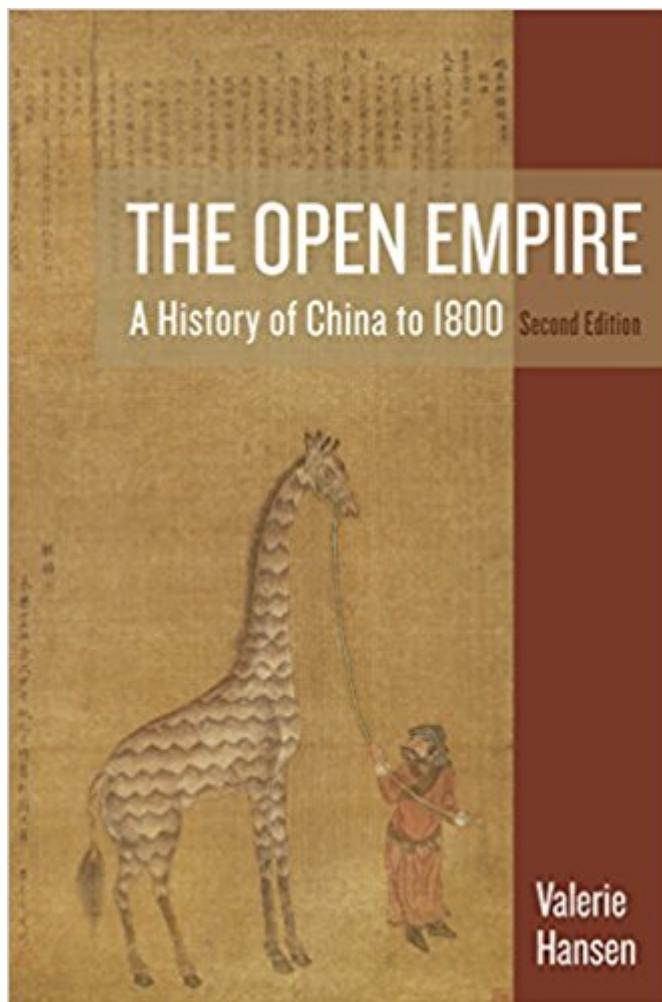


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The Open Empire: A History Of China To 1800 (Second Edition)



Synopsis

An innovative approach to early Chinese history, now updated and expanded up to 1800. The Open Empire takes an integrative, thematic approach to early Chinese history, using the concept of the “open empire” to highlight the dynamic, porous nature of China’s past. Hansen builds her chronological narrative on a rich variety of archeological and literary sources to flesh out the details of daily life, family relations, and social hierarchies. In the Second Edition, the narrative has been updated with findings from recent scholarship and streamlined throughout to highlight the main themes. A new chapter on the Qing Empire, 1600–1800, carries the story of the “open empire” up to the birth of modern China.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Valerie Hansen teaches Chinese and world history at Yale, where she is professor of history. Her research draws on nontraditional sources to capture the experiences of ordinary people. Her books include *The Silk Road: A New History*, *Voyages in World History* (co-authored with Kenneth R. Curtis), *Negotiating Daily Life in Traditional China*, and *Changing Gods in Medieval China, 1127–1279*.

The book and delivery are pretty good.

It looks like a new book.

I love it, I bought it for work and every coworker said they want to get one just like mine .

exactly as needed

A superb introduction to the history of China and a refreshing breath of fresh air compared to earlier English language histories, which were more or less bounded by the Chinese dynastic histories. Not only does the author take issue with now-hoary stereotypes of dynastic rise and fall, inevitable Sinization of barbarians, the centrality of a distinctively "Chinese" model, but also adds a new dimension beyond the standard textual sources that includes expands recent archaeological discoveries, evidence from [not just a recording of] popular literature , an attentive examination of the role of women [long neglected or under-emphasized by earlier surveys]and the often-pivotal importance of the non-Inner China littoral areas. Although some may criticize the relatively less attention paid to classical philosophy as opposed to the material culture, I think the correction is long overdue.

This new edition of The Open Empire shares the same global approach as the first edition and continues to make innovative use of artistic, literary, and archaeological sources. The second edition also includes new material on women in the Qin dynasty, an updated discussion of the interactions between Tang-dynasty China and the Islamic world, and a strengthened comparison of the Kitan and Chinese, among other important additions and revisions. There is also a whole new chapter on the Qing dynasty up until the end of the Qianlong reign (1796), informed by the "New Qing history" and the recent work on the "Great Divergence." Students and teachers will value this book: it is ideal for one-semester courses on imperial China and several chapters could be profitably assigned in world history classes too.

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