

Zhongjian Mou and Jian Zhang

Handbook of the History of Religions in China II

From the Liao Dynasty until the Republican Era

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Preface

Overall Description

Digging into the long history of China, this highly-acclaimed book investigates a variety of religions in a comprehensive and systematic way. These religions include: primitive religions and worship; archaic patriarchal religions; traditional Daoism; popular religions; and non-indigenous religions such as Buddhism, Christianity and Islam. Furthermore, the book discusses in detail the origin, growth, introduction—as well as dissemination—of religions in China. With insightful analysis, the two authors illuminate sects, doctrines, rituals and disciplines of Chinese religions, along with exchanges and interactions between religions, thoughts and cultures. To put it in a nutshell, this revised two-volume *General History of Religions in China* pulls together vast knowledge and understanding of the cultural roots, characteristics and impact of religions throughout Chinese history.

About the authors

Professor Mou Zhongjian 牟钟鉴 was born in 1939 in Yantai, a beautiful coastal city of Shandong Province. He studied in the Department of Philosophy at the prestigious Peking University. He devoted himself to the history of Chinese philosophy and was awarded his Master of Arts degree. Then, he spent more than 20 years (1966–1987) at the Institute of World Religions at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), where his research focused on the Chinese philosophy and religions. In November 1987, he began teaching at Minzu University of China (i.e. Central University for Nationalities). Mr. Mou has been appointed to the highest level of professorship and is responsible for supervising Ph.D. programs in the University's Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. He has been rewarded with prestigious titles such as the National Outstanding Teacher Award. Prof. Mou's major publications include: *Lüshi Chunqiu yu Huainanzi sixiang yanjiu* 《吕氏春秋》与《淮南子》思想研究 (An intellectual inquiry into *The Spring and Autumn of Master Lü* and *The Master Huainan*); *Zoujin Zhongguo jingshen* 走进中国精神 (Walking into the Chinese spirit); *Ruxue jiazhi de xin tansuo* 儒学价值的新探索 (Ground breaking explorations of the value of Confucianism), and so forth.

Professor Zhang Jian 张践 works for the famous Renmin University, or the People's University of China. He is also a Guest Research Fellow at the MOE's Research Center for Buddhism and Theories of Religious Study and a Guest Professor at Minzu University. The International Confucian Association offered Prof. Zhang membership of Council and Directorship of the Committee of Dissemination. In addition, he serves as the Vice President of the China Society for Practical Learning. Prof. Zhang is a leading scholar in the fields of history of religions in China and history of Chinese philosophy. He has published numerous monographs such as: *Zongjiao, zhengzhi, minzu* 宗教·政治·民族 (Religion, politics, and ethnicity); *中国民间宗教史* (History of popular religions in China); and *Dexing yu gongfu—Zhongguo ren de xiuyang guan* 德性与功夫——中国人的修养观 (*A priori* virtues and *a posteriori* moralities: Chinese ideas of self-cultivation).

About the translator

Chi Zhen, Ph.D. (2007), National University of Singapore, is Associate Research Fellow at Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS). He has published monographs and articles on Chinese intellectual history. He devotes himself to the English translation of academic works authored by highly intellectual Chinese scholars. His latest translation work was *Marxism and Religion* (Brill, 2014).