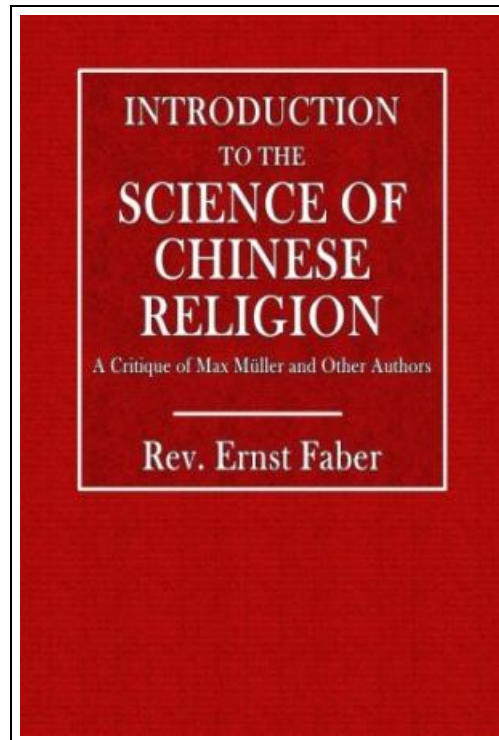


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INTRODUCTION TO THE SCIENCE OF CHINESE RELIGION: A CRITIQUE OF MAX MULLER AND OTHER AUTHORS (PAPERBACK)



Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. From the INTRODUCTION. The Chinese, Mr. Fairbairn writes, may be selected as a contrast to the Hebrew and the Teuton: They are a people singularly deficient in the religious faculty. They are a gifted race, ingenious, inventive yet imitative, patient, industrious, frugal. Their civilization is ancient, their literary capacity considerable, their classics receive an almost religious reverence. But this people has a so attenuated religious faculty or genius, that it can hardly be said ever to have known religion (!), at least as Semitic and Indo-European peoples understand it. Their notions of deity are so formless and fluid that it can be argued, just as one interprets their speech, either that they are theists or atheists. They reverence humanity as typified, not in the endless promise and hope of the future, but in the completed characters and achievements of the past. Their piety is filial, their worship ancestral. There are, indeed, three established religions, but, not to speak of an advice to have nothing to do with any one of them given by a late emperor to his people, two would hardly be classed as such in any other country than China, while the third is a religion imported from India, and so depraved by the change that the Buddhism of the civilized Chinese stands beneath that of Tartary and Thibet. This one quotation, taken from the recent work of an accomplished and erudite author, may suffice for many of a similar character. Most of the writers on China state that the Chinese are not a religious people, that they are indifferent to all religious creeds. Such vague assertions are commonly far from the truth. I, from my own...

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