

THE FIFTY YEARS THAT CHANGED CHINESE RELIGION, 1898-1948

BY PAUL R. KATZ & VINCENT GOOSSAERT — ASIA PAST & PRESENT BOOK SERIES

SUGGESTED COURSES:

- History - East Asia
- Religion
- Chinese Studies

KEY CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS:

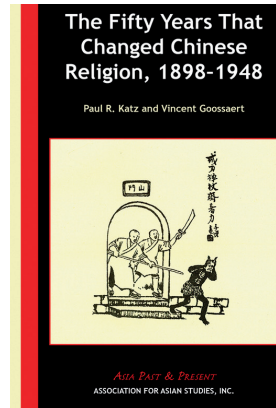
- Religious modernization
- Secularization vs. Religionization
- Religion vs. Superstition
- Urbanization
- Religious print culture
- Ascriptive and voluntary belonging
- Elite religiosity

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What was lost in the religious transformation of modern China?
2. What was created in the religious transformation of modern China?
3. How did Christianity shape modern Chinese conceptualizations of religion as well as the beliefs and practices of that era's religious groups?
4. What was the impact of temple destruction campaigns from 1898 to 1948? What was lost and what was preserved, and why? Who were the key actors in these processes of historical transformation?
5. What do religious books tell us about social change in modern China?
6. What forms of elite religiosity existed during the modern era? What variations existed among different types of elites?
7. From the perspective of religion, is the 1898-1948 period closer to late imperial society or to today's China?
8. To what extent did the changes that occurred from 1898 to 1948 influence religious life in Chinese communities today? Which beliefs and practices have become most important, and how do they vary by place, age, and gender?

EXTERNAL LINKS & RESOURCES:

- https://home.uni-leipzig.de/clartp/bibliography_CPR.html
- https://crta.info/wiki/Main_Page
- http://buddhistinformatics.dila.edu.tw/dmcb/Main_Page
- <https://sichuanreligions.com/> <https://chinesereligions.org/online-resources>
- <https://crgis.rchss.sinica.edu.tw/>



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4. MORALITY BOOKS IN THE MODERN AGE
5. ELITE RELIGIOSITY FROM
LATE IMPERIAL TIMES TO THE REPUBLIC
6. THE RELIGIOUS LIFE OF WANG YITIN

“This is by far the most original, innovative, and definitive study of the religious transformation in the context of China’s modernization from the late Qing to early Republican period. Drawing on new and underexplored primary sources such as religious journals, séance writings, morality books, and liturgical texts, the authors show convincingly how active production of religious knowledge, new and creative forms of religiosity, structural and institutional innovation of religion were taking place alongside the processes of modernization in the Jiangnan region from the late 19th to early 20th centuries. As such, this book has greatly advanced our understanding of trajectories of religious transformation and modes of religious modernity in China.”

– XUN LIU, Rutgers University

“Goossaert and Katz have crafted a unique and innovative research strategy, applying a macro approach—looking at a broad range of data relating to a large number of religious phenomena—to a specific micro-region—Jiangnan. The results are insightful and valuable on many levels.”

– DAVID OWNBY, University of Montreal

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