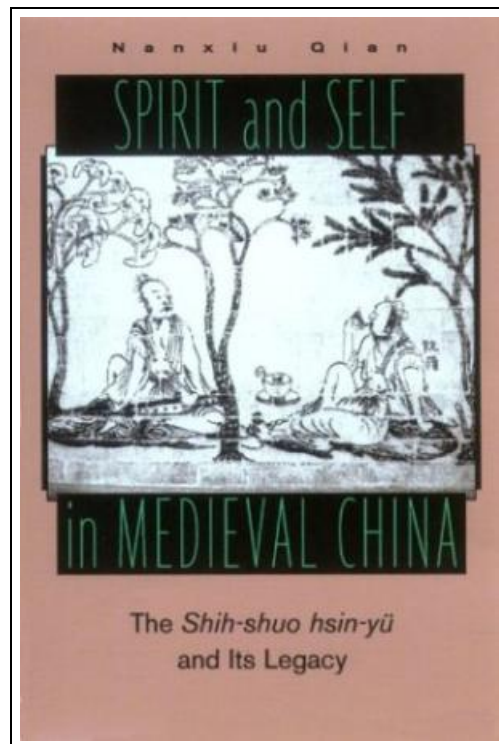


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University of Hawai i Press, United States, 2001. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The Shih-shuo hsin-yu , conventionally translated as *A New Account of Tales of the World* , is one of the most significant works in the entire Chinese literary tradition. It established a genre (the Shih-shuo t i) and inspired dozens of imitations from the later part of the Tang dynasty (618-907) to the early Republican era of the 20th century. The Shih-shuo hsin-yu consists of more than a thousand historical anecdotes about elite life in the late Han dynasty and the Wei-Chin period (about AD 150-420). Despite a general recognition of the place of the 2Shih-shuo hsin-yu in China s literary history (and to a lesser extent that of Japan), the genre itself has never been adequately defined or thoroughly studied. *Spirit and Self in Medieval China* offers a thorough study of the origins and evolution of the Shih-shuo t i based on a comprehensive literary analysis of the Shih-shuo hsin-yu and a systematic documentation and examination of more than 30 imitations. The study also contributes to the growing interest in the Chinese idea of individual identity. By focusing on the Shin-shuo genre, which provides the starting point in China for a systematic literary construction of the self, it demonstrates that, contrary to Western assertions of a timeless Chinese tradition, an authentic understanding of personhood in China changed continually and often significantly in response to changing historical and cultural circumstances.



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