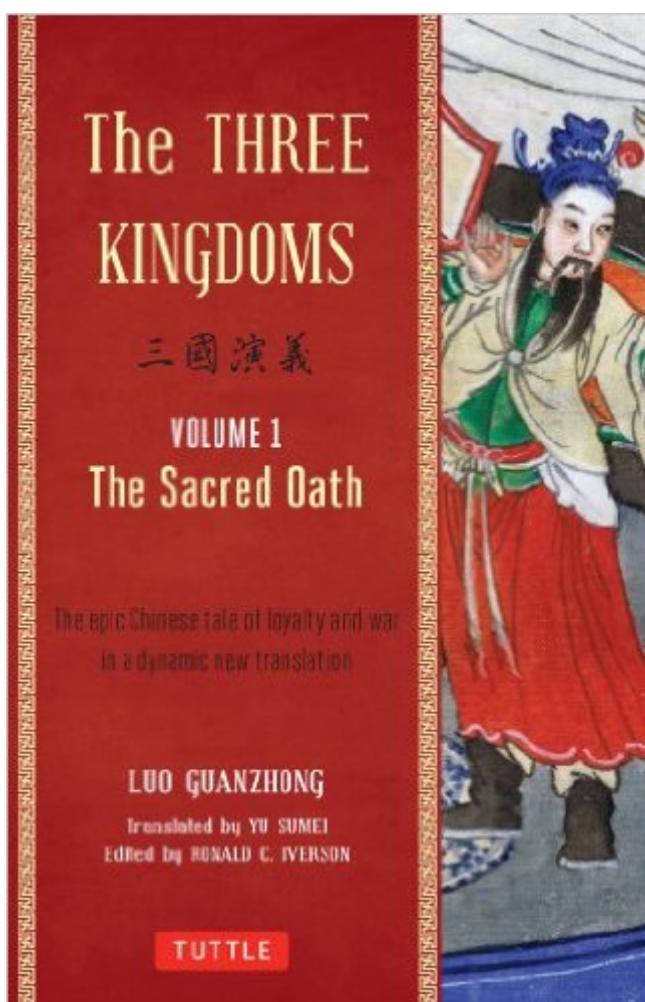


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The Three Kingdoms, Volume 1: The Sacred Oath: The Epic Chinese Tale Of Loyalty And War In A Dynamic New Translation



Synopsis

This exciting new translation with footnotes will appeal to modern readers who find the twists and turns of Game of Thrones so compelling. The Three Kingdoms is an epic Chinese novel written over six centuries ago. It recounts in vivid historical detail the turbulent years at the close of the Han Dynasty, when China broke into three competing kingdoms and over half the population were either killed or driven from their homes. Part myth, part fact, readers will experience the loyalty and treachery, the brotherhood and rivalry of China's legendary heroes and villains during the most tumultuous period in Chinese history. Considered the greatest work in classic Chinese literature, The Three Kingdoms is read by millions throughout Asia today. Seen not just as a great work of art, many Chinese view it as a guide to success in life and business as well as a work that offers great moral clarity; while many foreigners read it to gain insights into Chinese society and culture. From the saga of The Three Kingdoms, readers will learn how great warriors motivate their troops and enhance their influence, while disguising their weaknesses and turning the strengths of others against them.

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Customer Reviews

I found this new translation of Three Kingdoms by Ronald Iverson to be a compelling adventure story that was hard to put down. The story was so well written, that I could not stop turning the pages to read on. The dialog flowed so smoothly that I felt compelled to turn the page, page after page, to read on. Though I have traveled to China, I felt the characters come alive in a way I never experienced before. It is now easier for me to understand the culture of China after reading this new translation, in a way not possible before. This book brought me new insights into the human dramas that have shaped the culture of China. It is no wonder that Three Kingdoms is one of the four classics of Chinese literature. This new translation, in an easy reading version, with complete fidelity to the original Chinese version, will surely give new insights for visitors to China. I liked the short poetic entrees interspersed within the story, which expressed a pithy addition to add interest to the story. The footnotes at the bottom of the pages were helpful in understanding Chinese terms Westerners are unfamiliar with. The list of main characters listed in front of the book, with brief identity information on each was helpful too, since Chinese names are new to me and sometimes hard to remember. I strongly recommend this new translation to anyone who loves literature or seeks to better understand Chinese culture. Linda L Scoller, Global Training Services

I found the new translation of Three Kingdoms by Ronald Iverson to be an exciting adventure story. It reads like a compelling action novel rather than an historical translation. It reads in easy flowing dialog and narrative that pulls the reader along with exciting action sequences with details that make everything seem real. The fact that Three Kingdoms is a story based on actual facts makes the story especially compelling. The episodes of loyalty and betrayal, and the actions of ambitious leaders give insight into human nature. Even though the story is about events that happened in China nearly 2,000 years ago, the human interaction seems as real today as then. It is no wonder that Three Kingdoms is one of the four classics of Chinese literature. The strategies and the competition of wits are marvels of the imagination. I was particularly impressed with the role of Advisors to the Chinese Warlord leaders. Every situation then and now is a composite of conflicting issues. These Advisors would bring clarity to a situation and suggest implementation concepts; sometimes the results were wisely chosen, other times not. As a business man I enjoy reading about how issues can be viewed differently by different people but the leader has to make his decision between various alternatives and hope for good results. The appropriate footnotes add meaningful understanding to the story as it unfolds. I am surprised that this important book is not more widely known by Americans. A true Treasure. Bob Pritchard - CEO Johnstone Supply Santa Ana

Ego and vanity in Three Kingdoms This translation of Three Kingdoms exceeded my expectations. It reads like an action novel rather than a history book of events that happened 1800 years ago. This translation of this classic of Chinese literature is filled with exciting events of cunning strategies and episodes where the leading characters showed their human vanities and ego not just in matters of military-political control but matters of the heart. I was surprised to read how romantic feelings of these main characters often played a role in the events that played out. It was compelling to read how carefully planned strategies were frustrated by clever schemes of their adversaries. Cao Cao often relied on military strength to achieve his goals however he met his match with his competition with Zhuge Liang who used wisdom and clever schemes to win the day over and over with exciting surprise tactics. And sometimes it was a woman's role that changed the course of events which changed the dynamics of the whole situation. Sometimes it involved romance and other times it was a mother whose influence which created an unexpected turn of events which changed the results of plans by the competing forces. The dialog style of this book makes the stories come alive, pulling the reader into the exciting events. A minimum amount of narrative is just right to give extra impact to the dialog. The many Chinese names were often hard to follow, but the glossary to main characters with a brief description of their role was very helpful. I would just look to the front of the book to recall the position character held in the story and then continue on with reading. The footnotes at the bottom of the pages were also quite helpful in understanding the story since many terms and episodes required a brief explanation for clarification. All in all this Three Kingdoms book has been a great adventure into insights into human nature and Chinese culture.

Great translation of an Eastern classic! This new version is so much easier to read and full of beautiful description that really keeps the story both one of strong meaning and constant intrigue and action, The author really knows how to pace the story to keep me wanting to know what's next. Will definitely continue the trilogy:)

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