

Routledge Studies in the Modern History of Asia

SINO-MUSLIMS, NETWORKING, AND IDENTITY IN LATE IMPERIAL CHINA

LONGSTANDING NATIVES AND DISPERSED MINORITIES

Shaodan Zhang

ROUTLEDGE


Sino-Muslims, Networking, and Identity in Late Imperial China

This book explores the everyday life of Muslims in late imperial China proper (“Sino-Muslims”), revealing how they integrated themselves into Chinese society, while also maintaining distinct Islamic features.

Deeming “identity” as practical, interactive, and processual, it focuses on Sino-Muslims’ daily networking practices which embodied their numerous processes of identification with people around them. Through an evaluation of such practices, it displays how, since the early seventeenth century, Sino-Muslims vigorously formed and participated in popular religious and secular networks at local, translocal, and China-wide scales, including mosques, merchant associations, gentry groups, Islamic educational and publishing networks. It demonstrates how such networks facilitated Sino-Muslims to become more aligned with the tempo of change in Chinese society and imperial governance, and created for them more ingenious venues and means to identify with Islam. Ultimately it reveals how, by the first half of the nineteenth century, a sense of collectivity—with common knowledge, memory, and discourse—was generated among dispersed Sino-Muslims.

Utilizing Sino-Muslims’ own records such as steles, genealogies, and Chinese Islamic texts, this book will be of interest to scholars and students of comparative Muslim studies, Qing and early modern China, religious and ethnic identity, and professionals of Sino-Arab relations.

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First published 2025
by Routledge
4 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN

and by Routledge
605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

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British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-032-53968-3 (hbk)

ISBN: 978-1-032-53969-0 (pbk)

ISBN: 978-1-003-41455-1 (ebk)

DOI: [10.4324/9781003414551](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003414551)

Typeset in Times New Roman
by KnowledgeWorks Global Ltd.

To Zhang Longyuan and Wang Yinxiu



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