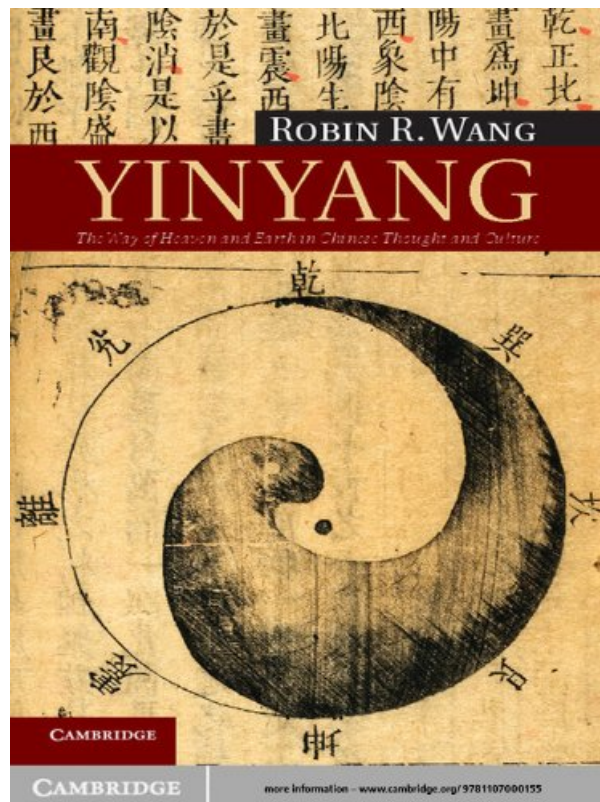
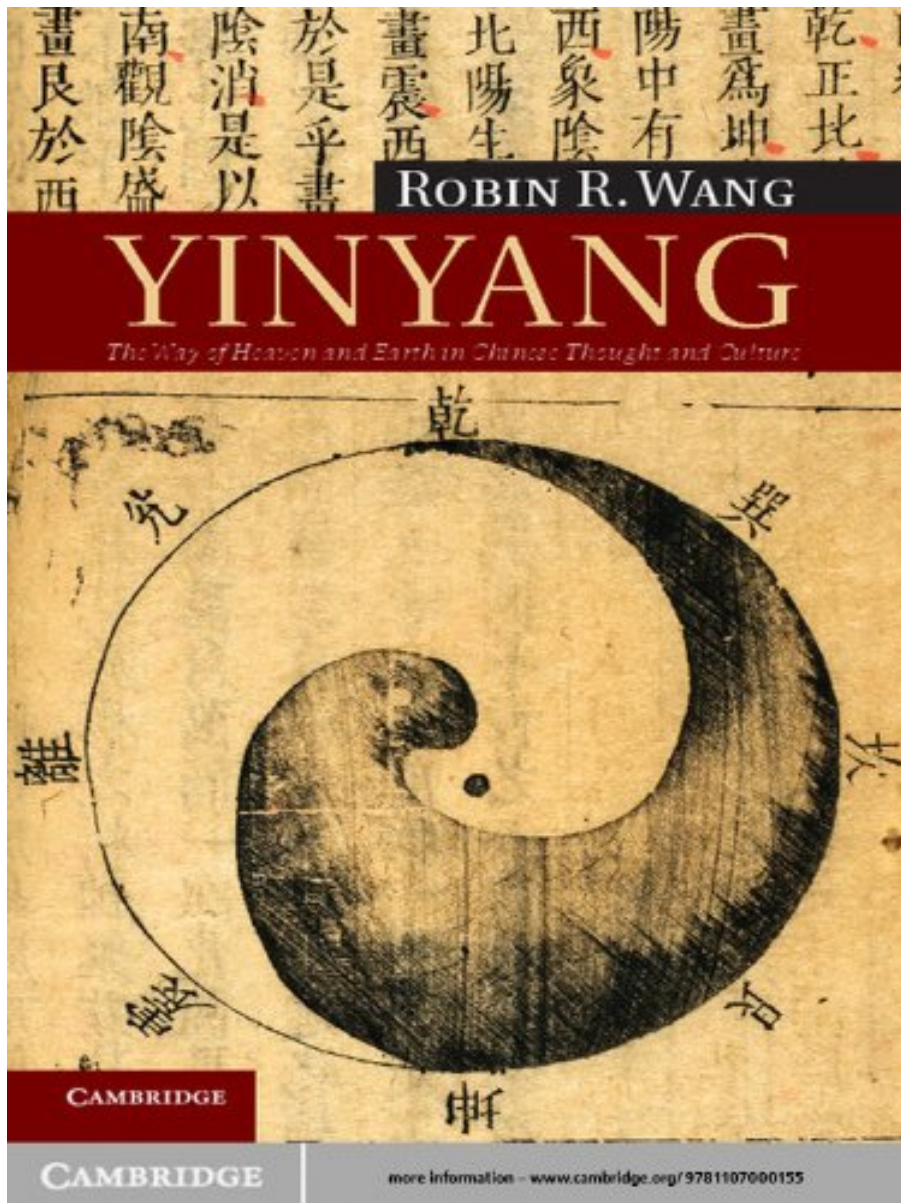


YINYANG (NEW APPROACHES TO ASIAN HISTORY) BY ROBIN R. WANG



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Review

"...offers all one might have wanted to know about yin-yang.... Wang's scholarship is deep.... anyone will be able to appreciate the impressive way she has of demonstrating the astonishing richness of an ancient culture, and a way of thinking about nature and the human world that few in the West have seriously considered.... Recommended..."

-- R.T. Lee, emeritus, Trinity College, CHOICE

About the Author

Robin Wang is Daum Professor in the Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, Professor of Philosophy and Director of Asian Pacific Studies at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. She is the editor of *Chinese Philosophy in an Era of Globalization* (2004) and *Images of Women in Chinese Thought and Culture: Writings from the Pre-Qin Period to the Song Dynasty* (2003).

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YINYANG (NEW APPROACHES TO ASIAN HISTORY) BY ROBIN R. WANG PDF

The concept of yinyang lies at the heart of Chinese thought and culture. The relationship between these two opposing, yet mutually dependent, forces is symbolized in the familiar black and white symbol that has become an icon in popular culture across the world. The real significance of yinyang is, however, more complex and subtle. This brilliant and comprehensive analysis by one of the leading authorities in the field captures the richness and multiplicity of the meanings and applications of yinyang, including its visual presentations. Through a vast range of historical and textual sources, the book examines the scope and role of yinyang, the philosophical significance of its various layers of meanings and its relation to numerous schools and traditions within Chinese (and Western) philosophy. By putting yinyang on a secure and clear philosophical footing, the book roots the concept in the original Chinese idiom, distancing it from Western assumptions, frameworks and terms, yet also seeking to connect its analysis to shared cross-cultural philosophical concerns.

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Most helpful customer reviews

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Perfect Balance

By Dave English

This is a masterful book, on a fascinating concept that has depth and resonance. It's well written, and comprehensive while staying short enough to comfortably read. If you want to go further, it's extensively footnoted with a complete bibliography and index. While we might sometimes hear of the "yin and yang of buying a toaster oven" we really don't have any idea of what this means other than hot/cold up/down. And as is gently explained, hundreds of years of Chinese thought and practice lead to an understanding of the nature of the universe and ourselves that is much deeper than the ends of a yardstick.

The book shows us forces are not dualistic. But rather interdependent, reciprocal, and intertwined. And more. Yinyang illustrates change. And illustrates emergent properties (the circle) that are different from any of the constituents. And more. It illustrates consistent patterns: "It is like the standing wave that emerges in a moving stream, where the water particles are constantly changing while the pattern persists." History, cosmology, Western & Chinese philosophy, pictorial thinking, psychology, religion, and much more interplay in this extraordinary book. I hope you find this review useful.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

An absolutely brilliant work of deep, sympathetic scholarship.

By John Aaron

As a longtime student of Chinese philosophy - and the practical application of those philosophies in martial arts - I'd thought I knew something about Yinyang. This book made me realize both how little I actually did know about the concept - but more importantly, how little I was able to put into practice. Dr. Wang's extremely wide ranging scholarship illumines Yinyang in a way I've never seen - and makes the concept a part of one's lived experience, and not simply an interesting philosophical idea. Now, this is not a light read. It's an extremely dense, compact work of scholarship. But that very effort of reading ensures that the concepts don't remain superficial - but are integrated into one's ideas, thinking, and action.

My only reason for 4 rather than 5 stars is I feel the book over emphasizes Daoism, without giving sufficient attention to the Confucian tradition - but that's not uncommon. And a few areas could stand more aggressive editing.

But those points are minor. This book is a model for what scholarly philosophical writing should be.

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Shield-Spear/ yinyang is a Thinking Paradigm

By R. A. Barricklow(Scaramouche)

Correlative thinking is yinyang thinking. For example, yinyang is not just an important tool for grasping the cosmic body, namely the universe; it is also applied to the micro body: "human flesh". The human body bears the same rhythm and properties as the greater cosmic body. Yinyang presents a justification for this association and a conceptual tool for understanding it.

Yinyang is a thinking paradigm. Paradigms precede and shape all the operations of: rational thinking methodically, theory building, the determination of facts, and perception. A paradigm is a conceptual configuration that is demonstrated and learned by example, providing a lens through which one can view the world.

At the same time, yinyang can also be seen as a constellation of lay beliefs and practices, functioning explicitly and implicitly, in activities ranging from philosophy to health care, and from warfare to a way of life.

The bases of any yinyang distinction is difference, opposition, and contradiction. Any two sides are connected and related, but they are also opposed in some way. It is also this difference that enables yinyang as a STRATEGY - to act successfully, we must sometimes be more yin and sometimes more yang, depending on context.

The reader can surmise the ambiguity and complexity in saying that two things "are like yin and yang". Everything is bound up in a plurality of relationships, at the sametime; related both to multiple things, and to the same thing in multiple ways. But yinyang thought, really is a type of triadic thinking, centered on the thirdness, that results from the interaction between yin and yang. The whole is made of the interaction between parts; not the individual parts, themselves.

Surprisingly, the focal point of yinyang as a strategy - is on generation and transformation/a chicken giving birth to an egg; and as the egg hatching into a chicken. The production that stem from both of these kinds of generation, brings out new phases of existence. Yinyang plays a central role in such generative processes.

This book - is - THE BOOK ON YINYANG.

I wanted a beginner's guide & an expert's guide.

I not only got both; but also, the reality of the thirdness -
where yin & yang meet/This book, yinyang.

See all 13 customer reviews...

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