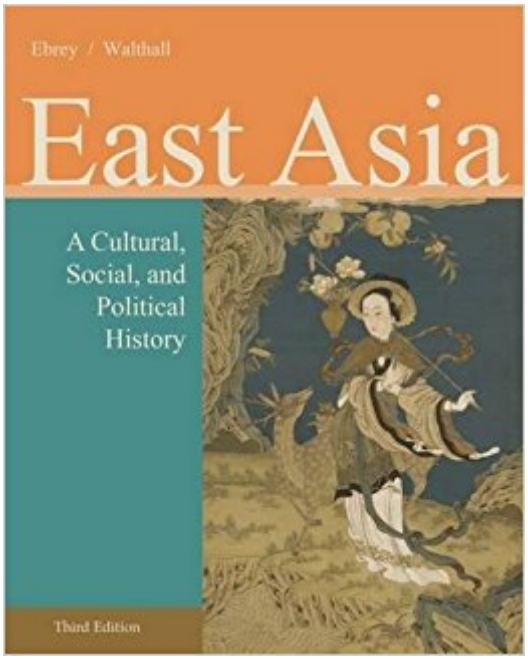
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East Asia: A Cultural, Social, And Political History



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Patricia B. Ebrey is Professor with Joint Appointment: Early Imperial China, Song Dynasty at the University of Washington in Seattle. In addition to THE CAMBRIDGE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF CHINA (Cambridge University Press, 1996), she has published numerous journal articles. Her monographs include THE INNER QUARTERS: MARRIAGE AND THE LIVES OF CHINESE WOMEN IN THE SUNG PERIOD (University of California Press, 1993) and CONFUCIANISM AND FAMILY RITUALS IN IMPERIAL CHINA: A SOCIAL HISTORY OF WRITING ABOUT RITES (Princeton University Press, 1991). She is also author of CHINA: A CULTURAL, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL HISTORY (Houghton Mifflin, 2006). She received her Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1975.Anne Walthall is Professor of Japanese History at the University of California, Irvine. She has published numerous journal articles in English, French, and Japanese. Her monographs include SOCIAL PROTEST AND POPULAR CULTURE IN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY JAPAN (Association for Asian Studies, 1986), PEASANT UPRISINGS IN JAPAN: A CRITICAL ANTHOLOGY OF PEASANT HISTORIES (University of Chicago Press, 1991), and THE WEAK BODY OF A USELESS WOMAN: MATSUO TASEKO AND THE MEIJI RESTORATION (University of Chicago Press, 1998). In addition, she edited THE HUMAN TRADITION IN MODERN JAPAN (Scholarly Resources, 2002) and SERVANTS OF THE DYNASTY: PALACE WOMEN IN WORLD HISTORY (University of California Press, 2008) as well as co-edited WOMEN AND CLASS IN JAPANESE

HISTORY (University of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies, 1999) and RECREATING JAPANESE MEN (University of California Press, 2011). She received her Ph.D. from The University of Chicago in 1979.

The book is a wonderful resource for survey material but provides little in the way of depth. It covers a huge span of time concisely and does not seem to droll on. Some its claims can seem speculative at times with a little too much emphasis of subjectively superlative claims like, " 'blank 'is the most important ...", or " 'blank' was the best king..." without giving support for those claims. Those statements may be founded in intense research and reflect an informed opinion, however, suporting research is neither mentioned nor cited throughout the book.A rather logistical issue is that book is printed in only two inks, such that all the maps only have shades of red and black. This severely limits the complexity of maps as political boundaries, rivers, and geographical information get messy once put on one map. Though most people may not care so much about this, I am a very visual person, and I was disappointed in the difficulty in trying to determine where mountains, rivers, and political boundaries lay.It may seem that this is a long litany of complaints, however, this book is an interesting read, and keeps the reader interested throughout the text, a the while being quite informative. This feat alone gives the book 4 stars, but its lack of citations(even if a survey text) and poor main map keep me from giving it 5.

The text was very useful during my Asian History course. Compared to other history textbooks, detail was made in a variety of aspects of Japan and China throughout the dynasties. My only compliant would be the lack of neighbirng countries. Some are mentioned, but China and Japan make the majority of the text.

This textbook is exactly what I needed for my HIST 105 class. The front cover was bent in a few places and the binding was scraped, which I'm fine with, I mean it's just a rental.

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