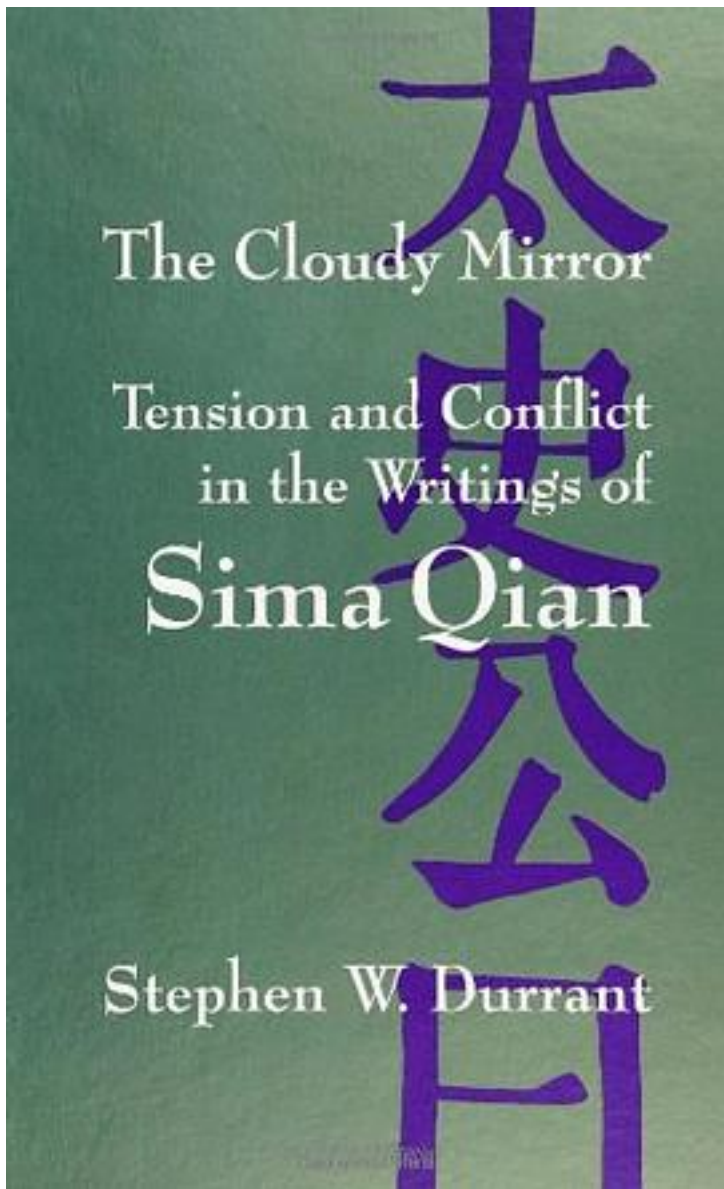


The Cloudy Mirror



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著者:Stephen W. Durrant

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Sima Qian's vast *Records of the Historian* is the first comprehensive history of China and has exerted an immense influence both upon our understanding of the Chinese past and also upon the style and structure of subsequent Chinese historiography. In addition to his contribution as a historian, Sima Qian is a highly significant literary figure whose writings are among the most elegant and powerful from the ancient world.

Durrant's study approaches Sima Qian's work from a literary perspective and demonstrates the relationship between Sima's narrative of the past and his narrative of his own life. That life was a fascinating and complex one. Enjoined by his father to complete a comprehensive history of China, Sima Qian subsequently offended the great Emperor Wu and was sentenced to castration. Rather than take the "noble path" of suicide, he suffered this traumatic punishment and lived on to fulfill his father's injunction--but not without emotional scars, scars that influenced his portrayal of the Chinese past. In fact, the great Han historian's account of the Chinese past, this study argues, is as much his story as it is history. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

作者介绍:

About the Author

Stephen W. Durrant is Associate Professor of Chinese at the University of Oregon. He has also written *The Tale of the Nisan Shaman: A Manchu Folk Epic*. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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标签

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历史书写

英文原版

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评论

Sima Qian created a Confucius who is a great unifier and a compiler of classical texts. Also, he created a Confucius who suffered the ups and downs in life. Disappointments in a political career transforms into creativity of textual preservation--it is the image of Confucius, more so, of the grand historian Sima Qian. Resonance is a beauty.

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书评

The Talent and Fate of Sima Qian In “The Letter to Ren An”, we see that Sima Qian’s description of various aspects of the dishonor of castration is almost throughout the whole text. First is the dishonor of castration itse...

The tensions and conflicts Sima Qian feels with his subjects in Shiji does not have a clear or consistent historiographical approach. That means there is no coherent vision to sustain the moral and emotional complexity in Shiji. Durrant claims that the ...

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