

romance of the three kingdoms pdf

romance of the three kingdoms pdf is a highly sought-after resource for readers and scholars interested in one of China's Four Great Classical Novels. This epic historical novel, attributed to Luo Guanzhong, narrates the turbulent years towards the end of the Han dynasty and the Three Kingdoms period. Accessing a romance of the three kingdoms pdf enables enthusiasts to explore the intricate tales of loyalty, strategy, and warfare that have shaped East Asian literature and culture for centuries. This article provides an in-depth overview of the romance of the three kingdoms pdf, its historical significance, how to find authentic versions, and its impact on literature and popular media. Additionally, it covers the story's key themes, characters, and recommended reading formats to enhance the experience. Readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of why romance of the three kingdoms pdf remains a valuable digital resource for modern audiences. The following sections detail these aspects systematically to guide both newcomers and longtime fans through this classic masterpiece.

- Understanding Romance of the Three Kingdoms
- Accessing the Romance of the Three Kingdoms PDF
- Historical and Cultural Significance
- Key Themes and Characters
- Formats and Translations of the PDF
- Impact on Literature and Popular Media

Understanding Romance of the Three Kingdoms

The romance of the three kingdoms is a monumental Chinese historical novel that weaves fiction with historical facts. Comprised of 120 chapters, the narrative covers the years from the decline of the Han dynasty to the eventual establishment of the Jin dynasty. It is known for its vivid storytelling, complex characters, and depiction of warfare, politics, and strategy. The novel is a blend of heroism, myth, and historical realism, making it a cornerstone of East Asian literary heritage. Utilizing a romance of the three kingdoms pdf allows readers to delve into this intricate saga in an accessible digital format.

Origins and Authorship

The novel was compiled and written by Luo Guanzhong during the 14th century. It is based on earlier historical records, oral traditions, and folklore surrounding the Three Kingdoms period (220–280 AD). Luo's work popularized the events and figures through dramatized episodes that emphasize loyalty, honor, and warfare. The romance of the three kingdoms pdf editions often include annotations and commentaries that help contextualize the story for modern readers.

Plot Overview

The story revolves around the power struggles between the three dominant states: Wei, Shu, and Wu. Central figures such as Liu Bei, Cao Cao, and Sun Quan are portrayed with nuanced personalities. The novel explores themes of brotherhood, strategy, betrayal, and destiny. Accessing the romance of the three kingdoms pdf offers a detailed narrative journey through battles, alliances, and political intrigue that define the era.

Accessing the Romance of the Three Kingdoms PDF

With the rise of digital libraries and e-books, the romance of the three kingdoms pdf has become widely available for readers worldwide. However, obtaining an authentic and high-quality version requires careful consideration. Various editions exist, ranging from direct translations to annotated scholarly works. Understanding where and how to obtain a reliable romance of the three kingdoms pdf is essential for an enriching reading experience.

Sources for Download

Many academic platforms, public domain repositories, and digital bookstores provide access to the romance of the three kingdoms pdf. Some editions are free, especially those that have entered the public domain, while others may be available for purchase with added features such as modern commentary and detailed footnotes. When searching for a romance of the three kingdoms pdf, prioritizing versions with accurate translations and thorough annotations is advisable.

Considerations for Quality and Legality

It is important to verify the legitimacy of the romance of the three kingdoms pdf source to avoid pirated or incomplete versions. Many reputable publishers offer legal downloads, ensuring the text's integrity and supporting the continued study of classic literature. Additionally, some PDFs include supplementary materials such as character glossaries and historical timelines that enhance comprehension.

Historical and Cultural Significance

The romance of the three kingdoms pdf is not merely a literary work but a cultural artifact reflecting Chinese history and societal values. The novel has influenced countless adaptations in literature, theater, film, and video games, cementing its role as a cultural touchstone. Understanding its historical and cultural significance enriches the reading of any romance of the three kingdoms pdf edition.

Reflection of Chinese History

The novel dramatizes real historical events, providing insights into the political fragmentation and warfare of ancient China. It highlights the complexity of loyalty and power dynamics during the Three Kingdoms era. The romance of the three kingdoms pdf serves as an educational tool for students and historians alike, offering a narrative lens through which to examine this pivotal period.

Cultural Impact and Legacy

Beyond its historical context, the romance of the three kingdoms has shaped Chinese cultural identity. Its characters and stories are embedded in Chinese folklore, idioms, and moral lessons. The availability of the romance of the three kingdoms pdf facilitates global dissemination of this cultural heritage, allowing a broader audience to engage with its enduring themes.

Key Themes and Characters

The romance of the three kingdoms pdf explores numerous themes and introduces a vast cast of characters whose actions drive the epic narrative. Understanding these elements is crucial for appreciating the depth and complexity of the novel.

Prominent Themes

- **Loyalty and Brotherhood:** Central to the story is the concept of sworn brotherhood, epitomized by the oath of the Peach Garden among Liu Bei, Guan Yu, and Zhang Fei.
- **Strategy and Warfare:** Detailed descriptions of battles and tactical maneuvers highlight the importance of intelligence and planning.
- **Fate and Destiny:** The narrative often reflects on the inevitability of certain outcomes despite human efforts.
- **Political Intrigue:** The novel depicts complex negotiations, alliances, and betrayals among competing warlords.

Major Characters

Key figures in the romance of the three kingdoms pdf include:

- **Liu Bei:** The benevolent leader striving to restore the Han dynasty.
- **Cao Cao:** A cunning and ambitious warlord controlling the northern territories.
- **Sun Quan:** The ruler of the southern Wu kingdom known for his strategic acumen.
- **Zhuge Liang:** The brilliant strategist serving Liu Bei.
- **Guan Yu and Zhang Fei:** Famous warriors and sworn brothers of Liu Bei.

Formats and Translations of the PDF

The romance of the three kingdoms pdf is available in multiple formats and translations, each catering to different reader preferences and needs. Selecting the right version enhances comprehension and enjoyment.

Translation Variations

Translations range from literal, scholarly versions to more accessible, narrative-driven adaptations. Some popular English translations aim to preserve the poetic and historical nuances, while others focus on readability. When choosing a romance of the three kingdoms pdf, readers should consider the translator's background and fidelity to the original text.

Annotated vs. Unannotated Editions

Annotated PDFs provide valuable context, explanations of archaic terms, and historical references. These editions are ideal for academic study or readers new to Chinese history. Unannotated versions may appeal to those seeking a straightforward reading experience.

Additional Formats

Besides the PDF format, the romance of the three kingdoms is also available as audiobooks, ePubs, and printed books. However, the romance of the three kingdoms pdf remains popular due to its portability and ease of access across devices.

Impact on Literature and Popular Media

The romance of the three kingdoms pdf has inspired a vast array of adaptations and reinterpretations across various media platforms. Its influence extends beyond literature into modern entertainment and education.

Adaptations in Media

The novel has been adapted into operas, films, television dramas, and video games. These adaptations often draw upon the romance of the three kingdoms pdf for source material, reimagining the story for contemporary audiences while preserving core themes and characters.

Continued Relevance

The enduring popularity of the romance of the three kingdoms pdf underscores its relevance in exploring themes of leadership, morality, and strategy. It remains a subject of study in literature, history, and political science, proving its timeless appeal and educational value.

Influence on Modern Storytelling

Many modern narratives incorporate elements from the romance of the three kingdoms, such as complex character relationships and strategic conflict. The availability of a romance of the three kingdoms pdf enables creators and scholars to engage deeply with the source material, ensuring its continued impact on global culture.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find a free PDF of Romance of the Three Kingdoms?

You can find free PDFs of Romance of the Three Kingdoms on websites like Project Gutenberg, Archive.org, or other public domain book repositories.

Is the Romance of the Three Kingdoms PDF available in English?

Yes, there are English translations of Romance of the Three Kingdoms available in PDF format online, including the well-known translation by C.H. Brewitt-Taylor.

Are there annotated versions of Romance of the Three Kingdoms in PDF?

Yes, some annotated versions of Romance of the Three Kingdoms are available in PDF, which include notes and explanations to help readers understand historical and cultural contexts.

Can I legally download Romance of the Three Kingdoms PDF for free?

Yes, because Romance of the Three Kingdoms was published in the 14th century, it is in the public domain, so legal free downloads of the text, especially older translations, are available.

What file size should I expect for a complete Romance of the Three Kingdoms PDF?

A complete Romance of the Three Kingdoms PDF typically ranges from 1MB to 10MB depending on

formatting, inclusion of illustrations, and annotations.

Are there modern editions of Romance of the Three Kingdoms available in PDF?

Modern editions with updated translations and commentary may be available in PDF format, but some might require purchase or access through academic libraries.

How does the PDF version of Romance of the Three Kingdoms compare to physical copies?

The PDF version offers convenience and easy access, especially for searching and portability, while physical copies provide a tactile reading experience and sometimes richer illustrations or higher print quality.

Additional Resources

1. Romance of the Three Kingdoms

This classic Chinese novel, attributed to Luo Guanzhong, dramatizes the turbulent years at the end of the Han Dynasty and the Three Kingdoms period. It blends history, legend, and myth to depict the power struggles among warlords and their quest for dominance. The story is rich with memorable characters, such as Liu Bei, Cao Cao, and Zhuge Liang, highlighting themes of loyalty, strategy, and heroism.

2. The Art of War by Sun Tzu

Though not a narrative novel, this ancient military treatise is closely linked to the strategies employed during the Three Kingdoms era. Its principles of warfare, leadership, and strategy influenced many characters and battles depicted in Romance of the Three Kingdoms. Understanding this text provides deeper insight into the tactics and decisions within the novel.

3. Three Kingdoms: A Historical Novel by Moss Roberts

This is a modern English translation of the Romance of the Three Kingdoms, praised for its readability and fidelity to the original text. Roberts provides extensive notes and historical context, making it accessible for contemporary readers interested in Chinese literature and history. The translation captures the epic scope and dramatic intensity of the original work.

4. The Three Kingdoms: Volume 1 by Luo Guanzhong, translated by C.H. Brewitt-Taylor

One of the earliest English translations of Romance of the Three Kingdoms, this version offers a traditional and somewhat Victorian reading experience. It remains a valuable resource for readers seeking a classic translation and a detailed understanding of the novel's complex narrative and characters.

5. Records of the Three Kingdoms by Chen Shou

This historical text is the primary source material upon which *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* is based. It provides factual accounts of the events, people, and politics during the Three Kingdoms period. Reading this alongside the novel offers a comparison between historical record and literary embellishment.

6. *The Monkey and the Tiger: The Romance of the Three Kingdoms Retold* by John Minford

A retelling aimed at younger audiences and those new to the story, this version simplifies the complex plot and characters while retaining the essence of the epic. It serves as an engaging introduction to the themes of loyalty, bravery, and intrigue in the Three Kingdoms saga.

7. *Three Kingdoms: The Epic of Ancient China* by Guanzhong Luo, translated by Yu Sumei

This edition combines the original text with modern commentary and illustrations, providing a visually rich and informative experience. It is designed for readers who appreciate both the literary and artistic aspects of Chinese classics.

8. *The Water Margin* by Shi Nai'an

While not about the Three Kingdoms, this novel is another of China's Four Great Classical Novels and shares thematic elements of heroism, rebellion, and loyalty. It complements *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* by offering a different perspective on Chinese history and folklore.

9. *Romance of the Three Kingdoms: A New Translation* by Yu Sumei

This recent translation aims to balance accuracy with readability, making the story accessible to modern readers without losing the novel's poetic and dramatic qualities. It includes detailed introductions to the historical context, character biographies, and explanations of cultural references.

[Romance Of The Three Kingdoms Pdf](#)

Romance of the Three Kingdoms PDF: Unlocking the Epic Tale

Are you captivated by the legendary tales of ancient China, but frustrated by inaccessible or poorly translated versions of *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*? Do you yearn to delve into the intricate plots, captivating characters, and breathtaking battles of this classic novel, but find the sheer length and complexity daunting? Do you struggle to find a reliable, readable PDF version that doesn't sacrifice accuracy for convenience?

This ebook solves those problems. *Romance of the Three Kingdoms: A Comprehensive Guide & Accessible PDF* provides you with a meticulously curated and easily digestible version of this historical masterpiece, alongside insightful commentary and analysis to enhance your reading experience.

Ebook Title: Romance of the Three Kingdoms: A Comprehensive Guide & Accessible PDF

Author: Dr. Jian Li (Fictional Author for this example)

Contents:

Introduction: A brief overview of the novel's historical context, its enduring popularity, and its key themes.

Chapter 1: The Yellow Turban Rebellion and the Rise of the Three Kingdoms: Exploring the events that set the stage for the conflict, introducing key players, and establishing the political landscape.

Chapter 2: The Strategies and Tactics of War: Analyzing the military strategies employed by the major players, focusing on key battles and their significance.

Chapter 3: The Characters: Heroes, Villains, and Ambiguity: A detailed look at the principal characters, their motivations, flaws, and impact on the narrative.

Chapter 4: Love, Loyalty, and Betrayal: Exploring the Themes: A deep dive into the novel's complex themes of love, loyalty, betrayal, ambition, and the nature of power.

Chapter 5: The Legacy of the Three Kingdoms: Exploring the lasting impact of the novel on Chinese culture and literature, and its relevance today.

Conclusion: Summarizing the key takeaways and encouraging further exploration of the Three Kingdoms era.

Appendix: Includes the accessible PDF of a well-regarded translation of Romance of the Three Kingdoms.

Romance of the Three Kingdoms: A Comprehensive Guide & Accessible PDF - A Deep Dive

This article provides a detailed exploration of the topics covered in the ebook, "Romance of the Three Kingdoms: A Comprehensive Guide & Accessible PDF." Each section will correspond to a chapter in the book, offering a richer understanding of the novel and its enduring appeal.

1. Introduction: Unveiling the Epic

The Romance of the Three Kingdoms (often shortened to Three Kingdoms) isn't just a novel; it's a cultural cornerstone of China. Written during the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) by Luo Guanzhong, it romanticizes the period of Chinese history from the late Eastern Han dynasty (184-220 AD) through the Three Kingdoms period (220-280 AD). Unlike a purely historical account, Three Kingdoms is a work of fiction, weaving together historical events with fictional characters and embellished narratives to create an epic saga of war, intrigue, and heroism. Its enduring popularity stems from its richly developed characters, its captivating plotlines, and its exploration of universal themes that resonate across cultures and time periods. This introduction sets the stage, providing the necessary historical context and introducing readers to the novel's core themes. Understanding this context is crucial for appreciating the nuances of the story and the choices made by its characters.

2. Chapter 1: The Yellow Turban Rebellion and the Genesis of Chaos

The novel begins with the Yellow Turban Rebellion, a peasant uprising fueled by social inequality and widespread corruption within the Han Dynasty. This rebellion, though ultimately suppressed, exposes the deep-seated weaknesses of the ruling dynasty and sets the stage for the power struggles that will define the Three Kingdoms period. This chapter introduces key figures like Zhang Jiao, the leader of the rebellion, and the various warlords who emerge to capitalize on the chaos. We see the beginnings of alliances, betrayals, and the seeds of future conflicts. This section lays the groundwork, painting a picture of the political and social climate that breeds ambition and ultimately leads to the fragmentation of the Han Dynasty. Understanding this foundational event is crucial to grasping the motivations and actions of the key players throughout the narrative.

3. Chapter 2: Strategies and Tactics: A Masterclass in Warfare

Romance of the Three Kingdoms is replete with dramatic battles, each showcasing intricate strategies and tactical maneuvers. This chapter delves into the military aspects of the novel, analyzing key battles such as the Battle of Red Cliffs, a pivotal moment that dramatically shifts the balance of power. We examine the strategies employed by figures like Zhuge Liang (Kōshō in Japanese, Kongming in other translations), renowned for his brilliance, and Cao Cao, a ruthless and ambitious warlord. The chapter also explores the various military technologies and formations used during this era, providing insights into the complexities of ancient Chinese warfare. Analyzing these strategies offers valuable insight into the characters' personalities, their understanding of warfare, and their ultimate goals.

4. Chapter 3: The Characters: A Tapestry of Human Nature

The characters of Romance of the Three Kingdoms are arguably the novel's greatest strength. This chapter provides an in-depth look at the major players, analyzing their strengths, weaknesses, motivations, and the moral ambiguities that define them. We explore the heroic exploits of Liu Bei, the righteous Guan Yu, and the brilliant Zhuge Liang, juxtaposing them against the cunning and ambition of Cao Cao and the treachery of others. This detailed character study unveils the human complexities woven into the narrative and helps readers understand the characters' actions and their contributions to the unfolding drama. By examining the personalities, this chapter reveals the enduring appeal of this epic historical fiction.

5. Chapter 4: Themes: Love, Loyalty, and the Price of Power

Beyond the military strategies and political maneuvering, *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* explores profound themes relevant even today. This chapter focuses on the central themes of the novel, including the complexities of love, loyalty, and betrayal. The bonds of brotherhood, the sacrifices made for one's cause, and the corrosive influence of power are all examined. This section delves into the moral dilemmas faced by the characters, highlighting the consequences of their choices and the blurred lines between heroism and villainy. Exploring these themes connects the story to universal human experiences, enriching the reader's understanding and appreciation of the novel's enduring legacy.

6. Chapter 5: The Legacy: A Timeless Epic

The impact of *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* extends far beyond its pages. This chapter explores the lasting influence of the novel on Chinese culture and literature. Its characters have become ingrained in the popular consciousness, inspiring countless adaptations in opera, theater, film, video games, and even modern political discourse. Examining its influence sheds light on the novel's enduring power and its continuing relevance in the 21st century. This part emphasizes the novel's historical and cultural significance, cementing its place as a truly timeless masterpiece.

7. Conclusion: Reflections and Further Exploration

The conclusion summarizes the key takeaways from the book, highlighting the novel's enduring themes and the insights gleaned from its characters and historical context. It serves as a springboard for further exploration of the Three Kingdoms period and related historical materials, encouraging readers to delve deeper into this rich and complex era of Chinese history.

FAQs

1. What makes this PDF version different? This version is optimized for readability, employing a clear font and well-structured layout, unlike many poorly formatted PDFs online.
2. Is this a complete translation? While it is not an unabridged translation, it provides a comprehensive and accessible version of the text, suitable for a broad audience.

3. What is the level of historical accuracy? The novel is a romanticized account, blending historical events with fictional elements. We provide context to distinguish fact from fiction.
4. Who is this ebook for? Anyone interested in Chinese history, classic literature, epic tales, or military strategy will find this ebook engaging.
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author Luo Guanzhong drew on histories, dramas, and poems portraying the crisis to fashion a sophisticated, compelling narrative that has become the Chinese national epic. This abridged edition captures the novel's intimate and unsparing view of how power is wielded, how diplomacy is conducted, and how wars are planned and fought. As important for Chinese culture as the Homeric epics have been for the West, this Ming dynasty masterpiece continues to be widely influential in China, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam and remains a great work of world literature.

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romance of the three kingdoms pdf: Romance of the Three Kingdoms, Vol. 1 Guanzhong Luo, 2014-01-21 The world under heaven, after a long period of division, tends to unite; after a long period of union, tends to divide...The Han dynasty is falling, the rebels and warlords fight each other for the hegemony in China. Who will bring peace to these lands?Romance of the Three Kingdoms, Written by Luo Guanzhong in the 14th century, is one of the four great Chinese classical novels. Discover it in this new edition with maps and footnotes.

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first publication of *When China Rules the World*, the landscape of world power has shifted dramatically. In the three years since the first edition was published, *When China Rules the World* has proved to be a remarkably prescient book, transforming the nature of the debate on China. Now, in this greatly expanded and fully updated edition, boasting nearly 300 pages of new material, and backed up by the latest statistical data, Martin Jacques renews his assault on conventional thinking about China's ascendancy, showing how its impact will be as much political and cultural as economic, changing the world as we know it. First published in 2009 to widespread critical acclaim - and controversy - *When China Rules the World: The End of the Western World and the Birth of a New Global Order* has sold a quarter of a million copies, been translated into eleven languages, nominated for two major literary awards, and is the subject of an immensely popular TED talk.

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anyone interested in the Japanese arts and ways. Book jacket.

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willing to let on, Joe will remake history, and himself. From bestselling author Natasha Pulley, *The Kingdoms* is an epic, romantic, wildly original novel that bends genre as easily as it twists time.

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2010-08-04 The twenty-chapter novel *The Three Sui Quash the Demons' Revolt* is traditionally attributed to Luo Guanzhong (d. after 1364?), the alleged author of two of China's most famous and beloved works of fiction, *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* and *The Water Margin*. *The Three Sui* tells the story of the uprising of adherents of the Maitreya Buddha led by Wang Ze in 1047-1048. Wang Ze was eventually executed and all future heterodox activity outlawed. Paradoxically, *The Three Sui* treats the rebellion as an occasion for slapstick, baggy-pants humor in which facts are distorted and wildly mixed with fiction. Wang Ze's real-life lieutenants show up as a comical peddler and a mysterious Daoist priest. A celebrated warrior takes part in the rebellion despite having died seventeen years earlier. Although the novel is divided into chapters and otherwise follows the traditional format for such extended narratives, a careful examination reveals *The Three Sui* is an arrangement of self-contained vernacular stories. No story bears an intrinsic relationship to any other story. And because the integrity of the various stories has been so remarkably preserved, *The Three Sui* is a vernacular novel in which the vernacular story reigns supreme. Although the Wang Ze rebellion took place during the Northern Song dynasty (960-1127), ultimately *The Three Sui* is the story of the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) in Song masquerade. It calls attention to the social unrest, even anarchy, caused by the rising power and influence of movements like The White Lotus Society and warns of the Ming's downfall unless such groups are contained. In this, the novel proved to be a prescient voice: The Ming collapsed as the result of a central authority weakened by mass sectarian uprisings. *The Three Sui* has been little known and sadly overlooked by scholars of Chinese literature and history. Now this vibrant translation and insightful interpretive essay make this early example of Chinese vernacular fiction available to a broad audience interested in comparative literature and fiction.

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A James Patterson Presents Novel From the #1 New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of the *Stalking Jack the Ripper* series comes a new blockbuster series... Two sisters. One brutal murder. A quest for vengeance that will unleash Hell itself... And an intoxicating romance. Emilia and her twin sister Vittoria are streghe -- witches who live secretly among humans, avoiding notice and persecution. One night, Vittoria misses dinner service at the family's renowned Sicilian restaurant. Emilia soon finds the body of her beloved twin...desecrated beyond belief. Devastated, Emilia sets out to find her sister's killer and to seek vengeance at any cost-even if it means using dark magic that's been long forbidden. Then Emilia meets Wrath, one of the Wicked-princes of Hell she has been warned against in tales since she was a child. Wrath claims to be on Emilia's side, tasked by his master with solving the series of women's murders on the island. But when it comes to the Wicked, nothing is as it seems...

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Constantine Tung, 2012-02-01 This is the first book-length treatment in English of *Three Kingdoms* (*Sanguo yanyi*), often regarded as China's first great classical novel. Set in the historical period of the disunion (220-280 AD), *Three Kingdoms* fuses history and popular tradition to create a sweeping epic of heroism and political ambition. The essays in this volume explore the multifarious connections between *Three Kingdoms* and Chinese culture from a variety of disciplines, including history, literature, philosophy, art history, theater, cultural studies, and communications, demonstrating the diversity of backgrounds against which this novel can be studied. Some of the most memorable episodes and figures in Chinese literature appear within its pages, and *Three Kingdoms* has had a profound influence on personal, social, and political behavior, even language usage, in the daily life of people in China today. The novel has inspired countless works of theater

and art, and, more recently, has been the source for movies and a television series. Long popular in other countries of East Asia, such as Japan, Korea, and Vietnam, *Three Kingdoms* has also been introduced to younger generations around the globe through a series of extremely popular computer games. This study helps create a better understanding of the work's unique place in Chinese culture.

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produces definitions of race and nation for the medieval period and posits that the Middle Ages and medieval fantasies of race and religion have recently returned. Drawing on feminist and gender theory, as well as cultural analyses of race, class, and colonialism, this provocative book revises our understanding of the beginnings of the nine hundred-year-old cultural genre we call romance, as well as the King Arthur legend. Geraldine Heng argues that romance arose in the twelfth century as a cultural response to the trauma and horror of taboo acts--in particular the cannibalism committed by crusaders on the bodies of Muslim enemies in Syria during the First Crusade. From such encounters with the East, Heng suggests, sprang the fantastical episodes featuring King Arthur in Geoffrey of Monmouth's chronicle *The History of the Kings of England*, a work where history and fantasy collide and merge, each into the other, inventing crucial new examples and models for romances to come. After locating the rise of romance and Arthurian legend in the contact zones of East and West, Heng demonstrates the adaptability of romance and its key role in the genesis of an English national identity. Discussing Jews, women, children, and sexuality in works like the romance of Richard Lionheart, stories of the saintly Constance, Arthurian chivalric literature, the legend of Prester John, and travel narratives, Heng shows how fantasy enabled audiences to work through issues of communal identity, race, color, class and alternative sexualities in socially sanctioned and safe modes of cultural discussion in which pleasure, not anxiety, was paramount. Romance also engaged with the threat of modernity in the late medieval period, as economic, social, and technological transformations occurred and awareness grew of a vastly enlarged world beyond Europe, one encompassing India, China, and Africa. Finally, Heng posits, romance locates England and Europe within an empire of magic and knowledge that surveys the world and makes it intelligible--usable--for the future. *Empire of Magic* is expansive in scope, spanning the eleventh to the fifteenth centuries, and detailed in coverage, examining various types of romance--historical, national, popular, chivalric, family, and travel romances, among others--to see how cultural fantasy responds to changing crises, pressures, and demands in a number of different ways. Boldly controversial, theoretically sophisticated, and historically rooted, *Empire of Magic* is a dramatic restaging of the role romance played in the culture of a period and world in ways that suggest how cultural fantasy still functions for us today.

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