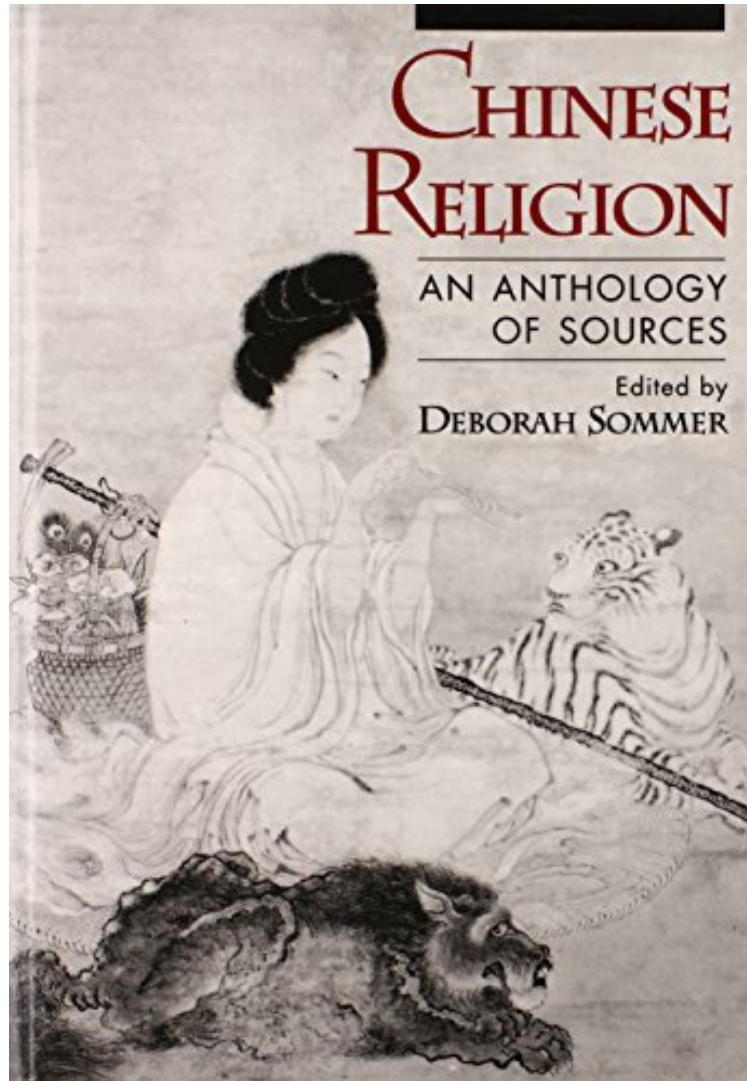


(Read free ebook) Chinese Religion: An Anthology of Sources

Chinese Religion: An Anthology of Sources

From Oxford University Press
audiobook | *ebooks | Download PDF | ePub | DOC



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1075831 in Books 1995-02-23Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.56 x .73 x 9.251, 1.33 #File Name: 0195088956400 pages | File size: 50.Mb

From Oxford University Press : Chinese Religion: An Anthology of Sources before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chinese Religion: An Anthology of Sources:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Scholars do not bewareBy Andrew A. MarshExcellent source of Chinese religious texts!4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Primary Sources on Chinese Religions/Spirituality from Ancient to Modern TimesBy Clandestine Library For Further ReadingThis book is very much recommended for those who are interested in the spiritual views of China. After reading the Analects and the Tao Te Ching, this book seemed like a good addition to my library. This anthology of religious texts are conveniently laid out chronologically from the ancient period to the modern Mao era with summarizing introductions. Here is a

breakdown of the periods for the writings in this anthology: Shang (1200-1059 BC) and Chou (1059-249 BC) Dynasties Han (202 BC-220 AD) and Wei (220-264 AD) Dynasties Six Dynasties Period (220-589 AD) Sui (581-618) and T'ang (618-917 AD) Dynasties Sung (960-1279 AD) and Yuan (1279-1368 AD) Dynasties Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 AD) Ch'ing Dynasty (1644-1911 AD) Modern Era (1911-Today AD) These texts definitely show how not all religions are the same in practice and beliefs. The diversity of cultures are apparent here. One of the notable factors from these texts is that there is almost no mention of gods. In the very few texts gods are even mentioned, they are not described to have the properties Westerners are used to hearing such as omnipotence or even eternal existence and they generally are not the focus nor do they carry much weight. Instead, prevailing concepts like ghosts, spirits, ancestors, ch'i (a vital essence or force in the human body and the rest of the universe), T'ien or "Tian" (meaning "Heaven"), Tao ("the Way") and a few others appear often. Some of these ideas are not supernatural (beyond nature), but simply more-of-nature. Heaven, Earth, and Humanity were often seen the three interrelated parts that make up the universe. Balance of all three was seen as essential to the well being of the universe. Now, Chinese folk religion was popular in history and contained numerous ancestor-spirits, ghosts, animisms, creature-spirits, etc and some Westerners have even called some of these 'gods', however, since Westerners tend to interpret supernatural beings as 'gods', because of our theistic-centric ways of experiencing religion, I would be cautious since many cultures simply did not categorically divide the natural and the supernatural per se. There may be "quasi" divinities like "Tao" and "Tian" were at some point. Many of the texts speak of "Heaven" as the ultimate authority with a will in earthly and human affairs and is often the what gives humans their traits, capacities, and moral obligations. Other concepts like the "Mandate of Heaven" are mentioned in some texts which involve a ruler's obligations to the people and the universe. Another interesting thing one will notice is that many of these religious texts do not have an "origins" account or much cosmology and if they do, like the Tao Te Ching, there is no "creator". Other things like "Heaven" and the "Tao" are endowed with creative power. A few texts focus on the roles, virtues, and expectations of men and women; husbands and wives; ghosts and their effects on the living world; sacrifices; spirit world events; rituals; dramas and poems; human nature; balance of opposites; ethics. Furthermore, selections of important texts are available such as some of the earliest texts in China (The Book of History, The Book of Odes, The Book of Rites) which shaped much of the Chinese landscape. Obviously there are selections from Confucius' The Analects (Oxford World's Classics), Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching: The Definitive Edition and Mencius' comments, and Buddhist texts like the Lotus Sutra found here too. The only thing I would have liked was for longer selections since many are a few pages only. But I guess this anthology makes up for it with the fact that it does cover many primary sources which would normally not be easy to find. The bibliography is very helpful for finding many original documents. For those who are interested in other background texts from China you can look at Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook, 2nd Ed and A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy.

For centuries, westerners have referred to China's numerous traditions of spiritual expression as "religious"--a word born of western thought that cannot completely characterize the passionate writing that fills the pages of this pathbreaking anthology. The first of its kind in well over thirty years, this text offers the student of Chinese ritual and cosmology the broadest range of primary sources from antiquity to the modern era. Readings are arranged chronologically and cover such concepts as Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, and even communism. A large number of the selections concern the role of the female in Chinese religion, and are either by or about women. Through invocations, poetry, drama, philosophical texts, religious treatises, and modern fiction, students hear the voices of numerous Chinese masters expounding on the movements and traditions that inspired them: the mysterious Tao-te ching of Lao Tzu, cloaked in the mists of deepest antiquity; the Analects of stately, reverent Confucius; "Nailing a Stick into Empty Space," from The Recorded Conversations of Ch'an Master I-hsuan, and many others, including the work of Mencius, Pan Chao, Han Shan, Chang Tsai, Wang Yang-ming, Lu Hsun, and Mao Tse-tung. Fully one third of the translations are new, and each reading is preceded by an introduction that explains its importance and salient features. Complete with a helpful chronology of dynasties and list of possible video sources, this remarkable volume collects under one cover the most significant and influential works of China's dynamic spiritual tradition, making a fundamental contribution to courses in Chinese religion, literature, and history.

"The selections...represent a broader range of Chinese religious expressions than most. Classics are well represented, with some delightful surprises. Exactly what many who use primary texts in the classroom need."--Religious Studies "An excellent anthology which should become a 'standard' collection. The introductions to the different sections are especially readable."--William Shealy, Virginia Wesleyan College "An excellent cross-section of original materials, greatly improving on earlier anthologies."--William Powell, University of California at Santa Barbara "Covers unusual, important, and interesting Chinese writings, and the student is provided with writings not included in most Chinese anthologies."--Candice Blocker, Ohio University "Well written and documented. It is a good textbook for beginning students. The contents from Shang to Ching (1200 B.C. - 1911 A.D.) are excellent, concise and inclusive."--Samuel Tang, Golden Gate Baptist Seminary Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: Chinese About the

Author Deborah Sommer is at Butler University.