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Muslims in China

A Study in Cultural Confrontation

Raphael Israeli

Preface by C. E. Bosworth

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To
LINDA, SHLOMIT, AVI and DAVID

*Who bore the brunt of the burden and
made it that much easier for me to lift*

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It goes without saying that research of this sort is the fruit of long, often painful, formative years of study and hard work, in which joy and frustration alternate. I feel deeply grateful to many people and institutions for alleviating my hardships and guiding me to higher scholarly accomplishments.

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In this profound and original work, embracing a wide area of research, the author treats first with the position of the Muslims in China and the relations between the Chinese and Muslim populations cast in terms of majority-minority groups and host-guest cultures. Secondly, and against that background, there is an analysis of the 18th and 19th century developments in China which led to the rise of Muslim secessionism and the outbreak of Muslim rebellion; this part is more solidly anchored in historical documentation and provides an interesting historical approach to that important period of Muslim-Chinese relations. It can fairly be claimed that no other work has attempted to present an analysis and record of such an important yet neglected topic, and thus it breaks into fresh ground in this area of Sinological and Islamic studies.

Dr. Israeli is Lecturer in Chinese and Islamic History in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
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