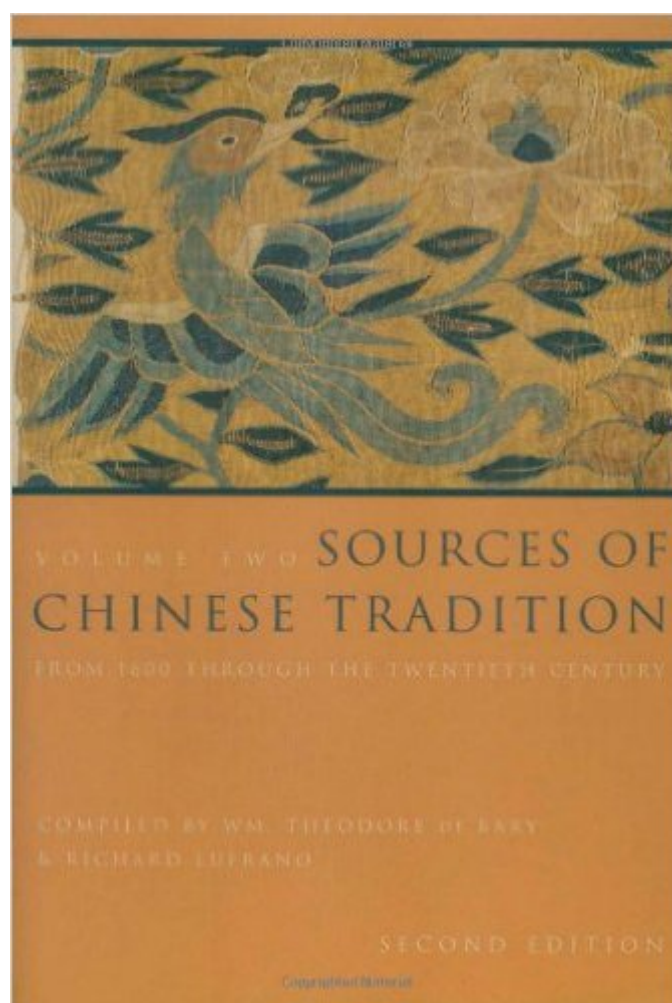


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# Sources Of Chinese Tradition, Vol. 2: From 1600 Through The Twentieth Century (Introduction To Asian Civilizations)



## Synopsis

For four decades *Sources of Chinese Tradition* has served to introduce Western readers to Chinese civilization as it has been seen through basic writings and historical documents of the Chinese themselves. Now in its second edition, revised and extended through Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin—era China, this classic volume remains unrivaled for its wide selection of source readings on history, society, and thought in the world’s largest nation. Award-winning China scholar Wm. Theodore de Bary—who edited the first edition in 1960—and his coeditor Richard Lufrano have revised and updated the second volume of *Sources* to reflect the interactions of ideas, institutions, and historical events from the seventeenth century up to the present day. Beginning with Qing civilization and continuing to contemporary times, volume II brings together key source texts from more than three centuries of Chinese history, with opening essays by noted China authorities providing context for readers not familiar with the period in question. Here are just a few of the topics covered in this second volume of *Sources of Chinese Tradition*: Early Sino-Western contacts in the seventeenth century; Four centuries of Chinese reflections on differences between Eastern and Western civilizations; Nineteenth- and twentieth-century reform movements, with treatises on women’s rights, modern science, and literary reform; Controversies over the place of Confucianism in modern Chinese society; The nationalist revolution—including readings from Sun Yat-sen and Chiang Kai-shek; The communist revolution—with central writings by Mao Zedong; Works from contemporary China—featuring political essays from Deng Xiaoping and dissidents including Wei Jingsheng. With more than two hundred selections in lucid, readable translation by today’s most renowned experts on Chinese language and civilization, *Sources of Chinese Tradition* will continue to be recognized as the standard for source readings on Chinese civilization, an indispensable learning tool for scholars and students of Asian civilizations.

## Book Information

Series: Introduction to Asian Civilizations (Book 2)

Paperback: 656 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press; 2nd edition (1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0231112718

ISBN-13: 978-0231112710

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1.3 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #98,136 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in [Books > Travel > Asia > China > General](#) #73 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Asia](#) #117 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Customs & Traditions](#)

## Customer Reviews

I've read a little of this and that about Chinese history and religion, and I needed a book to fill in the basics and the details. This was perfect. First, the selections included excerpts of almost everything I'd ever heard of: Shang Oracle Bones, the Analects of Confucius and the Confucian classics including the I Ching; Mozi; the Tao Te Ching; Zhuangzi (who famously dreamed that he was a butterfly); Mencius; Xunzi; the Zuo zhuan; Sun Tzu's art of war; all kinds of stuff about Chinese schools of Buddhism including the Lotus Sutra and the Flower Garden Sutra and the history of Guanyin and Wutai Shan; Li Po (Li Bo) and Tu Fu (Du Fu); and neo-Confucianism (which was so influential in Korea). In short, this is really, practically the "Eastern Canon" and the selections are deserving of such a label. I was in turns morally and intellectually challenged, uplifted, informed and surprised; but rarely bored and never disappointed. Second, the introductory essays were exactly what I wanted to know: who might have written it, and when, and who read, and what it meant to them. For all that information, they were still brief and the bibliography was sufficient to help me chase the points that left me curious. An important thing these essays did was to cover the political, historical and social backgrounds (and foregrounds) of the texts, so I learned about Chinese history as well as literature and religion. If that is what you want to do, this book will serve you well. The binding is excellent, and while the price might look steep I have to say it's a bargain considering what you get. I didn't read Volume Two, and so I don't know if it is as good. It is certainly a lot smaller!

This book is a collection of readings dealing with ancient Chinese history, especially focusing on philosophy and religion. The readings are organized into chapters related to various stages in Chinese history. Early chapters cover antiquity, Confucius, Mo Tzu, and Taoism. Then comes Confucian tradition, the Legalists, the Imperial Order, the Universal Order, and the Economic Order. This is followed by the Great Han Historians, Neo-Taoism, and Buddhism. This volume is rounded out with the Confucian revival and neo-Confucianism. Each chapter begins with a short introduction essay that introduces the context and events of the time and goes to a selection of original texts on the topic at hand. At the beginning of the book is a chronological table of Chinese history from 2852

BC to 1849 AD that highlights various events in Chinese political philosophy. This book is a great resource for the serious student of Chinese philosophy and culture. The essays and readings provide a unique window into Chinese thought. The authors assume that the reader will have a basic familiarity with the overall picture of Chinese history, and provide many details and insights into why history took the course that it did. I found the reading selections, drawn from such documents as the Analects of Confucius or historical documents like Ma tuan-Lin's Introduction to the Survey on the Land Tax, particularly illuminating. To find so many documents such as these presented in English, together with essays that explain their context and importance, is invaluable for the serious Asian studies scholar.

This work is thorough, but at the same time simple and concise. It is essentially a collection of documents that relate to important events in Chinese history with short background sections introducing most works and longer introductions when a new period of history is covered. I believe that this is currently the most complete single volume on the market as it runs from the early 1600's all the way up to 1989, covering the Qing Dynasty, its collapse, the Nationalist Revolution and later the Communist Revolution, up through the ideas behind the Tienanmen Square demonstrations and the modern reevaluation of Confucianism. If you only want one volume on modern Chinese history that focuses on the sources, I think this is probably the one to have.

This book is excellent for anyone wanting to read primary source information. It is a great help for any college student or professor interested in the Chinese Culture. I highly recommend this to any one who is interested in Chinese history.

This second edition of a classic provides an update on a reference recommended for college-level collections specializing in Chinese literature. Sources of Chinese Tradition has been recognized already as a scholarly staple: in its new form Sources of Chinese Tradition has been extended to include the Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin eras of China and includes invaluable source readings on history and literature of the times, from the 18th-century Qing civilization onward.

This is one of the great seminal works dealing with Chinese history and culture. It enables English-speaking scholars to have a rare, and in depth glimpse into primary source material from the Middle Kingdom. To anyone working with Asian history, this work is a requisite. Primary-source materials like these, presented in an anthology, allow students to get to know the major events of

history first-hand. Much to students' surprise, the original texts are both interesting, and not that difficult to grasp. Dr. Thomas J. Martin, Asian Studies, SUNY

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