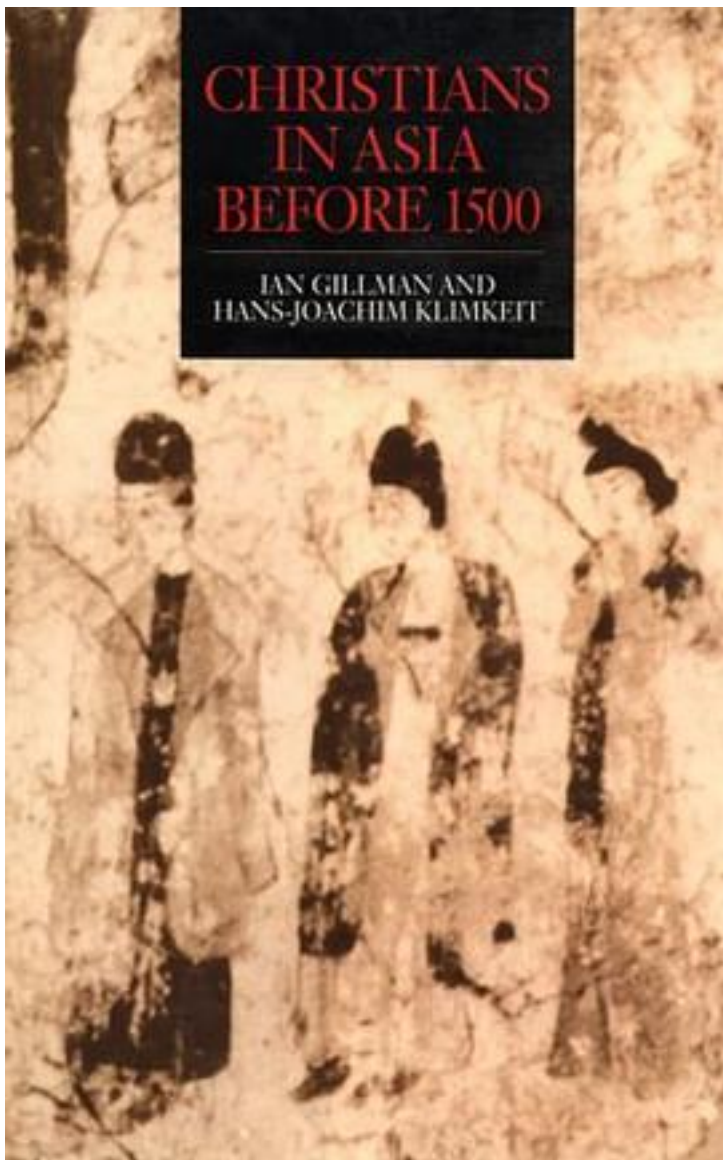


Christians in Asia Before 1500



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The history of Christianity in Asia has, until recently, been little dealt with either by church historians or historians of religion. It is still generally unknown, for instance, that there was a long history of Christianity in Persia, India, Central Asia, and China long before the arrival of the first missionaries from the west. Troubled by this gap in knowledge, Ian Gillman and Hans-Joachim Klimkeit have put together a volume that documents the history of Christianity in Asia from New Testament times to around C.E. 1500. Primarily aimed at general readers, theological students, and those with an interest in missiology and the ways in which Christianity has related itself to various cultures, scholars will also find it useful, as it brings together the results of research otherwise found in a multitude of monographs and periodicals.

The book's twelve chapters delve into the history of early Christians in Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Armenia, Georgia, Persia, India, Central Asia, China and Southeast Asia, systematically taking into account the outward development of the church as well as its inner, theological evolution. Gillman and Klimkeit's work on Central and Southeast Asia, specifically, is especially noteworthy for breaking new scholarly ground in the field.

Christians in Asia before 1500 will enable a wide range of readers to enter into a new, and perhaps first, appreciation of a period in the history of Christianity which included remarkable achievements across vast distances, as well as some sad declines and tragic disasters. For scholars of Asia and the history of religion, even those studying the role of the church in Asia today, this work will be an invaluable and lasting reference.

Ian Gillman is retired from the Department of Studies in Religion, University of Queensland, where he taught from 1964 until 1992. Hans-Joachim Klimkeit is Professor of History of Religions, Bonn University in Germany.

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