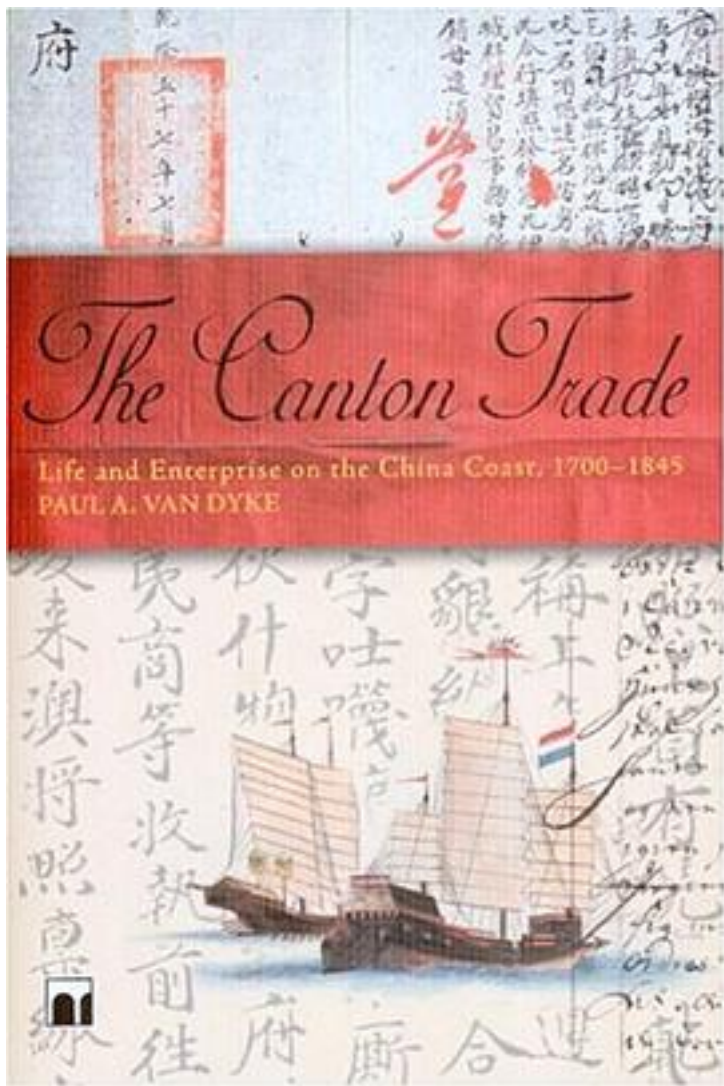


The Canton Trade



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著者:Paul Van Dyke

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This study utilizes a wide range of new source materials to reconstruct the day-to-day operations of the port of Canton during the eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth centuries. Using a bottom-up approach, it provides a fresh look at the successes and failures of the trade by focusing on the practices and procedures rather than on the official policies and protocols. The narrative, however, reads like a story as the author unravels the daily lives of all the players from sampan operators, pilots, compradors and linguists, to country traders, supercargoes, Hong merchants and customs officials. New areas to studies of this kind are covered as well, such as Armenians, junk traders and rice traders, all of whom played intricate roles in moving the commerce forward.

The Canton Trade shows that contrary to popular belief, the trade was stable, predictable and secure, with many incentives built into the policies to encourage it to grow. The huge expansion of trade was, in fact, one of the factors that contributed to its collapse as the increase in revenues blinded government officials to the long-term deterioration of the lower administrative echelons. In the end, the system was toppled, but that happened mainly because it had already defeated itself.

General readers and academicians interested in world and Asian history, trading companies, country trade, Hong merchants, and articles of trade will find much new and relevant information here.

“This is an impressive piece of scholarship, rich in new data and filled with new insights. Its publication will prove important to scholars of late imperial China and economic history. The former will learn a revisionist perspective on the Canton system that shows how the court largely adapted to the evolving conditions in Canton in the eighteenth century. The latter will learn much about the mechanics of international trade in an era preceding European dominance.” —R. Bin Wong, University of California, Los Angeles

“The work, which is based on multi-archival research, is solid, enlightening and groundbreaking in terms of scholarship. It has set a high standard in research that is hard to repeat and will also be a standard reference for a long time to come on questions relating to not only the Canton System but also world trade during the period in question.” —Ng Chin-keong, National University of Singapore

“Van Dyke shows how Southeast Asians, Westerners, and Chinese interacted at Canton, how a supposedly rigid system changed and grew, how legal and illegal trades fertilized each other, and how the system broke down. Old stories that see only a looming Sino-British conflict will never look quite right again.” —Ken Pomeranz, University of California, Irvine

“Chinese foreign relations in the centuries before the Opium Wars have been studied from many angles, but the Canton trade which lay at the heart of these relationships remained in the shadows. Paul Van Dyke has placed us all in his debt by combing through both Chinese and varied European sources. At last a coherent picture emerges, and shows the basic rationality and mutual interest behind a system more often depicted as corrupt and obstructive.” —Anthony Reid, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

“This first detailed case study about the inner workings of the Canton port system is based on an extraordinary variety of first hand material from so far unused sources in Chinese and European archives. It throws a radically new light on the encounter between the Chinese coastal economy and foreign traders in early modern times. This superbly researched monograph presents a breakthrough in the study of Canton’s

overseas trading system.” —Leonard Blussé, Leiden University

作者介绍:

Paul A. Van Dyke is professor of history at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou. He has spent many years researching various aspects of life, trade, and societies in the Pearl River Delta and Maritime Asia.

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评论

informative and refreshing

为了做范老师的presentation所以看范老师的书...囧...不过只看了导言、第一、二、四章，惭愧，有空补完。好书！

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书评

我诚挚地感谢很多引导我浏览馆藏的个人，他们是卫思韩、艾德·帕金斯（Ed Perkins）和哈里森·程（Harrison Cheng）三位给予了我毫无保留的支持和建议；荷兰海牙国家档案馆的欧耶维先生（Mr. Oyevaar）和普兰廷加先生（Mr. Plantinga）；美国明尼苏达大学詹姆斯·福特·贝尔图...

作者对于清代广州贸易体制的分析非常详细，条理很清楚明白，这一点即使只看目录也能看得出来。我一直认为，用简单粗暴的好坏观点来判断制度是不适合的。清代的广州体制从最初的成功到最后的失败，并不是因为广州贸易体制是坏的，而是这套体制不能适应时代，没有与时俱进。广...

中国对外交通，特别对西亚东欧的来往，自古即有陆上西域、海上交广两途。唯西北陆上交通开始早，地位较重要，因此海上之交广赶不上陆路盛况，声名逊于西域丝路。然千余年来广州对外通商，形成南方港埠都市，其发展连续不断，至清代尤其瞩目。有清一代，广州对外通商，萌芽于顺...

读了一二章
作者首先从一个广州体制的成功开始的叙述。先给读者呈现一个制度性框架，当然这个框架是多方的利益关系形成的。从中国朝廷的角度来看，广州的贸易允许的前提是贸易的可控制性，在此基础上再来考虑贸易所带来的经济利益。从海关监督的角度来看，对

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