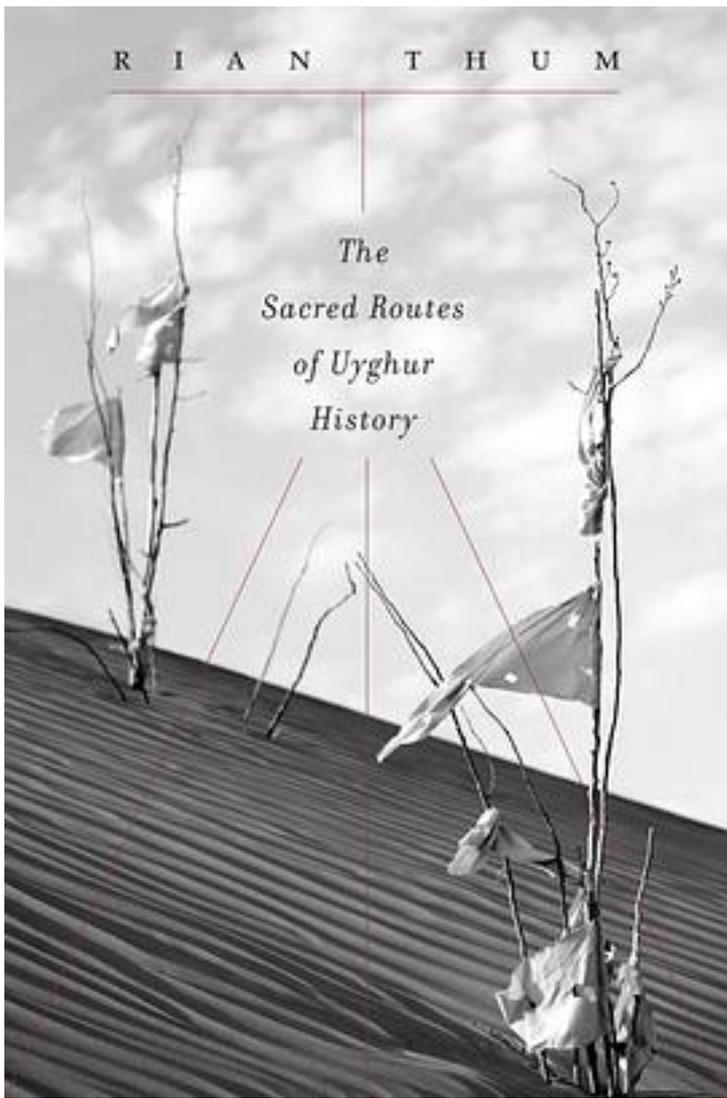


# The Sacred Routes of Uyghur History



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For 250 years, the Turkic Muslims of Altishahr—the vast desert region to the northwest of Tibet—have led an uneasy existence under Chinese rule. Today they call themselves Uyghurs, and they have cultivated a sense of history and identity that challenges Beijing’s official national narrative. Rian Thum argues that the roots of this history run deeper than recent conflicts, to a time when manuscripts and pilgrimage dominated understandings of the past. Beyond broadening our knowledge of tensions between the Uyghurs and the Chinese government, this meditation on the very concept of history probes the limits of human interaction with the past.

Uyghur historical practice emerged from the circulation of books and people during the Qing Dynasty, when crowds of pilgrims listened to history readings at the tombs of Islamic saints. Over time, amid long journeys and moving rituals, at oasis markets and desert shrines, ordinary readers adapted community-authored manuscripts to their own needs. In the process they created a window into a forgotten Islam, shaped by the veneration of local saints.

Partly insulated from the rest of the Islamic world, the Uyghurs constructed a local history that is at once unique and assimilates elements of Semitic, Iranian, Turkic, and Indic traditions—the cultural imports of Silk Road travelers. Through both ethnographic and historical analysis, *The Sacred Routes of Uyghur History* offers a new understanding of Uyghur historical practices, detailing the remarkable means by which this people reckons with its past and confronts its nationalist aspirations in the present day.

作者介绍:

Rian Thum is Assistant Professor of History at Loyola University New Orleans.

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标签

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## 评论

这本书真是写得相当好，文笔通俗易懂，作者对各种文本的阅读也非常精细。更难能可贵的是把一个地方和一片更广大的区域联系起来，地方史和全球史的结合。

-----  
奇怪，我记得以前标记过这本书的呀？

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The point is, why Altishahri did not travel to the shrines and tombs in other places of Central Asia? According to Qianlong's policies, they were not strictly segregated.  
全文最后一句话，哎……五味杂陈

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bottom up!

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越到后面越能理解作者章节展开的逻辑。

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大致是用oral tradition的一套解读了维吾尔人历史的生成（书籍史+阅读史），进而反思和补充了“想象的共同体”理论

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## 书评

China's far northwestern region of Xinjiang is often understood in contrast to the country as a whole. It is home to a large, mainly Muslim ethnic minority, the Uighurs (also sometimes spelled Uyghur). It is rich in natural resources. And it is increasingl...

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