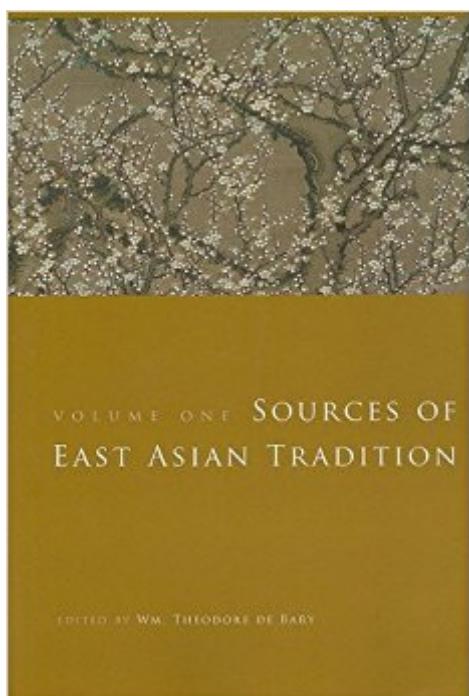


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# Sources Of East Asian Tradition, Vol. 1: Premodern Asia (Introduction To Asian Civilizations)



## **Synopsis**

In Sources of East Asian Tradition, Wm. Theodore de Bary offers a selection of essential readings from his immensely popular anthologies Sources of Chinese Tradition, Sources of Korean Tradition, and Sources of Japanese Tradition so readers can experience a concise but no less comprehensive portrait of the social, intellectual, and religious traditions of East Asia. Volume 1 samples writings from the earliest times to 1600, illuminating life in early China and the first imperial age, as well as the profound impact of Daoism, Buddhism, the Confucian revival, and Neo-Confucianism; the origins of Korean culture and political structures, up through the Choson dynasty; and major developments in early and medieval Japan. De Bary maintains his trademark balance of source materials, including seminal readings in the areas of history, society, politics, education, philosophy, and religion, thereby continuing his own tradition of providing an exceptional resource for teachers, scholars, students, and the general reader.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The selections are excellent, translations faithful and elegant, and introductions terse and to the point. If I were asked to recommend only one book for anyone who wishes to know something about Chinese culture, I would name, without a moment of hesitation, Sources of Chinese Tradition.

(Ying-shih Yu, Princeton University)[Sources of Korean Tradition provides] a unique view of Korean history via the eyes and words of the participants and/or witnesses themselves. Official documents, letters, policies and personal opinions written by the people who helped make Korea, reveal the Korea that most outsiders would never know. (Korean Quarterly)Sources of Japanese Tradition has

proved to be invaluable to the study of Japanese history and culture. Its publication is welcome news to teachers and students of Japanese civilization and all those who are interested in the origins of contemporary Japanese society and culture. (Akira Iriye, author of Cultural Internationalism and World Order) This title is recommended for academic libraries for their history and Asian collections. (Kay M. Stebbins American Reference Books Annual)

Wm. Theodore de Bary is the John Mitchell Mason Professor Emeritus and provost emeritus of Columbia University and past president of the Association for Asian Studies. He has written extensively on Confucianism in East Asia and is the coeditor of Sources of Chinese Tradition, Sources of Japanese Tradition, and Sources of Korean Tradition.

good

Used for a class on Eastern Religions. The book is a bit presumptuous. I had a hard time picking out the audience for whom it was written. The portion given to explain the writings often seemed to be disjointed from the actual writing later included. I do not think it is a good selection for an overview class. I think the goal of the book is to provide the reader a sample of many of the writings. Do not buy if you want explanations or thoughts laid out for you. I was disappointed.

Though intimidating in size, this text has great introductions and then well selected excerpts from primary texts. I would say that the reading level of this book is quite high and that ESL learners may struggle with it. I read this text with an interest in Confucianism and Buddhism, and the text does a good job of filling in many gaps for the novice. It also does a good job covering the political history of Korea, China and Japan. In short, this text really is quite comprehensive. Probably best read by those with little to an intermediate level background knowledge in all of this stuff. An expert may find this somewhat banal.

A well-written, easy to read and comprehensive guide to East Asian history/civilizations. A must read for prospective Asian Studies students or just anyone interested in learning about a fascinating and dynamic area of the world.

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