

Mandarins, Jews, and Missionaries: The Jewish Experience in the Chinese Empire

Michael Pollak

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Michael Pollak : Mandarins, Jews, and Missionaries: The Jewish Experience in the Chinese Empire before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mandarins, Jews, and Missionaries: The Jewish Experience in the Chinese Empire:

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Great BookBy A. Bell* Me: I'm someone interested in serious, semi-academic books about Jewish history. I'm not someone looking for a James Michener book, but I'm not some equipped to critique Pollak's scholarship. * The book: This is a wonderful, well-written book that seems to discuss every old reference to the Jews of China in just about every language. It seems to give every known detail about the lives of China's Jews. Because China's Jews were one of the peoples of the "Silk Road" (the collection of ancient trade routes that linked China with Europe for many centuries), the book is also a pretty good introduction to the history of the Silk Road. * Who for: I think this book might be especially useful to anyone interested in Central Asian history; Jewish history; or extreme Jewish genealogy (i.e., the DNA testing folks). It could also be the basis for a pretty fine martial arts movie.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great!By Michael J. OphirThis one definety one of the best books available with regards to the history of the Jews of Kaifeng. Pollak writes a convincing and yet entertaining piece of history that is sure to educate all its readers.

This fascinating book on the history of Chinese Jews reads like an adventure story, crisscrossing geographic locations

transcending ages. Michael Pollak has sniffed out every available clue on the Chinese Jews: his research is solid well documented. Beyond the confines of Jewish history, this saga sheds much light on China's past especially its treatment of minorities. This new edition includes a new preface that assembles evaluates the data that have come to the fore with regard to the once flourishing Jewish communities of old China, particularly that of Kaifeng, in the years since 1979, when the original manuscript of this book was completed; to correct a number of errors. Numerous illustrations.