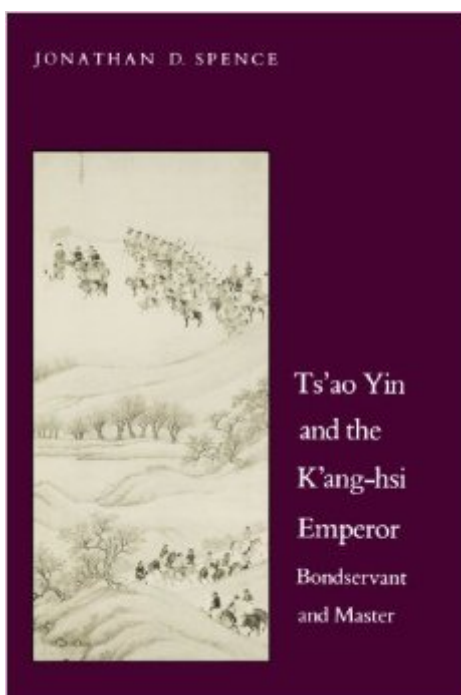


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Ts'ao Yin And The Kang-Hsi Emperor: Bondservant And Master



Synopsis

In this highly praised book, Jonathan D. Spence recounts the story of Ts'ao Yin, hereditary bondservant to the Manchu emperors. Ts'ao Yin, whose great-grandfather was captured and enslaved by the Manchus and whose descendent wrote *Dream of the Red Chamber*, China's most famous novel, becomes the focal point of a fascinating study that sheds light on the social and political life of the early Manchu period. This edition of *Ts'ao Yin and the Kang-hsi Emperor* has a new introduction by Jonathan D. Spence. "A brilliant synthesis of biographical, social, economic and institutional history, this book is a 'life and times' in the best sense of the term. It uses Ts'ao Yin's career to illuminate the Chinese governmental institutions in which he served between 1674 and 1712, and these institutions to explain the twists and turns of his own progress. . . . This masterly work is clearly a 'must' for all those who are interested in the long and eventful reign of the Kang-hsi Emperor, which . . . still remains one of the most fascinating and rewarding periods in Chinese history." "C.R. Boxer, *Journal of Asian History*" "A significant portrait of a family, a society, and part of an age." "Wang Gungwu, *Journal of Asian Studies*" "[A] remarkably fine history of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Chinese social and political institutions. . . . Rewarding as well as delightful reading." "E-tu Zen Sun, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*" "A complex, intelligent work. . . . What it meant to be textile commissioner, salt censor, imperial host, imperial informant, general member of the upper class" "all of this, in all its industrial, financial, administrative, and cultural implications" "comes to life." "Joseph R. Levenson, *American Historical Review*

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Customer Reviews

This book will probably be considered outdated because it uses the Wade-Giles system instead of the Pin Yin system. Nevertheless, it's great reading. Tsao Yin is the great-grandfather of Chao Sue Qin, the author of one of Chinese classic literature, "Hong Lou Meng" (Dream of Red Chambers). This book is not just a chronicle of Tsao's life as a servant, spy and steward of Kang Xi but it also reflects the society around him during that time. Professor Spence also provides some refreshing and interesting insight into the premises surrounding "Hong Lou Meng" and its characters. Definitely a must for enthusiasts of Hong Lou Meng.

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