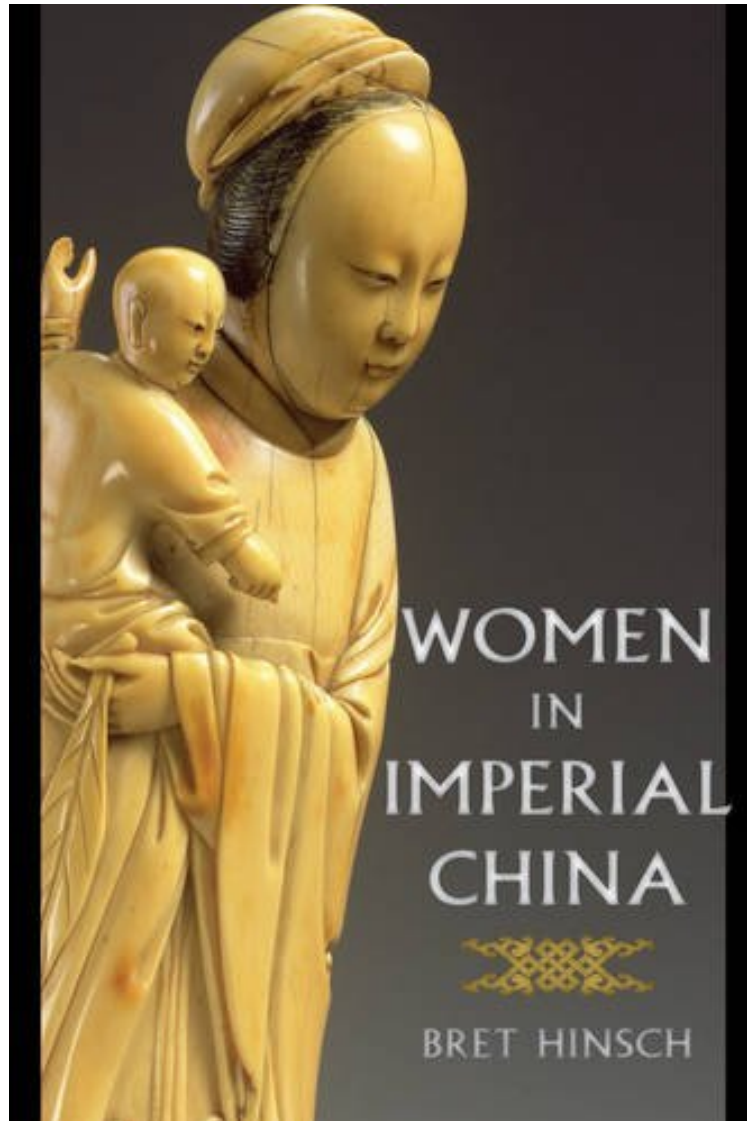


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Bret Hinsch : Women in Imperial China (Asian Voices) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women in Imperial China (Asian Voices):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Bret Hinsch's well researched and beautifully written book focuses on themes in the history of ...By M. A. CoesBret Hinsch's well researched and beautifully written book focuses on themes in the history of women by examining the roles they played, their achievements, the relationship of men and women, and the changes that took place over many dynastic eras in Chinese history.

This accessible text provides a comprehensive survey of womens history in China from the Neolithic period through the end of the Qing dynasty in the early twentieth century. Rather than providing an exhaustive chronicle of this vast subject, Bret Hinsch pinpoints the themes that characterized distinct periods in Chinese womens history and delves into the perception of female identity in each era. Moving beyond the traditional focus on the late imperial era, Hinsch explores how gender relations have developed and changed since ancient times. His chronological look at the most important female roles in every major dynasty showcases not only the constraints women faced but also their vast accomplishments throughout the millennia. Hinschs extensive use of Chinese-language scholarship lends his book a fresh perspective rare among Western scholars. Professors and students will find this an invaluable textbook for Chinese womens studies and an excellent supplement for courses in gender studies and Chinese history.

This book is an informative survey of Chinese womens history from ancient beginnings to the end of the Qing Dynasty. Hinsch employs conventional dynastic periodization to the subject of womens history, stressing the construction of female identity in each era by examining the most important female social roles. The author draws on a rich scholarship of primary and secondary sources in English as well as in Chinese and Japanese to bring a fresh perspective to Western readers. The strength of this survey is its emphasis on the vast scope of Chinas history as well as the formative impact of earlier eras. Most of the fundamental aspects of gender relations emerged many centuries prior to the well-researched late imperial period. The long time span also helps reveal considerable change and development throughout history. Valuable for Chinese womens studies and an excellent supplement for courses in gender studies and Chinese history. Summing Up: Highly recommended. General and undergraduate collections and up. (CHOICE) This book is a tour de force a learned and lively presentation of womens history during the longue dure of Chinas development, from ancient beginnings to the end of the Qing era. Readers will appreciate how Hinsch demonstrates the changing ways in which female identity was constructed as well as the changing mechanics of patriarchy over time. Hinsch draws on a wealth of scholarship, including primary and secondary sources in English, as well as those in Chinese and Japanese, and creates a readable and informative narrative of womens history in China. Both students and research scholars will benefit from reading this highly informative volume. (Harriet Zurndorfer, Leiden University) About the Author Bret Hinsch is professor of history at Fo Guang University, Taiwan.