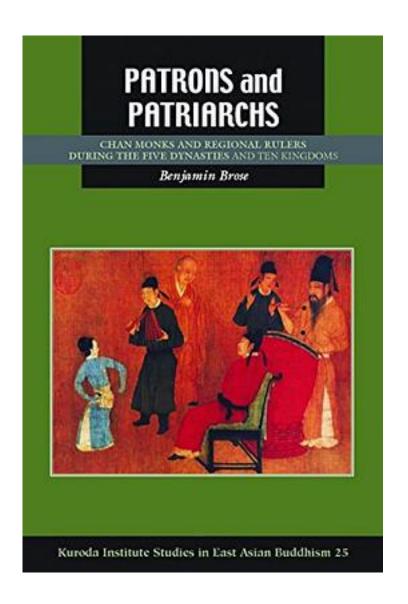
Patrons and Patriarchs



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Patrons and Patriarchs breaks new ground in the study of clergy-court relations during the tumultuous period that spanned the collapse of the Tang dynasty (618–907) and the consolidation of the Northern Song (960–1127). This era, known as the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms, has typically been characterized as a time of debilitating violence and instability, but it also brought increased economic prosperity, regional development, and political autonomy to southern territories.

The book describes how the formation of new states in southeastern China elevated local Buddhist traditions and moved Chan (Zen) monks from the margins to the center of Chinese society. Drawing on biographies, inscriptions, private histories, and government records, it argues that the shift in imperial patronage from a diverse array of Buddhist clerics to members of specific Chan lineages was driven by political, social, and geographical reorientations set in motion by the collapse of the Tang dynasty and the consolidation of regional powers during the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms. As monastic communities representing diverse arrays of thought, practice, and pedagogy allied with rival political factions, the outcome of power struggles determined which clerical networks assumed positions of power and which doctrines were enshrined as orthodoxy. Rather than view the ascent of Chan monks and their traditions as instances of intellectual hegemony, this book focuses on the larger sociopolitical processes that lifted members of Chan lineages onto the imperial stage. Against the historical backdrop of the tenth century, Patrons and Patriarchs explores the nature and function of Chan lineage systems, the relationships between monastic and lay families, and the place of patronage in establishing identity and authority in monastic movements.

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目录:

Patrons and Patriarchs 下载链接1

标签

禅宗

五代十国

宗教

隋唐史

社会科学
社会学
社会
海外中国研究
评论
非常快的浏览,完全不理会doctrine,不过vinaya和chan的部分还挺有意思的。
不如Welter的五代佛教史,虽说是想要进一步在大的社会背景下挖掘五代十国地方君主与僧人之间的互动,却读不出太多新的东西,绝大多数史实其实Welter已经或多或少提到过。比较重要的贡献是用分国分章的形式勾勒了禅宗僧团在各国的发展,这样脉络更加清晰。不过,作者论述的论点实在不太清楚,虽然了解了patrons and patriarchs,不禁还是想进一步问so what,感觉若要能进一步深挖这一时段patronage与大历史背景和社会经济变化的联系就更好了。

书评

Benjamin Brose's book, Patrons and Patriarchs, proved that during the disunification of the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms period, elite Chan monks started to serve a pivot position within the sangha-state political milieu of those kingdoms and dynasties

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