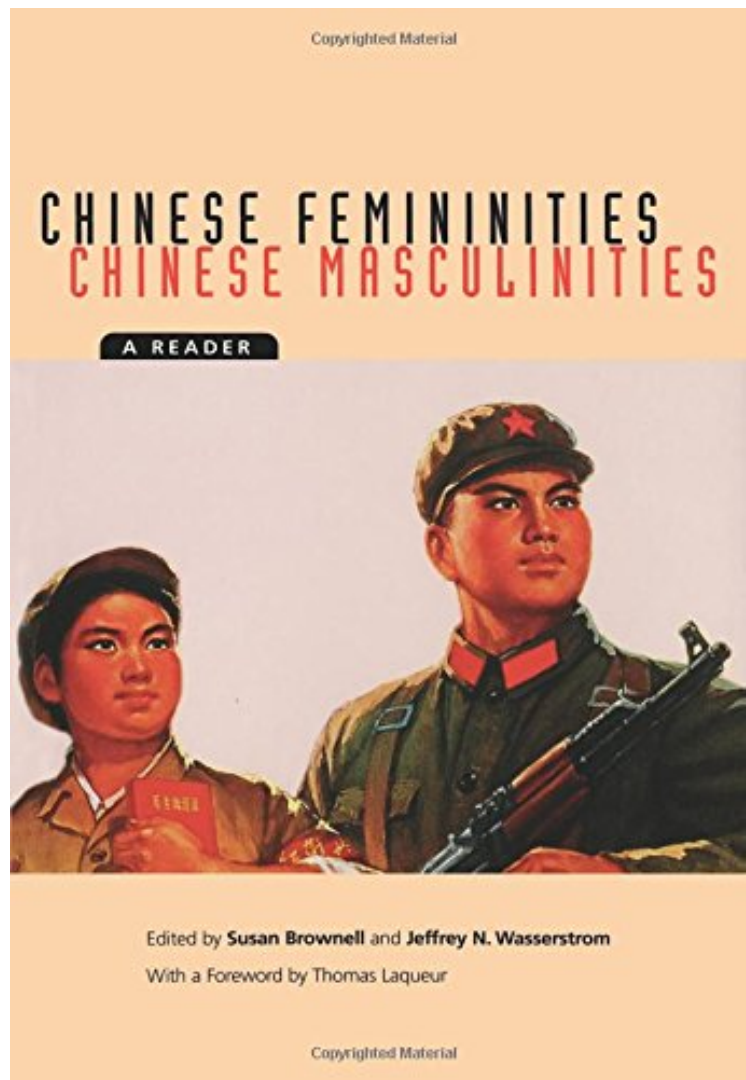


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Chinese Femininities/Chinese Masculinities: A Reader (Asia: Local Studies / Global Themes)

From Susan Brownell
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#506257 in Books Susan Brownell 2002-01-07 2002-01-07 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.20 x 6.00l, 1.41 #File Name: 0520221168489 pages Chinese Femininities Chinese Masculinities A Reader | File size: 71.Mb

From Susan Brownell : Chinese Femininities/Chinese Masculinities: A Reader (Asia: Local Studies / Global Themes) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chinese Femininities/Chinese Masculinities: A Reader (Asia: Local Studies / Global Themes):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Engaging academic reader about Gender Roles in ChinaBy

Hedglin I'm not a sociologist or a gender-studies person. I have studied Chinese and China for several years, from various angles. I picked up this book to learn more about historical concepts of what is "masculine" and "feminine" in China. If that bores you, so will this book. However, if you're looking for an introduction to historical ideas of gender in China, this is a good choice. Admittedly, some parts of this book are dry, but overall I found it an engrossing read. The book is broken up into parts. Each part has two subsections, looking at the topic from the "feminine" angle and the "masculine" angle. The chapters are: Gender and the Law (Qing dynasty), Ideals of Marriage and Family (Mid-Qing and Early Republican era), Gender and Literary Traditions (May Fourth to Reform era), Dangerous Women and Dangerous Men (A look at prostitutes and bandits from the late Ming to the Communist period), The Gender of Rebels (The Cultural Revolution), The Gendered Body (health practices and medicine in the Qing and Reform era), Shifting Gender Contexts in the Reform Era, and finally Gender, Sexuality, and Ethnicity (Reform Era). I enjoyed reading about Gender and the Law, Marriage and Family, Dangerous Women and Men, and the Gendered Body. Each of these chapters featured a lot of content, helpful background information, and substantive arguments about the topic at hand. Some chapters (literary traditions, especially) dragged, and lacked background information and content. For all chapters, a basic understanding of Chinese history and intellectual movements is a must--this is not an introduction to these movements. This book is a historical reader--it doesn't look much at recent gender roles, although it isn't supposed to. But if you want to know how "maleness" and "femaleness" were represented historically in late-to-early modern Chinese history, it's a good read.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The evolution of gender in China

By Brian Griffith A great collection of insights from many angles on gender in China. The articles touch on the changing faces of law, crime, medicine, obscenity, rebellion, pollution, romance, and more. Through it all, we have a drama of conflicting visions for better relations between the sexes. We have a longing for equality, but with rapidly changing images of what equality looks like. It's a helpful comparison with similar developments in the West.--author of *A Galaxy of Immortal Women: The Yin Side of Chinese Civilization*

The past two centuries have witnessed tremendous upheavals in every aspect of Chinese culture and society. At the level of everyday life, some of the most remarkable transformations have occurred in the realm of gender. *Chinese Femininities/Chinese Masculinities* is a mix of illuminating historical and ethnographic studies of gender from the 1700s to the present. The essays in this highly creative collection are organized in pairs that alternate in focus between femininity and masculinity, between subjects traditionally associated with feminism (such as family life) and those rarely considered from a gendered point of view (like banditry). The chapters provide a wealth of interesting detail on such varied topics as court cases involving widows and homosexuals; ideal spouses of early-twentieth-century radicals; changing images of prostitutes; the masculinity of qigong masters; sexuality in the era of reform; and the eroticization of minorities. While most of the essays were specifically written for this volume, a few are reprinted as a testament to their enduring value. Exploring the central role of gender as an organizing principle of Chinese social life, *Chinese Femininities/ Chinese Masculinities* is an innovative reader that will spark new debate in a wide range of disciplines.

From the Inside Flap "The last thirty years have seen an astonishing growth in the field of gender studies for late-imperial and twentieth-century China. In this ingeniously orchestrated book, Brownell and Wasserstrom not only give us a careful bibliographic and analytical summary of that earlier work, but by assembling paired essays on matching male and female gender issues, written by an excellent roster of scholars, they have indicated the lines along which this field can expand fruitfully in the future." Jonathan D. Spence, author of *The Search for Modern China* "In *Chinese Femininities/Chinese Masculinities* we finally have a volume that scholars of the world outside China will ignore at their peril, so thoroughly will it shake prevailing assumptions about how sexuality and gender can be historically and culturally constituted. Scholars and teachers of history, anthropology, sociology, history of medicine and science, law, politics, literature, and psychiatry, among others, should prepare for the great impact this splendid book is sure to have." Emily Martin, author of *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*