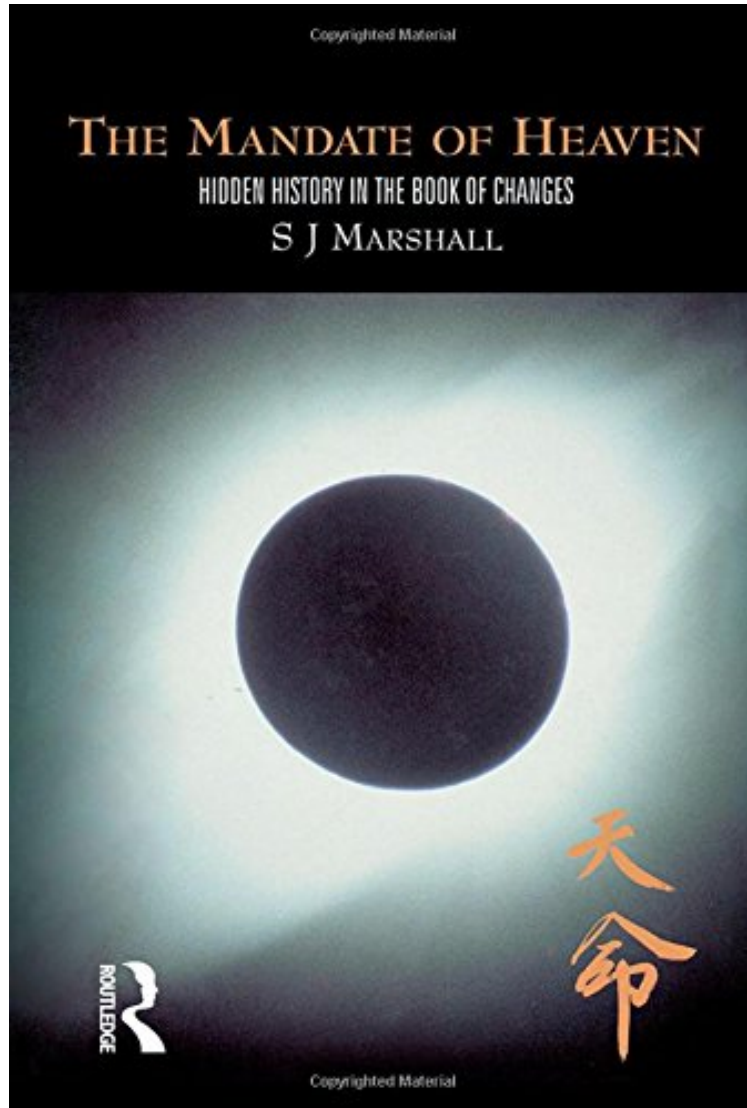


[PDF] The Mandate of Heaven: Hidden History in the Book of Changes

The Mandate of Heaven: Hidden History in the Book of Changes

S J Marshall, S. J. Marshall

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S J Marshall, S. J. Marshall : The Mandate of Heaven: Hidden History in the Book of Changes before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mandate of Heaven: Hidden History in the Book of Changes:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Interesting read. By Rick S. I don't know where to even begin here so I'll begin at the beginning. The author advances a hypothesis that the I Ching contains a historic record that points to a total eclipse that served as an omen that plays an important part of the overthrow of the Shang dynasty. This theory, if correct leads us to a more accurate dating of the Zhouyi and its authorship both of which have been disputed for

centuries. Marshall sets off to move his theory to a concrete state through a tortuous route using many sources. Half of the total pages are devoted to footnotes, appendices, indexes and a glossary of terms. No one can say the author neglected his research. Still I am uneasy with certain aspects of the book. Marshall is an amateur Sinologist swimming in a pool of well educated and highly revered professionals. In an effort to further his theories he appears (to me) to expect the reader to sweep aside the well accepted translations almost brutally. "The judgement of this hexagram is misunderstood and mistranslated in Wilhelm/Baynes. The famous 'Be not sad, be like the sun at midday, means nothing of the sort in original Chinese." To accept this as truth we must also believe translations from some well known men of letters also misunderstood what they devoted much time and study to. I for one am not prepared to cast such works aside and label the authors as failing in their task in favor of the author's enthusiasm for his own findings. The hexagram here, number fifty five, is the locus of Marshall's theory. In the Harvard-Yenching version of the Zhouyi this particular hexagram is comprised of less than one hundred characters some of which are single words, some combine to comprise a single word. I am not saying that Marshall's theory is entirely incorrect. I just don't see it as mutually exclusive to others. Setting aside the author's goal the book itself contains some interesting material packed into a tight space. Some things could have been said with fewer words for greater effect and many of the footnotes could have been integrated into the main body of text for greater affect and easier reading. Would I recommend this book to others? It's hard to say. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding Research By Brahman For those who are interested in a deep historical look at the origins of the I Ching, this is a must book for your library. There are quite a few translations of the "Yi" on the market now, but there really aren't that many books on its historical origins. This book will not teach you how to use the I Ching. It will not teach you how to dissect the trigrams or memorize the Later Heaven Sequence. What it will do is give you a fascinating glimpse into the world that created the Book of Changes. I highly recommend it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best book about the I Ching! By Russ Kalen Best historical context for the I Ching ever! A very engaging read.

The Mandate of Heaven was originally given to King Wen in the 11th century BC. King Wen is credited with founding the Zhou dynasty after he received the Mandate from Heaven to attack and overthrow the Shang dynasty. King Wen is also credited with creating the ancient oracle known as the Yijing or Book of Changes. This book validates King Wen's association with the Changes. It uncovers in the Changes a record of a total solar eclipse that was witnessed at King Wen's capital of Feng by his son King Wu, shortly after King Wen had died (before he had a chance to launch the full invasion). The sense of this eclipse as an actual event has been overlooked for three millennia. It provides an account of the events surrounding the conquest of the Shang and founding of the Zhou dynasty that has never been told. It shows how the earliest layer of the Book of Changes (the Zhouyi) has preserved a hidden history of the Conquest.

S. J. Marshall's intriguing work will be read with great interest by ["I Ching"] aficionados, and it will also attract the attention of contemporary scholars. The former will be immensely grateful for the clarity that Marshall brings to such an enigmatic text. . . . Everyone who reads "The Mandate of Heaven" will return to the "Book of Changes" with a renewed historical perspective. About the Author S. J. Marshall works as an editor for one of the premier medical journals, The Lancet, when he is not pursuing his interest in ancient Chinese history.