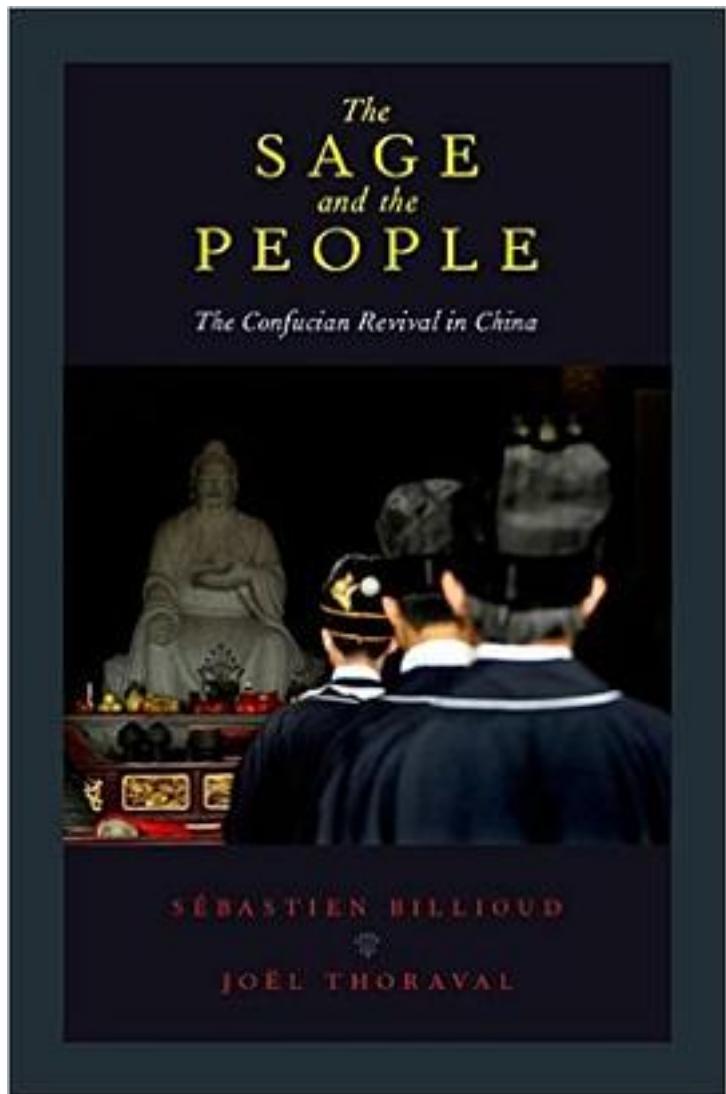


The Sage and the People



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Winner of the 2015 Pierre-Antoine Bernheim Prize for the History of Religion by the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres

After a century during which Confucianism was viewed by academics as a relic of the imperial past or, at best, a philosophical resource, its striking comeback in Chinese society today raises a number of questions about the role that this ancient tradition might play in a contemporary context.

The Sage and the People is the first comprehensive enquiry into the "Confucian revival" that began in China during the 2000s. Based on extensive anthropological fieldwork carried out over eight years in various parts of the country, it explores the re-appropriation and reinvention of popular practices in fields as diverse as education, self-cultivation, religion, ritual, and politics.

The book analyzes the complexity of the "Confucian revival" within the broader context of emerging challenges to such categories as religion, philosophy, and science that prevailed in modernization narratives throughout the last century. Exploring state cults both in Mainland China and Taiwan, authors Sébastien Billioud and Joël Thoraval compare the interplay between politics and religion on the two shores of the Taiwan strait and attempt to shed light on possible future developments of Confucianism in Chinese society.

作者介绍:

Sébastien Billioud is Professor of Chinese Studies at University Paris-Diderot, Sorbonne Paris Cité and Head of the East Asian studies department. Based on a cross-disciplinary approach in anthropology and intellectual history, his research explores the multi-faceted development of contemporary Confucianism.

Joël Thoraval is Senior Researcher at the Research Center on Modern and Contemporary China, School for Higher Studies in Social Sciences (EHESS), Paris. Specializing in social anthropology and intellectual history, he has also written extensively on contemporary Chinese philosophy. He has spent nearly 20 years in Eastern Asia and is the former Head of EHESS's China Center.

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