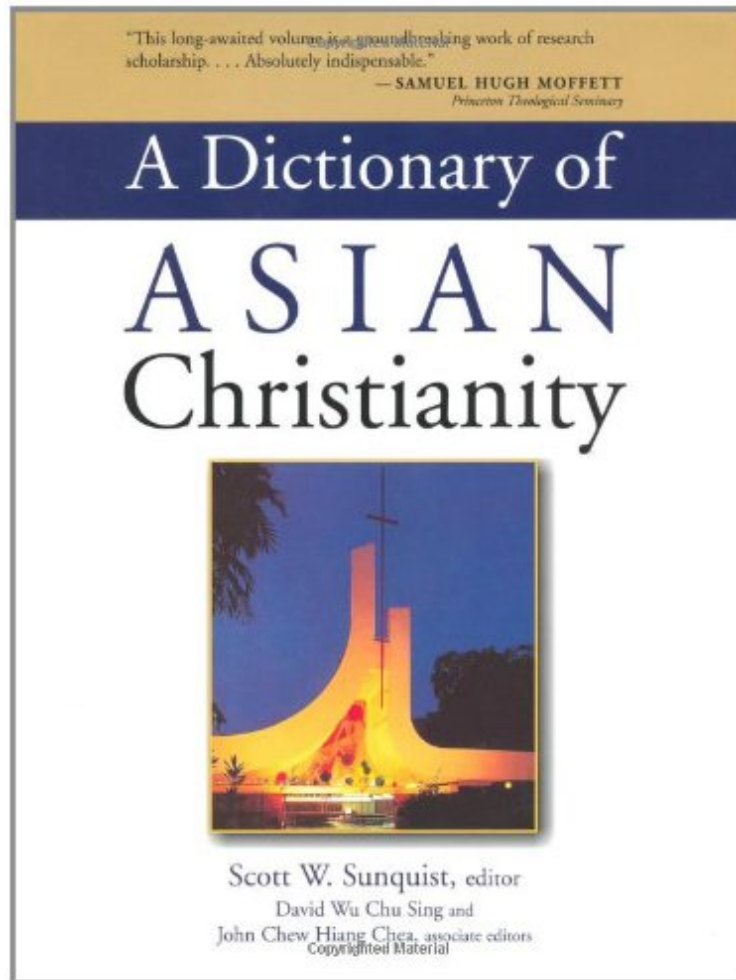


(Mobile book) A Dictionary of Asian Christianity

A Dictionary of Asian Christianity

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From Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company : A Dictionary of Asian Christianity before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Dictionary of Asian Christianity:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy CustomerGood0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Cheers for DAC!By David BurkeDAC is a welcome publication which will open new vistas for Asian and non-Asian readers.Some 1260 articles cover the past story and present shape of Christianity from Pakistan east to the Pacific (with some material on west Asia in early centuries. A wide collection of contributors was assembled, with Asian writers supplying artiucles on areas of specifc interest as well as contributing, editorially, to the shape of the whole volume.Articles cover significant features relating to Christianity as well as to its historical, political, economic, social and religious context. This scope makes DAC valuable beyond immediate interests of browsing or researching in the Christian story.As might be expected in a first attempt at such a vast task, there are

some problems. As a matter of definition, Protestant missionary societies, significant individual churches, theological colleges and other educational institutions are purposefully excluded. This produces some odd results - for example there is no separate article on the China Inland Mission (later to become OMF) which has been and remains, an important contributor to Protestant work in Asia. Some articles are of uneven quality - doubtless due to a paucity of sources and difficulty in finding contributors. These are significant problems and affect the comprehensiveness and reliability of DAC. To some extent, they define the best use of this work as a tool for further reading and research rather than as a normative standard. Nevertheless, the significance of the publication and its value, should be noted. Put simply, there is nothing like it on the market and it opens up material that may otherwise remain hidden in local knowledge and lost over time. DAC is a wonderful step in documenting the story of Asian Christianity and is a timely publication in what has been dubbed 'the Asian century'.

This superb dictionary is the first basic reference work for the study of Asian Christianity. Describing Christianity as it exists in the region from Pakistan to Japan and from Mongolia to Indonesia, this volume's 1,260 signed articles include biographies of important Asian church leaders as well as reliable, up-to-date information on the political, cultural, and religious movements that have shaped the Christian faith in this part of the world. Maps, cross-references, and bibliographies enhance the dictionary's usefulness for teachers, students, and general readers interested in global Christianity.

From Publishers Weekly Although Christianity has been present in Asia for two millennia, it is currently experiencing a period of lightning-quick growth. For the first time, a one-volume reference chronicles the history of Asian Christianity, profiles its major leaders and dissects its various movements and denominations. In *A Dictionary of Asian Christianity*, editor Scott Sunquist includes entries on political events (e.g., the Korean and Vietnam Wars) and also discusses how Christianity has existed side-by-side with indigenous Asian religions such as Buddhism and Hinduism. The entries are marvelously thorough for a dictionary, and well-written. (Eerdmans, \$75 1024p ISBN 0-8028-3776-X; June) Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal A reference work on Asian Christianity is definitely needed, and this one, though highly problematic (and primarily concerned with East and South Asia, excluding Russia) may temporarily fill the gap. The dictionary contains over 1200 signed articles, which include biographies of important Asian church leaders, information on political, cultural, and religious movements in Christianity in this part of the world, and overviews of important doctrinal concerns to Asian Christians. Sunquist (Pittsburgh Theological Seminary) has borrowed heavily from the Japanese-language *Historical Dictionary of Christianity in Japan*, leading to oddities, such as an article on "Hymns (Sambika), Japan" but no articles on hymnody in any other Asian country. Further, the editor's Protestant evangelical view at times conflicts with objectivity and clarity, and the book lacks overall logic. An article on "Cults" does not define the term, covers only Japan and Vietnam, and highlights Latter-Day Saints, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Unification Church, all of which should have been given separate entries. The article on the Khmer Rouge should have indicated their impact on the Christians of Cambodia but contains no mention of Christianity, and the article on Baha'i contains a few misconceptions and deals only with Baha'is in India, although the religion also has large communities in other countries covered by the dictionary. As a result, this dictionary will be partially useful for academic and large public libraries where Asia and Christian religion are of interest, but Eerdmans's *The Encyclopedia of Christianity* (LJ 2/15/99, Vol. 1), when completed, should provide better overall coverage. William P. Collins, Library of Congress Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Christianity is generally regarded as a Western tradition, its history linked to Europe. This view omits a long and rich relationship of Christianity and Asian cultures. Although some scholarly attention of late has been paid to Christianity in Asia, there is now a reference work that gives an overview of how Christianity has shaped and been shaped by many Asian cultures. The 1,260 entries are alphabetically arranged, signed, and conclude with supplemental bibliographies. Worthy of mention is the fact that the majority of contributors are scholars or religious leaders in Asia, intimately associated with the topics about which they write. Many of the articles are short biographies of Asian religious leaders and missionaries from Europe and North America. Political leaders influenced by Christianity (e.g., Katayama Tetsu, in Japan) or whose policies affected Christians (e.g., Sukarno, in Indonesia) are also included. Survey articles on countries provide nice overviews of the history and development of Christianity there. Other entries describe the history of Christian denominations (e.g., Anglican Church, Seventh-day Adventists) in Asia. Roman Catholic and Orthodox religious orders in Asia are discussed, as are such Protestant religious communities such as the Methodist Sitiawan Christian Settlement, in China. Specific Asian approaches to Christian theology are treated in the entries for Minjung Theology, in Korea, and Homeland theology, Taiwan. Finally, issues such as Family, Poverty, Racism, and Secularization are all discussed in their Asian contexts. See and see also references are useful, but they are no substitute for a thorough index. However, given that this work charts new territory, with no competition on reference shelves, the lack of an index is probably a minor complaint. The *Dictionary of Asian Christianity* makes the reference literature for Christianity more complete and is recommended for academic and public libraries that want to add depth to their religion reference collections. It

will be a welcome resource for Asian history and cultural studies, too. RBBCopyright American Library Association.
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