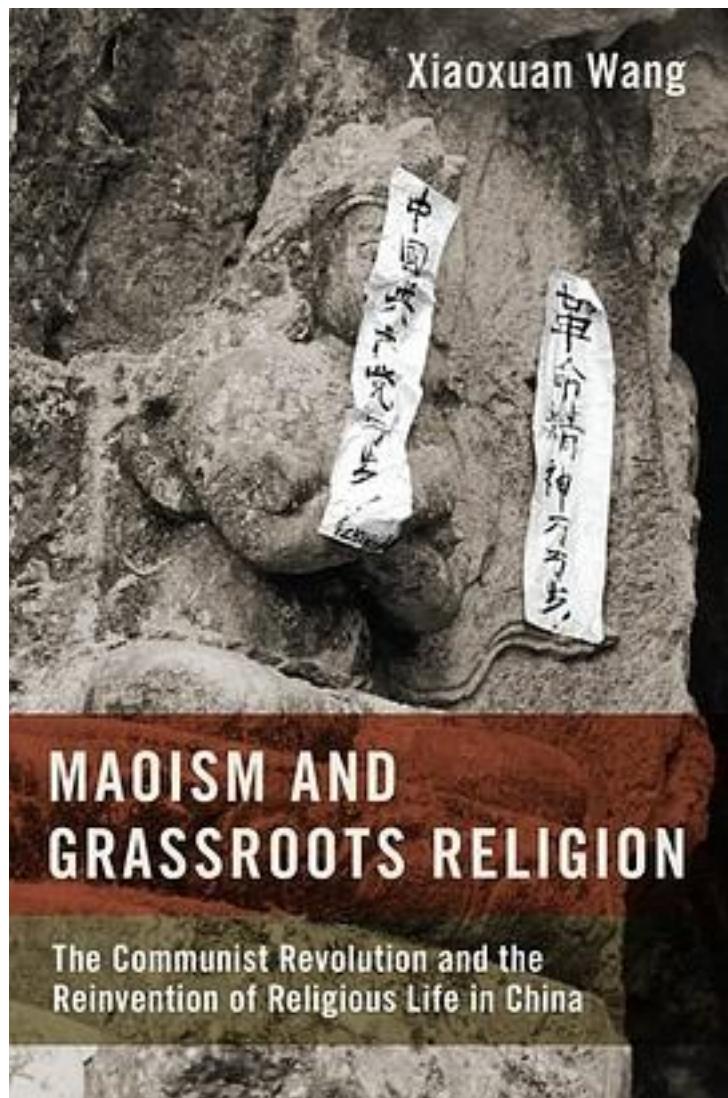


Maoism and Grassroots Religion



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Maoism and Grassroots Religion explores grassroots religious life under and after Mao in Rui'an County, Wenzhou of southeast China, a region widely known for its religious vitality. Drawing from unexplored local state archives, records of religious institutions, memoirs, and interviews, it tells the story of local communities' encounter with the Communist revolution, and its consequences, especially competition and struggles for religious property and ritual space. Rather than being totally disrupted, Xiaoxuan Wang shows, religious life under Mao was characterized by remarkable variety and unevenness and was contingent on the interactions of local dynamics with Maoist campaigns--including land reform, the Great Leap Forward, and the Cultural Revolution. The revolutionary experience strongly determined the trajectories and development patterns of different religions, inter-religious dynamics, and state-religion relationships in the post-Mao era. Wang goes beyond the image of totalistic control and suppression, to show how Maoism is relevant to religious revitalization in the post-Mao era and, more broadly, the modern fate of Chinese religions and secularism in East Asia.

Maoism permanently altered the religious landscape in China, especially by inadvertently promoting the localization and even (in some areas) expansion of Protestant Christianity, as well as the reinvention of traditional communal religion. Contrary to the popular image of total suppression and disruption during the Mao years, this book shows that religious changes under Mao were highly complex and contingent on a confluence of political campaigns, local politics and community responses. The post-Mao religious revival had deep historical roots in the Mao years, Wang argues, and cannot be explained by contemporary economic motives and cultural logics alone. This book calls for a new understanding of Maoism and secularism in the People's Republic of China.

作者介绍:

Xiaoxuan Wang is a historian of modern and late imperial China. His research interests include communal religion, Christianity, and the Chinese diaspora in Europe and the US. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2015.

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标签

历史

海外中国研究

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宗教学

共和国

近代史

红色中国

社会

评论

本書處理了前三十年的政治運動如何型塑著溫州地方宗教的形態。雖然作者專注於制度結構的變遷，但並不局限於宗教政策的討論，而端在於革命的時間性及其地方經驗。作者通過繁雜的檔案資料所呈現的不同宗教在同時代相同與不同的遭遇、適應與努力令人印象深刻。該書最大的貢獻是將後毛時代的宗教形態聯繫到毛時代，可以說，是對八十年代以來視改革開放的大變遷作為理解宗教形態（特別是基督新教）的獨特時代這一看法的巨大挑戰。雖然本書的研究在一些地方值得繼續發展與討論，但相信已經開啟了一個新的研究方向。

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