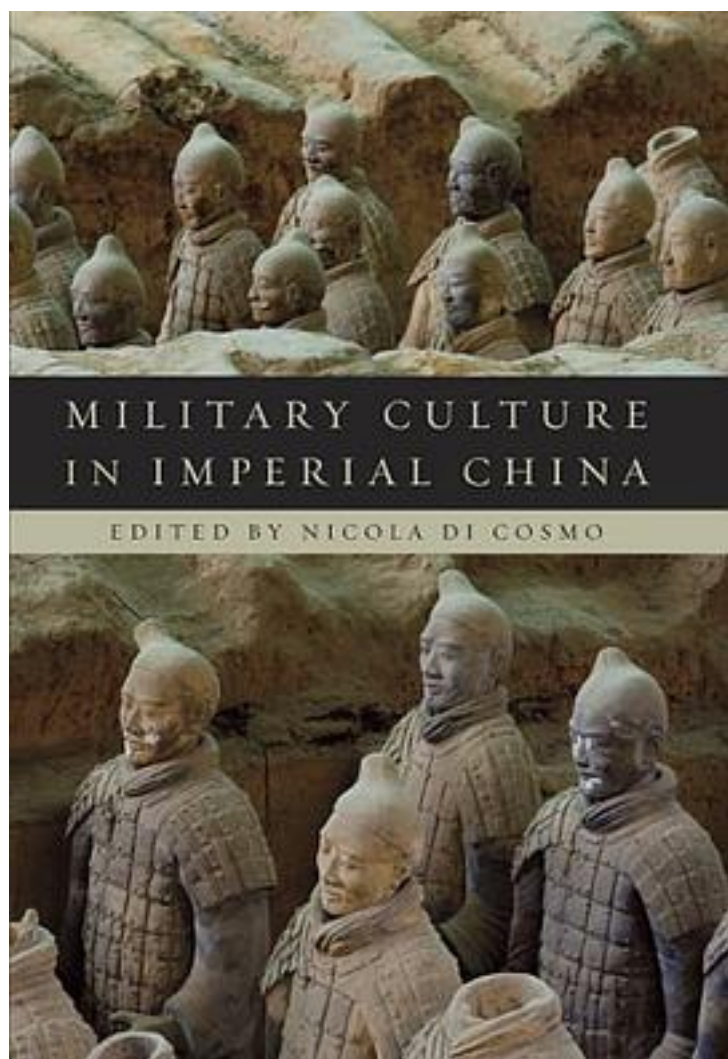


Military Culture in Imperial China



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This volume explores the relationship between culture and the military in Chinese society from early China to the Qing empire, with contributions by eminent scholars aiming to reexamine the relationship between military matters and law, government, historiography, art, philosophy, literature, and politics.

The book critically investigates the perception that, due to the influence of Confucianism, Chinese culture has systematically devalued military matters. There was nothing inherently pacifist about the Chinese governments' views of war, and pragmatic approaches—even aggressive and expansionist projects—often prevailed.

Though it has changed in form, a military elite has existed in China from the beginning of its history, and military service included a large proportion of the population at any given time. Popular literature praised the martial ethos of fighting men. Civil officials attended constantly to military matters on the administrative and financial ends. The seven military classics produced in antiquity continued to be read even into the modern period.

These original essays explore the ways in which intellectual, civilian, and literary elements helped shape the nature of military institutions, theory, and the culture of war. This important contribution bridges two literatures, military and cultural, that seldom appear together in the study of China, and deepens our understanding of war and society in Chinese history.

作者介绍:

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标签

军事史

海外中国研究

历史

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中国研究

评论

许多名家均有贡献文章。狄宇宙导论提出的军事文化四点：军队将士的行为和思维范式；“战略文化”，即文武官员决策思维的倾向与论述规范；社会总体在文武关系上的倾向与对战争的观感；军事美学文学、武人和武备的社会地位。并主张研究中华帝国军事文化主要研究战争、社会、文化思想三者之关系，更定调在中国历史上文武两者相互对立又相辅相成之关系，从文武关系角度来看“唐宋变革”在军事组织上似乎未展现太多的革新与相辅相成关系（相对于西方历史和理论中军事变革对社会变迁的深远影响），此论点需再斟酌（尤其文集中宋一文显然体现随战略地位变迁而变化的军事文化）。细读唐、宋、明和清初几篇。

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