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978-0-521-10704-4 - Population and Marketing Settlements in Ch'ing China

Gilbert Rozman

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The historical records of Ch'ing China (1644–1911) contain numerous statistics concerning the population in local areas and the distribution of markets. These figures provide information on two of the most important and least understood factors that were to affect China's modern development: the massive population growth prior to 1850 and the tenacity of small-scale markets as the focus of commercialization. This book presents and evaluates the data from northern China to ascertain the quality of available records and to determine what they can tell us about variations from area to area and from period to period. The analysis of population centers on sex ratios, age distributions, mean household size, and growth rates. This is followed by an examination of the changing number of markets per capita across twenty-seven prefectures over three centuries. Without overlooking limitations in the data, this study emphasizes the implications of the findings for general problems in the social history of the Ch'ing period.

Gilbert Rozman is Professor of Sociology at Princeton University.

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GILBERT ROZMAN

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