[Review of] *Eastern Learning and the Heavenly Way: The Tonghak and Ch'ondogyo Movements and the Twilight of Korean Independence*

Michael Wert
*Marquette University, michael.wert@marquette.edu*

to a nightstand than a reference collection is not to discount its value in any way. Each individual story is compelling in its own right, and the power of the stories is further enhanced by the ensemble format used and by Walter’s skillful recounting. An index makes the material more accessible, and a short bibliography for each chapter maps out resources for further inquiry. **Summing Up:** ★★★ Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and above; general readers.—D. R. Stewart, Bethel University

52-3056  BQ732  2013-46420  CIP


This book by Wilson (Univ. of Waterloo, Canada) provides an overview of the impact of the Buddhist concept of “mindfulness” on contemporary culture in the United States. It also explores the ways in which traditional Buddhist understandings of mindfulness have been transformed to meet the perceived needs of mostly white, middle-class Americans, thereby creating new forms of Buddhism that often differ significantly from earlier forms. For example, the traditional Buddhist emphasis on detachment from the body and from “self” is transformed into a focus on self-affirmation and appreciation of the body. Also, Buddhism in the US context has often been “medicalized,” placing the focus primarily on benefits such as stress relief and pain reduction and giving less attention to explicitly religious goals such as the attainment of nirvana. The author leaves readers to decide whether such developments are positive or negative. This book does not provide instruction on specific mindfulness practices, but does feature a superb bibliography of contemporary English-language writings on mindfulness, including many books and articles that do provide such detailed instruction. **Summing Up:** ★★ Recommended. Upper-level undergraduates and above.—J. H. Sniegocki, Xavier University

52-3057  BL2240  CIP

Young, Carl F. *Eastern learning and the heavenly way: the Tonghak and Ch’ondogyo movements and the twilight of Korean independence.* Hawai’i/Center for Korean Studies, University of Hawai’i, 2014. 271p bibl index map ISBN 9780824838881 cloth, $49.00

Young’s book is an excellent example of balance. On the one hand, Young (history, Univ. of Western Ontario) details the internal challenges and changes within the nativist Tonghak and Ch’ondogyo religious movements, from 1894 to 1910, and their role in the Korean independence struggles up to Japan’s annexation of Korea. Of particular interest to scholars will be Young’s fresh interpretations of the followers of Tonghak and Ch’ondogyo, namely, how people involved in those groups did not simply act in unison to further Korean independence. On the other hand, Young provides an engaging account of how those histories tie into broader events and intellectual trends in East Asia. For example, Ch’ondogyo, a reformed version of Tonghak that deemphasized the folk practices that were considered superstitious, adopted new ideas of “civilization and enlightenment” learned during its founder’s time in Japan, while still retaining concepts from Chinese philosophy. This book will interest historians as well as those who study religions and how they addressed social, intellectual, and political developments during late-19th and early-20th-century modernity. **Summing Up:** ★★★ Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty.—M. J. Wirt, Marquette University

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

52-3058  Q175  2013-34908  CIP


This dense volume attempts to integrate many disparate topics, including biology, sociology, climate change, spirituality, philosophy, etc., pointing out how an understanding of emergent properties can change one’s perspective about many of these. Although Capra (Schumacher College, UK; Center for Ecoliteracy, Berkeley, California) and Luisi (Roma Tre Univ., Italy) state that the book was “written primarily for undergraduates,” many would have a hard time navigating the vocabulary and the theoretical and historical concepts needed to fully understand the ideas. The authors point out that a more holistic view of life on Earth is needed to address serious problems such as climate change and attempt to outline the path toward that more holistic view. In the end, however, this humancentric approach blurs the concept that all life on this planet is related. Understanding the roles of other life-forms means that humans must also understand that they are not the only important species on the planet, and this book, with its intense focus on human life and human systems, may not contribute much to that critical understanding. It will help readers realize the importance of emergent properties in aiding understanding of the planet, but the breadth of topics covered here makes finding that focus hard. **Summing Up:** ★★★ Recommended. Graduate students and above.—D. A. Rintoul, Kansas State University

52-3059  GE170  2013-47695  CIP


Cohen (Columbia Univ.) describes and applies a multidimensional framework for analyzing environmental problems. Values, politics, technology/science, policy design, and management are the key dimensions in the framework. Case studies illustrate the framework and help readers appreciate—and hopefully move beyond—the tendency of a single point of view to dominate any given actor’s approach to a problem. The framework and cases together also drive home the insight that these are hard problems with long, complex policy lives. Students who “get” these points and the author’s useful framework will be well positioned to think in sophisticated, creative ways about environmental policy challenges. Cohen himself seems to implicitly pin his hopes for the future on changes in values. His opening and closing arguments are essentially about how values interact with politics to determine first what gets onto a political agenda and, second, how agenda issues get framed. Cohen is relatively silent, though, on how values do or might undergo change. This new edition (1st ed., CH, Dec’06, 44-2099) contains updated case studies and three excellent new ones on fracking, electronic waste, and congestion pricing. Each is well described, engaging, and memorable, making them especially valuable as teaching tools, not just thoughtful, timely analyses. **Summing Up:** ★★★★ Highly recommended. Undergraduate students and general readers.—J. R. Meszaros, National Science Foundation