



God's Chinese Son: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom of Hong Xiuquan

By Jonathan D. Spence

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"A magnificent tapestry . . . a story that reaches beyond China into our world and time: a story of faith, hope, passion, and a fatal grandiosity."--*Washington Post Book World*

Whether read for its powerful account of the largest uprising in human history, or for its foreshadowing of the terrible convulsions suffered by twentieth-century China, or for the narrative power of a great historian at his best, *God's Chinese Son* must be read. At the center of this history of China's Taiping rebellion (1845-64) stands Hong Xiuquan, a failed student of Confucian doctrine who ascends to heaven in a dream and meets his heavenly family: God, Mary, and his older brother, Jesus. He returns to earth charged to eradicate the "demon-devils," the alien Manchu rulers of China. His success carries him and his followers to the heavenly capital at Nanjing, where they rule a large part of south China for more than a decade. Their decline and fall, wrought by internal division and the unrelenting military pressures of the Manchus and the Western powers, carry them to a hell on earth. Twenty million Chinese are left dead.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In what PW called a "masterful history," Spence recounts the mid-19th century Taiping Rebellion, in which a Chinese Christian fanatic seized Nanking and ruled his "New Jerusalem" for a decade.

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From Library Journal

A China specialist who's had two LJ Best Books (The Search for Modern China in 1991 and The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci in 1984) examines a bloody 19th-century uprising in China whose leader claimed to be the son of God.

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From Scientific American

With a scholar's love of detail, a cinematic eye for color, and an evident passion for dramatic narrative, [Spence] gives us an irresistible tale--all the grander for its grip on history.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carlee Smith:

The feeling that you get from God's Chinese Son: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom of Hong Xiuquan will be the more deep you digging the information that hide in the words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but God's Chinese Son: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom of Hong Xiuquan giving you joy feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by simply anyone who read that because the author of this book is well-known enough. This book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this kind of God's Chinese Son: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom of Hong Xiuquan instantly.

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