



**Amazon Book Description:** *A New History of Christianity in China*, written by one of the world's leading writers on Christianity in China, looks at Christianity's long history in China, its extraordinarily rapid rise in the last half of the twentieth century, and charts its future direction. 252 pages July 2011, Wiley-Blackwell

**Kanon Book Review:** This book gives a very scholarly and comprehensive view of the history of Christianity in China. Most of the content in the book focuses on the efforts of the Catholic and Protestant missionaries to evangelize China. There are many lessons I learned from reading this book. I learned that many times in Chinese history Christian Missionaries or people claiming to be associated with Christianity have intentionally or unintentionally aligned themselves with groups fighting against the Chinese government. This has happened over and over again and explains why today the Chinese government has such a suspicion and dislike for missionaries. Another thing that stood out to me is that there is a reoccurring theme throughout Chinese Christian history that missionaries are unwilling to turn over the leadership of their churches and institutions to Chinese nationals. This explains why Christianity is so often seen as a foreign religion and foreign to Chinese culture. The book also helped me learn about the beginnings and development of different Christian groups that became popular in China. Three of the groups the book talked about are: The True Jesus Church, The Jesus Family, and Watchman Nee's group of followers. Reading about the history of Christianity in China was very insightful. I learned that the government's attitude towards Christianity in China has followed a specific pattern over the years. The government will permit Christianity to grow for a while and then a war or change in government will come about and they turn on Christianity and seek to suppress it or wipe it out. I enjoyed the book and think it helps me understand how China got to where it is today and how the same patterns may continue into the future. I would give the book a good review. If you are specifically interested in missions in China, then I would strongly recommend reading this book.