



The Annals of Lü Buwei

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This is the first complete English translation of *Lüshi chunqiu*, compiled in 239 b. c. under the patronage of Lü Buwei, prime minister to the ruler of the state of Qin, who was to become the first emperor of a newly unified China fifteen years later. Lü retained a group of scholars whose aim was to encompass the world's knowledge in one great encyclopedia; so delighted was Lü with the finished work that he is said to have offered a fabulous prize of gold to anyone who could add or subtract even a single word.

An exceptionally rich and comprehensive compendium, *The Annals of Lü Buwei* recounts in engaging, straightforward, and readable prose the great variety of beliefs and customs of its time. The work is one of the great monuments of Chinese thinking, a work of originality and cohesion, inspired by a vision of a universal empire ruled by principles that ensured harmony between man and nature, protective of human and animal life, devoted to learning and culture, practicing benevolence and kindness, and motivated by reason and morality. In addition to revealing an advanced state of technical knowledge, the *Annals* set forth a philosophy of government suitable to the centralized control that the Qin state would subsequently establish. It also took into account every philosophical trend of the day, sometimes adapting themes, sometimes combining ideas that had not previously been associated, sometimes rejecting and refuting positions that were in conflict with its basic vision. Because Lü aimed at comprehensiveness, his work preserved a number of systems of thought that are otherwise unknown or scarcely known. The *Annals* thus provides an essential tool for anyone seeking to reconstruct the philosophical controversies of the third century b. c. At the same time, Lü's compendium proclaims his independent, highly original philosophical positions. Today, with most of the works of classical Chinese philosophy long lost, *The Annals of Lü Buwei* remains indispensable as a summa of the Chinese intellectual world of its time.

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The Annals of Lü Buwei From Brand: Stanford University Press Bibliography

- Rank: #1686094 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Stanford University Press
- Published on: 2001-01-01
- Original language: Chinese
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 2.00" w x 6.00" l, 2.76 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 880 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Knoblock (philosophy, Univ. of Miami, FL) and Riegel (Chinese, Univ. of California, Berkeley) make a signal contribution to the translated canon of Chinese historical/philosophical works with this version of the *Lü shi chun qiu*, the third-century B.C.E. work commissioned by Qin dynasty merchant and prime minister Lü Buwei. This compendium of early Chinese thought, divided into three sections, is also a work of history, an almanac, and a manual of state ritual. Though it was written at a time when legalism dominated the philosophical schools in China, it is quite anti-Legalist in tone. Not only do the editors provide a highly readable and complete translation of the work, but they also offer an annotated text in Chinese, following the time-honored Sinological tradition. By basing their translation on Chen Qiyong's critical edition, which was used by Taiwan's Academic Sinica for an electronic database, they allow readers to consult the full text (www.sinica.edu.tw/ftms-bin/ftmsw3). In the book, the reader can consult the entire text, with its almanacs and essays on history and other subjects in its distinctive Taoistic tone, as well as valuable appendixes, including fragments and a preface to the text, affiliations reflected in each chapter, an alphabetical finding list, and an extensive glossary. This translation is in accord with the high standards set by Lü when he first commissioned this encyclopedic work. Recommended for East Asian collections in public and academic libraries. DD.E. Perushek, Northwestern Univ. Lib., Evanston, IL
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Review

"John Knoblock and Jeffrey Riegel have provided us with a marvelous work in this first rate annotated translation of the complete extant text, as well as extensive notes and appendices. . . . In the past, we have found ourselves in debt to the late John Knoblock for his *Xunzi*. Now we are further indebted to him and Jeffrey Riegel for this splendid scholarly work." (*American Journal of Chinese Studies*)

"This book gives us the first complete English translation of the *Lüshi chunqiu*. . . . Knoblock and Riegel aim for a book "in convenient form that will serve the needs of the general reader while providing the scholar with the information necessary to understand the decisions we have made in translating the text." They have succeeded admirably. . . . Recommended for all collections on early China." (*Religious Studies Review*)

From the Inside Flap

This is the first complete English translation of *Lüshi chunqiu*, compiled in 239 b. c. under the patronage of Lü Buwei, prime minister to the ruler of the state of Qin, who was to become the first emperor of a newly unified China fifteen years later. Lü retained a group of scholars whose aim was to encompass the world's knowledge in one great encyclopedia; so delighted was Lü with the finished work that he is said to have offered a fabulous prize of gold to anyone who could add or subtract even a single word.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lester Jaworski:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always try and must have the spare time or they will get wide range of stress from both everyday life and work. So , when we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the book you have read will be The Annals of Lü Buwei.

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