



The Wobbling Pivot, China since 1800: An Interpretive History

Pamela Kyle Crossley

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This comprehensive but concise narrative of China since the eighteenth century builds its story around the delicate relationship between central government and local communities.

- Rejects the traditional view of China as a wholly harmonious society based on principles of stability – the *Unwobbling Pivot* of Ezra Pound's translation of the Chinese classic *Zhongyong*
- Provides an original interpretation, arguing that developments can be explained through an understanding of China's surprising swings between centralization and decentralization, between local initiative and central authoritarianism
- Serves as an introduction to the subject, while readers with a background in Chinese history will find the book offers a personal perspective and addresses long-standing interpretive issues
- Supported by a variety of timelines, maps, illustrations, and extensive notes for further reading
- Places China's history within the context of global change

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