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Changing Chinese Masculinities: From Imperial Pillars of State to Global Real Men / (Ed) Kam Louie (Series Ed) Derek Hird

Hong Kong University Press, Hongkong 2016

x, 250p.

Includes Index

9789888208562

\$ 65.00 / HB

510 gm.

It is now almost a cliché to claim that China and the Chinese people have changed. Yet inside the new clothing that is worn by the Chinese man today, Kam Louie contends, we still see much of the historical Chinese man. With contributions from a team of outstanding scholars, *Changing Chinese Masculinities* studies a range of Chinese men in diverse and, most importantly, Chinese contexts. It explores the fundamental meaning of manhood in the Chinese setting and the very notion of an indigenous Chinese masculinity.

In twelve chapters spanning the late imperial period to the present day, *Changing Chinese Masculinities* brings a much needed historical dimension to the discussion. Key aspects defining the male identity such as family relationships and attitudes toward sex, class, and career are explored in depth. Familiar notions of Chinese manhood come in all shapes and sizes. Concubinage reemerges as the taking of "second wives" in recent decades. Male homoerotic love and male prostitution are shown to have long historical roots. The self-images of the literati and officials form an interesting contrast with those of the contemporary white-collar men. Masculinity and nationalism complement each other in troubling ways. China has indeed changed and is still changing, but most of these social transformations do not indicate a complete break with past beliefs or practices in gender relations.

Changing Chinese Masculinities inaugurates the Hong Kong University Press book series "Transnational Asian Masculinities."

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Adroit Publishers, New Delhi 2016

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950 gm.

This book aims primarily at painting a comprehensive portrait of Nepal, between past and present. More specifically, it seeks to provide a better understanding of the recent tumultuous changes that have taken place in the country. Emphasis is laid on the rise of the individual, despite the remarkable resistance of traditional forms of belonging at family and caste level.

The work of imagination in Nepalese society is of particular interest. The author contends that mental images, the system of values, and ideological dimensions play a vital role in the cultural realm and political life. Similarly, religion is pivotal in the construction of selfhood and social life.

From a methodological viewpoint, Imagination and Realities stands at the crossroads between anthropology, sociology and history. It is by combining these three different disciplines that the dialectics between local and global, particular and general can be most suitably considered.

The book is based on intimate and continuous contact with Nepal over the last forty-five years.

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