



Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China)

By Matthew H. Sommer

Download now

Read Online ➔

Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) By Matthew H. Sommer

This study of the regulation of sexuality in the Qing dynasty explores the social context for sexual behavior criminalized by the state, arguing that the eighteenth century in China was a time of profound change in sexual matters. During this time, the basic organizing principle for state regulation of sexuality shifted away from status, under which members of different groups had long been held to distinct standards of familial and sexual morality. In its place, a new regime of gender mandated a uniform standard of sexual morality and criminal liability across status boundaries?all people were expected to conform to gender roles defined in terms of marriage. This shift in the regulation of sexuality, manifested in official treatment of charges of adultery, rape, sodomy, widow chastity, and prostitution, represented the imperial state's efforts to cope with disturbing social and demographic changes. Anachronistic status categories were discarded to accommodate a more fluid social structure, and the state initiated new efforts to enforce rigid gender roles and thus to shore up the peasant family against a swelling underclass of single, rogue males outside the family system. These men were demonized as sexual predators who threatened the chaste wives and daughters (and the young sons) of respectable households, and a flood of new legislation targeted them for suppression. In addition to presenting official and judicial actions regarding sexuality, the book tells the story of people excluded from accepted patterns of marriage and household who bonded with each other in unorthodox ways (combining sexual union with resource pooling and fictive kinship) to satisfy a range of human needs. This previously invisible dimension of Qing social practice is brought into sharp focus by the testimony, gleaned from local and central court archives, of such marginalized people as peasants, laborers, and beggars.

↓ [Download Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China \(Law, ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China \(La ...pdf](#)

Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China)

By Matthew H. Sommer

Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) By Matthew H. Sommer

This study of the regulation of sexuality in the Qing dynasty explores the social context for sexual behavior criminalized by the state, arguing that the eighteenth century in China was a time of profound change in sexual matters. During this time, the basic organizing principle for state regulation of sexuality shifted away from status, under which members of different groups had long been held to distinct standards of familial and sexual morality. In its place, a new regime of gender mandated a uniform standard of sexual morality and criminal liability across status boundaries?all people were expected to conform to gender roles defined in terms of marriage. This shift in the regulation of sexuality, manifested in official treatment of charges of adultery, rape, sodomy, widow chastity, and prostitution, represented the imperial state's efforts to cope with disturbing social and demographic changes. Anachronistic status categories were discarded to accommodate a more fluid social structure, and the state initiated new efforts to enforce rigid gender roles and thus to shore up the peasant family against a swelling underclass of single, rogue males outside the family system. These men were demonized as sexual predators who threatened the chaste wives and daughters (and the young sons) of respectable households, and a flood of new legislation targeted them for suppression. In addition to presenting official and judicial actions regarding sexuality, the book tells the story of people excluded from accepted patterns of marriage and household who bonded with each other in unorthodox ways (combining sexual union with resource pooling and fictive kinship) to satisfy a range of human needs. This previously invisible dimension of Qing social practice is brought into sharp focus by the testimony, gleaned from local and central court archives, of such marginalized people as peasants, laborers, and beggars.

Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) By Matthew H. Sommer
Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #969380 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Stanford University Press
- Published on: 2002-01-02
- Released on: 2002-01-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.10" w x 6.00" l, 1.31 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 440 pages

 [Download Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China \(Law, ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China \(La ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Review

"This book will be indispensable reading for China scholars studying late imperial law, traditional gender norms, the social life of the non-elite, and the history of the reach of the state. It is simultaneously a primer on traditional Chinese law and a study of law as 18th-century social engineering." (*Journal of Asian Studies*)

"In this fascinating book, Matthew H. Sommer . . . discusses legislation regulating sexuality in China during the Qing dynasty (1644-1912), with looks back into previous dynasties. . . . His work fits with recent interest among history and gender history, but Sommer brings these together in a particularly fruitful manner to give new insights into late imperial society. . . . Sommer's careful theorizing makes *Sex, Law, and Society* important reading for specialists in all periods. At the same time, with its wealth of illustrative details and contextual explanations, the book is accessible to general readers." (*History: Reviews of New Books*)

"Matt Sommer's study of sex and law in late imperial China is a vivid and well-written portrayal of how law worked in several key situations involving the regulation of sexuality: marriage, adultery, prostitution, and sex between men." (*NAN NÜ*)

"This is a valuable book which places the study of sexuality in late imperial China on a much firmer footing than heretofore." (*Eighteenth-Century Studies*)

"This path-breaking book describes how the Qing state dealt with *jian*, a Chinese term which the author translates as "illicit sexual intercourse". . . . Sommer's work provides an unparalleled view of order and disorder in early modern China. It will become a classic of non-Western legal history and required reading for anyone interested in the history of gender and human rights in Asia." (*Comparative Studies in Society & History*)

"It will become a classic of non-Western legal history and required reading for anyone interested in the history of gender and human rights in Asia." (*Comparative Studies in Society and History*)

"The book is meticulously referential and bibliographic, a foundation and primer for further studies in related areas of law and society."—*Journal of Asian History*

From the Inside Flap

This study of the regulation of sexuality in the Qing dynasty explores the social context for sexual behavior criminalized by the state, arguing that the eighteenth century in China was a time of profound change in sexual matters. During this time, the basic organizing principle for state regulation of sexuality shifted away from status, under which members of different groups had long been held to distinct standards of familial and sexual morality. In its place, a new regime of gender mandated a uniform standard of sexual morality and criminal liability across status boundaries—all people were expected to conform to gender roles defined in terms of marriage.

This shift in the regulation of sexuality, manifested in official treatment of charges of adultery, rape, sodomy, widow chastity, and prostitution, represented the imperial state's efforts to cope with disturbing social and demographic changes. Anachronistic status categories were discarded to accommodate a more fluid social structure, and the state initiated new efforts to enforce rigid gender roles and thus to shore up the peasant

family against a swelling underclass of single, rogue males outside the family system. These men were demonized as sexual predators who threatened the chaste wives and daughters (and the young sons) of respectable households, and a flood of new legislation targeted them for suppression.

In addition to presenting official and judicial actions regarding sexuality, the book tells the story of people excluded from accepted patterns of marriage and household who bonded with each other in unorthodox ways (combining sexual union with resource pooling and fictive kinship) to satisfy a range of human needs. This previously invisible dimension of Qing social practice is brought into sharp focus by the testimony, gleaned from local and central court archives, of such marginalized people as peasants, laborers, and beggars.

From the Back Cover

“This book will be indispensable reading for China scholars studying late imperial law, traditional gender norms, the social life of the non-elite, and the history of the reach of the state. It is simultaneously a primer on traditional Chinese law and a study of law as 18th-century social engineering.”—*Journal of Asian Studies*
“This is a valuable book which places the study of sexuality in late imperial China on a much firmer footing than heretofore.”—*Eighteenth-Century Studies*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Martin Phair:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want truly feel happy read one having theme for entertaining like comic or novel. The actual Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) is kind of book which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

Henry Howell:

This Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) are usually reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The explanation of this Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) can be one of many great books you must have will be giving you more than just simple looking at food but feed you actually with information that might be will shock your earlier knowledge. This book is definitely handy, you can bring it almost everywhere and whenever your conditions in e-book and printed types. Beside that this Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) forcing you to have an enormous of experience like rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that could it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

Diana Slama:

Are you kind of stressful person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your day time to upgrading your mind expertise or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book than can satisfy your limited time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find publication that need

more time to be read. Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) can be your answer since it can be read by anyone who have those short free time problems.

Helen Noyola:

The book untitled Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy approach. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was authored by famous author. The author will bring you in the new period of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can start their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice study.

Download and Read Online Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) By Matthew H. Sommer #W6SJNHIY3UD

Read Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) By Matthew H. Sommer for online ebook

Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) By Matthew H. Sommer
Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) By Matthew H. Sommer books to read online.

Online Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) By Matthew H. Sommer ebook PDF download

Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) By Matthew H. Sommer Doc

Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) By Matthew H. Sommer Mobipocket

Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) By Matthew H. Sommer EPub

W6SJNH1Y3UD: Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) By Matthew H. Sommer