

chinese history in geographical perspective jeff kyong mcclain

****Exploring Chinese History in a Geographical Perspective: Insights from Jeff Kyong McClain****

chinese history in geographical perspective jeff kyong mcclain offers a fascinating lens through which we can understand the vast and complex story of China. By examining Chinese history not just as a sequence of events or dynasties but through the geographical contexts that shaped its development, we gain a richer, more nuanced understanding of how China evolved over millennia. Jeff Kyong McClain's approach emphasizes the interplay between geography and historical processes, shedding light on how landscapes, climate, and spatial dynamics influenced political power, cultural diffusion, and economic structures.

The Intersection of Geography and Chinese History

To truly grasp the depths of Chinese history, it's essential to consider geography's role as more than just a backdrop. Geography actively shapes human societies, and in China's case, its diverse terrain from the fertile plains of the Yellow River to the rugged mountains of the west has continually influenced historical trajectories.

Why Geography Matters in Understanding Chinese History

China's vast size and varied topography mean that different regions developed distinct cultures, economies, and political systems. The concept of "chinese history in geographical perspective jeff kyong mcclain" emphasizes how rivers, mountain ranges, deserts, and climate zones acted as both barriers and conduits, affecting migration, trade, warfare, and cultural exchange.

For example, the Yellow River basin was the cradle of early Chinese civilization, offering fertile soil for agriculture, which supported dense populations and complex societies. Conversely, the harsh terrains of the Tibetan Plateau and Gobi Desert served as natural defenses and cultural boundaries, limiting the reach of centralized states.

Jeff Kyong McClain's Approach to Chinese Historical Geography

Jeff Kyong McClain's scholarship stands out for its integration of spatial analysis into historical narrative. Instead of viewing history in purely chronological terms, McClain highlights how geography and environment have been active agents influencing the rise and fall of dynasties, patterns of settlement, and the spread of technologies and ideas.

Spatial Dynamics in Chinese Political History

One of McClain's key insights is how the geography of China shaped its political fragmentation and unification cycles. Mountain ranges and rivers often defined political boundaries, leading to periods where multiple kingdoms coexisted, followed by phases of centralization under powerful dynasties like the Qin and Han.

The Silk Road is another critical geographical element McClain explores. As a network weaving through deserts and mountain passes, it not only facilitated trade but also cultural and technological exchanges that profoundly influenced Chinese history.

Environmental Factors and Social Development

McClain also delves into how environmental changes—such as floods, droughts, and soil fertility—affected social stability and migration patterns in Chinese history. For instance, the frequent flooding of the Yellow River sometimes caused massive displacement and social upheaval, which in turn weakened dynastic control and paved the way for new regimes.

By understanding these environmental challenges, McClain's geographical perspective helps explain why certain regions thrived while others stagnated or declined.

Geographical Themes in Chinese History Explored by McClain

Several recurring geographical themes emerge from the study of Chinese history through McClain's lens:

1. The Role of Rivers and Waterways

Rivers like the Yellow River (Huang He) and Yangtze (Chang Jiang) weren't just natural features; they were lifelines of agriculture, transportation, and communication. McClain stresses how control over these rivers often equated to political power. Flood control projects and irrigation systems were pivotal in sustaining large populations, influencing the state's capacity to govern and expand.

2. Mountain Barriers and Cultural Zones

China's mountainous regions created natural divisions that fostered regional identities and sometimes isolated communities. This geographic separation contributed to the rich diversity within Chinese culture and the persistence of minority groups in border areas.

3. Climate Influence on Agricultural Patterns

Climate zones across China dictated what crops could be grown and where. The north favored wheat and millet, while rice cultivation flourished in the warmer, wetter south. These agricultural differences shaped economic practices, diets, and even social structures.

4. Trade Routes and Economic Connectivity

McClain's geographical approach highlights the importance of trade corridors like the Silk Road and maritime routes. These arteries connected China with Central Asia, the Middle East, and beyond, facilitating not only commerce but also the spread of religion, art, and technology.

Applying the Geographical Perspective: Case Studies in Chinese History

To appreciate the practical value of Jeff Kyong McClain's insights, examining specific historical episodes through a geographical lens proves illuminating.

The Qin Dynasty's Centralization Efforts

The Qin dynasty's success in unifying China around 221 BCE was partly due to its strategic control of key geographical features. The Qin rulers enhanced road networks and canals, linking disparate regions and facilitating rapid military mobilization. Understanding the geography of their conquests helps explain how they overcame natural barriers that had previously fragmented China.

The Mongol Invasions and Geographic Constraints

The Mongol Empire's expansion into China and eventual rule as the Yuan dynasty also reflects geographical considerations. The open steppes of Mongolia provided the terrain for their cavalry-based warfare, while their control of the Silk Road enabled them to dominate trade. McClain's perspective helps contextualize how geography both empowered the Mongols and challenged their governance over a vast, diverse land.

Modern Implications: Geography and Regional Development

Even in contemporary China, geographical perspectives remain vital. Economic reforms have often targeted coastal regions with favorable access to global markets, while interior provinces face development challenges due to terrain and infrastructure. McClain's work encourages us to consider how historical geography continues to shape economic disparities and policy decisions today.

Why Geographical Perspectives Enhance Our Understanding of Chinese History

Adopting a geographical approach, as advocated by Jeff Kyong McClain, enriches our historical comprehension in several ways:

- **Contextualizing Events:** Recognizing how the environment influences historical outcomes prevents oversimplifications that focus solely on human agency.
- **Explaining Regional Diversity:** Geography clarifies why different parts of China have unique cultural and historical experiences.
- **Connecting Past and Present:** Understanding historical geography helps explain modern economic and social patterns in China.
- **Integrating Multiple Disciplines:** It bridges history with geography, ecology, and economics for a holistic view.

Engaging with Chinese History Through Geography: Tips for Learners

If you're inspired by the concept of "chinese history in geographical perspective jeff kyong mcclain" and want to explore further, consider these strategies:

1. **Use Maps Actively:** Trace historical events on physical and political maps to visualize spatial relationships.
2. **Explore Regional Case Studies:** Focus on particular provinces or river basins to see geographic influences firsthand.
3. **Compare Environmental Factors:** Study how climate and terrain affected different dynasties or cultural groups.
4. **Integrate Interdisciplinary Resources:** Look at archaeological findings, environmental studies, and economic data alongside historical texts.

Approaching Chinese history with geography in mind transforms it from a static timeline into a dynamic story shaped by land and water, climate and terrain.

By weaving together spatial analysis and historical narrative, Jeff Kyong McClain's perspective invites us to see Chinese history not just as a series of human dramas but as an intricate dance between people and place. This approach opens up new pathways for understanding one of the world's oldest continuous civilizations in all its complexity and diversity.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Jeff Kyong McClain in the context of Chinese history studies?

Jeff Kyong McClain is a scholar known for his work on Chinese history from a geographical perspective, exploring how geography has influenced historical developments in China.

What is the main focus of Jeff Kyong McClain's approach to Chinese history?

McClain emphasizes the role of geographical factors such as terrain, climate, and location in shaping the political, economic, and cultural history of China.

How does geography influence the historical development of China according to McClain?

Geography influences trade routes, settlement patterns, military strategies, and cultural exchanges, which in turn impact China's historical trajectory.

What are some key geographical features discussed by McClain in Chinese history?

Key features include the Yellow River, Yangtze River, the Himalayan Mountains, the Gobi Desert, and the coastal plains, all of which shaped China's civilization.

How does McClain's geographical perspective differ from traditional Chinese history narratives?

McClain incorporates environmental and spatial analysis, focusing more on physical landscapes and their effects rather than purely political or cultural events.

Can Jeff Kyong McClain's work help explain regional differences within China?

Yes, his work highlights how diverse geographical conditions have led to distinct regional developments and identities within China.

What role does geography play in understanding the rise and fall of Chinese dynasties according to McClain?

Geographical factors like resource availability, natural barriers, and strategic locations influenced the power dynamics and stability of various dynasties.

How does McClain address the impact of geography on China's interactions with neighboring regions?

He explores how natural borders and terrain affected trade, warfare, and cultural exchanges between China and its neighbors.

What methodologies does Jeff Kyong McClain use in his geographical analysis of Chinese history?

McClain employs spatial analysis, historical geography, cartographic studies, and environmental history to interpret China's past.

Why is studying Chinese history from a geographical perspective important according to McClain?

It provides a deeper understanding of how physical space and environment shape human societies, offering insights beyond traditional historical narratives.

Additional Resources

Chinese History in Geographical Perspective: Insights from Jeff Kyong McClain

chinese history in geographical perspective jeff kyong mcclain offers a unique lens through which to understand the vast and complex evolution of one of the world's oldest continuous civilizations. By integrating geography with historical analysis, McClain's approach illuminates how physical landscapes, environmental factors, and spatial dynamics have shaped political power, cultural development, and economic transformations in China. This method not only enriches traditional historical narratives but also provides critical insights into the interplay between place and human agency over millennia.

Geographical perspectives on Chinese history underscore the profound influence of natural features such as rivers, mountains, and climate zones on the country's social and political fabric. Jeff Kyong McClain's work is instrumental in demonstrating how geography is not merely a backdrop but a dynamic force that has directed migration patterns, agricultural productivity, military campaigns, and trade routes. His scholarship bridges disciplines, merging historical geography with traditional historiography, thereby offering scholars and students a more holistic understanding of China's past.

Historical Geography as a Framework for Understanding China

The integration of geography into historical study provides a multidimensional framework to analyze China's development. McClain's approach emphasizes how the physical environment and spatial relationships influenced historical events and societal changes. For example, the vastness of the Chinese territory and its diverse climates—from the arid northwest deserts to the fertile river valleys of the southeast—have dictated settlement patterns and economic specialization throughout history.

One of the key contributions of McClain's perspective is the reinterpretation of major Chinese dynasties through geographical determinism. The location of capitals, such as Chang'an during the Tang dynasty and Beijing in the Ming and Qing periods, is not arbitrary but closely linked to strategic geographic considerations—proximity to rivers, defensible terrain, and access to trade routes. This spatial analysis helps explain the rise and fall of dynasties beyond mere political intrigue or military conquest.

The Role of Rivers and Terrain in Shaping Chinese Civilization

Rivers such as the Yellow River (Huang He) and the Yangtze (Chang Jiang) are central to Chinese civilization's cradle and expansion. McClain's research highlights how these waterways provided fertile land for agriculture, facilitated transportation, and served as cultural and political boundaries. The Yellow River basin, often called the "Cradle of Chinese Civilization," supported early Neolithic cultures and later centralized states due to its rich loess soil conducive to millet and wheat farming.

Conversely, the Yangtze River's broader and more navigable characteristics allowed for extensive trade and communication between northern and southern China. McClain argues that the Yangtze's role was pivotal during the Song dynasty's economic revolution, where the development of rice cultivation and urbanization surged. The river system also influenced military strategies, with natural barriers like mountains and gorges acting as defensive bulwarks against invasions.

Geopolitical Implications of China's Diverse Landscapes

Geography's impact on China's historical geopolitics is another vital element in McClain's analysis. The country's diverse topography created natural frontiers that shaped diplomatic and military interactions with neighboring peoples and empires. The Gobi Desert and the Mongolian steppes to the north formed a buffer zone against nomadic incursions, which were a persistent challenge for imperial China.

McClain also examines how the mountainous regions in the southwest acted as both obstacles and conduits for cultural exchange with Southeast Asia. These natural barriers influenced the spread of Buddhism and facilitated the development of distinct ethnic and linguistic groups within China's borders. The geographical perspective thus reveals the complexities of identity formation and border management in Chinese history.

Economic Development Through a Geographical Lens

Jeff Kyong McClain's work further explores how geography influenced economic patterns across different historical periods. The spatial distribution of resources—such as fertile plains, mineral deposits, and navigable rivers—determined the economic focus of various regions and their integration into broader imperial economies.

Agricultural Geography and Population Distribution

Agriculture has been the backbone of China's economy for centuries, and McClain's geographical approach delves into the regional variations in crop cultivation and agricultural productivity. For instance, the north's reliance on wheat and millet contrasts with the south's dominance in rice farming, reflecting climatic and soil differences. These agricultural zones not only shaped dietary habits but also contributed to regional economic disparities and social structures.

Population distribution in China has historically correlated with agricultural viability. McClain points out that the eastern plains and river valleys have supported dense populations due to their arable land, while the western and northern regions remained sparsely populated. This uneven demographic spread had profound implications for political control, infrastructure development, and cultural diffusion.

Trade Routes and Economic Integration

The Silk Road and maritime trade networks are classic examples of how geography facilitated economic and cultural exchange in Chinese history. McClain's geographical perspective reveals the strategic importance of connecting routes that linked China internally and externally. The overland Silk Road traversed challenging terrains like deserts and mountains, yet it enabled the flow of goods, ideas, and technologies between East and West.

Likewise, the development of the Grand Canal during the Sui and Tang dynasties transformed China's internal connectivity by linking the Yellow and Yangtze rivers. This monumental feat of engineering not only enhanced grain transport but also promoted economic integration across diverse regions. McClain's analysis underscores how geography and human ingenuity combined to sustain the Chinese empire's stability and prosperity.

Comparative Perspectives: Geography and Chinese History

When compared to other ancient civilizations, China's geographical setting offers distinctive features that have shaped its historical trajectory. Unlike the Mediterranean civilizations, which developed around a sea and relied heavily on maritime trade, China's inland river systems and vast hinterlands necessitated different modes of political organization and economic management.

McClain's perspective also contrasts China with the Indian subcontinent, where monsoonal climate and the Himalayan barrier created a different set of environmental challenges and opportunities. By situating Chinese history within a broader geographical context, McClain invites scholars to rethink common assumptions about state formation, cultural continuity, and imperial expansion.

Pros and Cons of a Geographical Perspective in Historical Analysis

- **Pros:** Provides a multidimensional understanding of historical processes; highlights the role of environment in shaping human decisions; explains regional variations within a civilization; connects physical space with culture and economy.
- **Cons:** Risks deterministic interpretations if overemphasized; may underplay human agency and social factors; requires interdisciplinary expertise that can complicate historical narratives.

Jeff Kyong McClain's scholarship navigates these challenges by balancing geographical determinism with nuanced historical interpretation, ensuring that geography complements rather than overshadows human complexity.

As contemporary scholarship continues to embrace interdisciplinary approaches, the integration of geography into Chinese historical studies—exemplified by McClain's work—offers invaluable tools for understanding China's past and present. By unraveling the spatial and environmental variables that influenced historical outcomes, researchers can better appreciate the intricate tapestry of China's civilization and its ongoing global significance.

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chinese history in geographical perspective jeff kyong mcclain: *Chinese History in Geographical Perspective* Yongtao Du, Jeff Kyong-McClain, 2013-01-30 The authors in this volume believe that long-term, profound, and sometimes tumultuous changes in the last five hundred years of the history of China have been no less geographical than social, political, or economic. From the dialectics of local-empire relations to the imperial state's persistent array of projects for absorbing and transforming ethnic regions on the margins of empire; from the tripling of imperial territories in the Qing to the disputes over the identity of the former "outer zones" in the early Republican era; and from the universalistic imagination of "all-under-heaven" to the fraught processes of re-drawing

a new set of nation-state boundaries in the twentieth century, the study of the dynamics of geography, broadly conceived, promises to provide insight into the contested development of the geographical entity which we, today, call 'China.'

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chinese history in geographical perspective jeff kyong mcclain: *Manchuria* Mark Gamsa, 2020-02-06 Manchuria is a historical region, which roughly corresponds to Northeast China. The Manchu people, who established the last dynasty of Imperial China (the Qing, 1644–1911) originated there, and it has been the stage of turbulent events during the twentieth century: the Russo-Japanese war, Japanese occupation and establishment of the puppet state of Manchukuo, Soviet invasion, and Chinese civil war. This innovative and accessible historical survey both introduces Manchuria to students and general readers and contributes to the emerging regional perspective in the study of China.

chinese history in geographical perspective jeff kyong mcclain: *Knowing Manchuria* Ruth Rogaski, 2022-09-01 Making sense of nature in one of the world's most contested borderlands. According to Chinese government reports, hundreds of plague-infected rodents fell from the skies over Gannan county on an April night in 1952. Chinese scientists determined that these flying voles were not native to the region, but were vectors of germ warfare, dispatched over the border by agents of imperialism. Mastery of biology had become a way to claim political mastery over a remote frontier. Beginning with this bizarre incident from the Korean War, *Knowing Manchuria* places the creation of knowledge about nature at the center of our understanding of a little-known but historically important Asian landscape. At the intersection of China, Russia, Korea, and Mongolia, Manchuria is known as a site of war and environmental extremes, where projects of political control intersected with projects designed to make sense of Manchuria's multiple environments. Covering more than 500,000 square miles, Manchuria's landscapes include temperate rainforests, deserts, prairies, cultivated plains, wetlands, and Siberian taiga. With analysis spanning the seventeenth century to the present day, Ruth Rogaski reveals how an array of historical actors—Chinese poets, Manchu shamans, Russian botanists, Korean mathematicians, Japanese bacteriologists, American paleontologists, and indigenous hunters—made sense of the Manchurian frontier. She uncovers how natural knowledge, and thus the nature of Manchuria itself, changed over time, from a sacred "land where the dragon arose" to a global epicenter of contagious disease; from a tragic "wasteland" to an abundant granary that nurtured the hope of a nation.

chinese history in geographical perspective jeff kyong mcclain: *A Late Sixteenth-Century Chinese Buddhist Fellowship* Jennifer Eichman, 2016-01-19 Through a detailed analysis of epistolary writing, *A Late Sixteenth-Century Chinese Buddhist Fellowship: Spiritual Ambitions, Intellectual Debates, and Epistolary Connections* brings to life the Buddhist discourse of a network of lay disciples who debated the value of Chan versus Pure Land, sudden versus gradual enlightenment, adherence to Buddhist precepts, and animal welfare. By highlighting the differences between their mentor, the monk Zhuhong 智旭 (1535-1615), and his nemesis, the Yangming Confucian Zhou Rudeng 周汝登 (1547-1629), this work confronts long-held scholarly views of Confucian dominance to conclude that many classically educated, elite men found Buddhist practices a far more attractive option. Their intellectual debates, self-cultivation practices, and interpersonal relations helped shape the contours of late sixteenth-century Buddhist culture.

chinese history in geographical perspective jeff kyong mcclain: *Boundless Winds of Empire* Sixiang Wang, 2023-07-11 Winner, 2025 James B. Palais Prize, Association for Asian Studies Winner, 2024 UC Berkeley Hong Yung Lee Book Award, Center for Korean Studies at UC Berkeley For more than two hundred years after its establishment in 1392, the Chosŏn dynasty of Korea

enjoyed generally peaceful and stable relations with neighboring Ming China, which dwarfed it in size, population, and power. This remarkably long period of sustained peace was not an inevitable consequence of Chinese cultural and political ascendancy. In this book, Sixiang Wang demonstrates how Chosŏn political actors strategically deployed cultural practices, values, and narratives to carve out a place for Korea within the Ming imperial order. *Boundless Winds of Empire* is a cultural history of diplomacy that traces Chosŏn's rhetorical and ritual engagement with China. Chosŏn drew on classical Chinese paradigms of statecraft, political legitimacy, and cultural achievement. It also paid regular tribute to the Ming court, where its envoys composed paeans to Ming imperial glory. Wang argues these acts were not straightforward affirmations of Ming domination; instead, they concealed a subtle and sophisticated strategy of diplomatic and cultural negotiation. He shows how Korea's rulers and diplomats inserted Chosŏn into the Ming Empire's legitimating strategies and established Korea as a stakeholder in a shared imperial tradition. *Boundless Winds of Empire* recasts a critical period of Sino-Korean relations through the Korean perspective, emphasizing Korean agency in the making of East Asian international relations.

chinese history in geographical perspective jeff kyong mcclain: Digital Humanities and Buddhism Daniel Veidlinger, 2019-06-04 IDH Religion provides a series of short introductions to specific areas of study at the intersections of digital humanities and religion, offering an overview of current methodologies, techniques, tools, and projects as well as defining challenges and opportunities for further research. This volume explores DH and Buddhism in four sections: Theory and Method; Digital Conservation, Preservation and Archiving; Digital Analysis; Digital Resources. It covers themes such as language processing, digital libraries, online lexicography, and ethnographic methods. Erratum: Unfortunately there is a mistake in the print version in the last paragraph of page 14. READ is an open-source software system developed by a team consisting of Stefan Baums at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Andrew Glass in Seattle, Ian McCrabb at the University of Sydney and Stephen White in Venice (<https://github.com/readsoftware/read>).

chinese history in geographical perspective jeff kyong mcclain: A Chinese Traveler in Medieval Korea Sem Vermeersch, 2016-05-31 The king and ministers, superior and inferior, move with ritual and refinement. When the king goes on an inspection tour, everyone has the correct ceremonial attributes and the divine flag [troops] gallop in front while armored soldiers block the road. The soldiers of the Six Divisions all hold their attributes. Although it is not completely in uniformity with classic rites, compared with other barbarians it is splendid to behold. This is why Confucius thought it would not be a shame to reside here. And is not moreover Kija's country a close relative of the hallowed dynasty? So observed the Song envoy Xu Jing in the official report of his 1123 visit to Korea—a rare eyewitness account of Koryŏ (918–1392) society in its prime. Officially, the purpose of Xu Jing's visit was to condole the new king, Injong, on the death of his father and present him with a letter of investiture; unofficially, he was tasked with persuading Injong to align with Song China against the newly emergent Jin dynasty. Although famous for its celadon and Buddhist paintings, the Koryŏ period is still very much terra incognita in world history because of the lack of translated source materials. The present work, the first fully annotated, complete translation of a key source text on Koryŏ, fills this gap. Xu Jing spent a little more than a month in the Koryŏ capital, Kaesŏng, but he was a meticulous chronicler, compiling a veritable handbook on Koryŏ that is full of fascinating details found nowhere else on daily life, history, customs and manners, buildings, the military, food, among others. However, Xu Jing was not unbiased in his observations and supplemented his work with unreliable information from earlier chronicles—a fact often ignored in previous studies of the *Illustrated Account*. In a substantial introduction to his translation, Sem Vermeersch not only places this important work in its historical context, but also reveals both the sources used by the author and the merits and limits of his observations, allowing historians of medieval Korea to make fuller use of this singular primary source.

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cultural sophistication. This engaging and insightful history of Qing political, social, and cultural life traces the complex interaction between the Inner Asian traditions of the Manchus, who conquered China in 1644, and indigenous Chinese cultural traditions. Noted historian Richard J. Smith argues that the pragmatic Qing emperors presented a “Chinese” face to their subjects who lived south of the Great Wall and other ethnic faces (particularly Manchu, Mongolian, Central Asian, and Tibetan) to subjects in other parts of their vast multicultural empire. They were attracted by many aspects of Chinese culture, but far from being completely “sinicized” as many scholars argue, they were also proud of their own cultural traditions and interested in other cultures as well. Setting Qing dynasty culture in historical and global perspective, Smith shows how the Chinese of the era viewed the world; how their outlook was expressed in their institutions, material culture, and customs; and how China’s preoccupation with order, unity, and harmony contributed to the civilization’s remarkable cohesiveness and continuity. Nuanced and wide-ranging, his authoritative book provides an essential introduction to late imperial Chinese culture and society.

chinese history in geographical perspective jeff kyong mcclain: China's Encounters on the South and Southwest James A. Anderson, John K. Whitmore, 2014-11-06 China's Encounters on the South and Southwest. Reforging the Fiery Frontier Over Two Millennia discusses the mountainous territory between lowland China and Southeast Asia, what we term the Dong world, and varied encounters by China with this world's many elements. The essays describe such encounters over the past two millennia and note various asymmetric relations that have resulted therefrom. Local populations, indigenous chiefs, state officials, and rulers have all acted to shape this frontier, especially after the Mongol incursions of the thirteenth century drastically shifted it. This process has moved from the alliances of the Dong world to the indirect rule of the Tusi (native official) age to the Qing and recent Gaitu Guilui efforts at direct rule by the state, placing regular officials in charge there. The essays detail the complexities of this frontier through time, space, and personality, particularly in those instances, as today on land and sea, when China elects to pursue an aggressive policy in this direction. Contributors include: Brantly Womack, Kenneth MacLean, Amy Holmes-Tagchungdarpa, Bradley Davis, Jaymin Kim, Alexander Ong, Joseph Dennis, Sun Laichen, John K. Whitmore, Kathlene Baldanza, Kenneth M. Swope, Michael Brose, James A. Anderson, Liam Kelley, and Catherine Churchman.

chinese history in geographical perspective jeff kyong mcclain: Qing Imperial Illustrations of Tributary Peoples (Huang Qing zhigong tu) , 2022-08-15 Commissioned by the Qianlong emperor in 1751, the Qing Imperial Illustrations of Tributary Peoples (Huang Qing zhigong tu 皇清志經圖), is a captivating work of art and an ideological statement of universal rule best understood as a cultural cartography of empire. This translation of the ethnographic texts accompanied by a full-color reproduction of Xie Sui’s (謝綏) hand-painted scroll helps us to understand the conceptualization of imperial tributary relationships the work embodies as rooted in both dynastic history and the specifics of Qing rule.

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emperors, rebels, priests and colonizers. Christopher Goscha's new work amply fills this role. Drawing on a lifetime of thinking about Indo-China, he has created a narrative which is consistently seen from 'inside' Vietnam but never loses sight of the connections to the 'outside'. As wave after wave of invaders - whether Chinese, French, Japanese or American - have been ultimately expelled, we see the terrible cost to the Vietnamese themselves. Vietnam's role in one of the Cold War's longest conflicts has meant that its past has been endlessly abused for propaganda purposes and it is perhaps only now that the events which created the modern state can be seen from a truly historical perspective. Christopher Goscha draws on the latest research and discoveries in Vietnamese, French and English. His book is a major achievement, describing both the grand narrative of Vietnam's story but also the byways, curiosities, differences, cultures and peoples that have done so much over the centuries to define the many versions of Vietnam.

chinese history in geographical perspective jeff kyong mcclain: Managing Frontiers in Qing China , 2016-11-14 In *Managing Frontiers in Qing China*, historians and anthropologists explore China's imperial expansion in Inner Asia, focusing on early Qing empire-building in Mongolia, Xinjiang, Tibet, and beyond - Central Asian perspectives and comparisons to Russia's Asian empire are included. Taking an institutional-historical and historical-anthropological approach, the essays engage with two Qing agencies well-known for their governance of non-Han groups: the Lifanyuan and Libu. This volume offers a comprehensive overview of the Lifanyuan and Libu, revising and assessing the state of affairs in the under-researched field of these two institutions. The contributors explore the imperial policies towards and the shifting classifications of minority groups in the Qing Empire, explicitly pairing and comparing the Lifanyuan and Libu as in some sense cognate agencies. This text offers insight into how China's past has continued to inform its modern policies, as well as the geopolitical make-up of East Asia and beyond. Contributors include: Uradyn E. Bulag, Chia Ning, Pamela Kyle Crossley, Nicola DiCosmo, Dorothea Heuschert-Laage, Laura Hostetler, Fabienne Jagou, Mei-hua Lan, Dittmar Schorkowitz, Song Tong, Michael Weiers, Ye Baichuan, Yuan Jian, Zhang Yongjiang.

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socioeconomic class; and the state and the elite's growing interest in encyclopedic knowledge and its dissemination while their monopoly on knowledge production weakened. This handbook provides historical context for readers wishing to know more than just the "Korea" that evokes K-pop or North Korea's nuclear weapons, while Hyundai, Samsung, and other South Korean brands have gained visibility in everyday life. Interested English-speaking scholars, educators, students, and the general public without access to the large body of Korean-language works on Chosŏn will find this book a valuable critical introduction to early modern Korea.

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