

Book Review of *History of Huizu in China*

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Shusen Qiu, et al. Ed., Zhongguo Huizu Shi (History of Huizu in China), 2 Volumes, Yinchuan: Ningxia Renmin Chubanshe, 1996.

The product of collaboration by ten leading Chinese scholars, these two volumes represent the encyclopedic work on the history of Chinese Muslims. Thanks to the work of authors such as Shusen Qiu, who specializes in Muslim history during the Yuan Dynasty, this work is particularly detailed in recounting the development of Muslim communities prior to the more familiar Ming-Qing and modern periods. Citing classical histories, the work's coverage on Tang-Song-Yuan period is delightfully packed with many materials that are not present in earlier works by well-known historians of Chinese Muslims such as Jin Jitang, Fu Tongxian, or Bai Shouyi. The coverage of Ming, Qing, and the Republican era is no less detailed or comprehensive. The names of different Muslim sects are listed, biographies of famous Muslim figures are given, and Muslim traditions and customs are described in great detail. For example, the section on Chinese Muslim customs listed the names of over one hundred favorite eateries by Chinese Muslims. The organization of the book follows the standard chronological order, but the concise prose makes it an easy and enjoyable read.

The weakness of the book lies in some of its historical views that follow the standard party-line. For example, the term "Huizu," which only appeared after 1949 to refer to the Chinese-speaking Muslims, is used in this book to refer to Muslim population in China throughout history. Overall, however, this comprehensive history work is a product of important scholarship and should be read by those who have a serious interest in the history of Chinese Muslims.

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