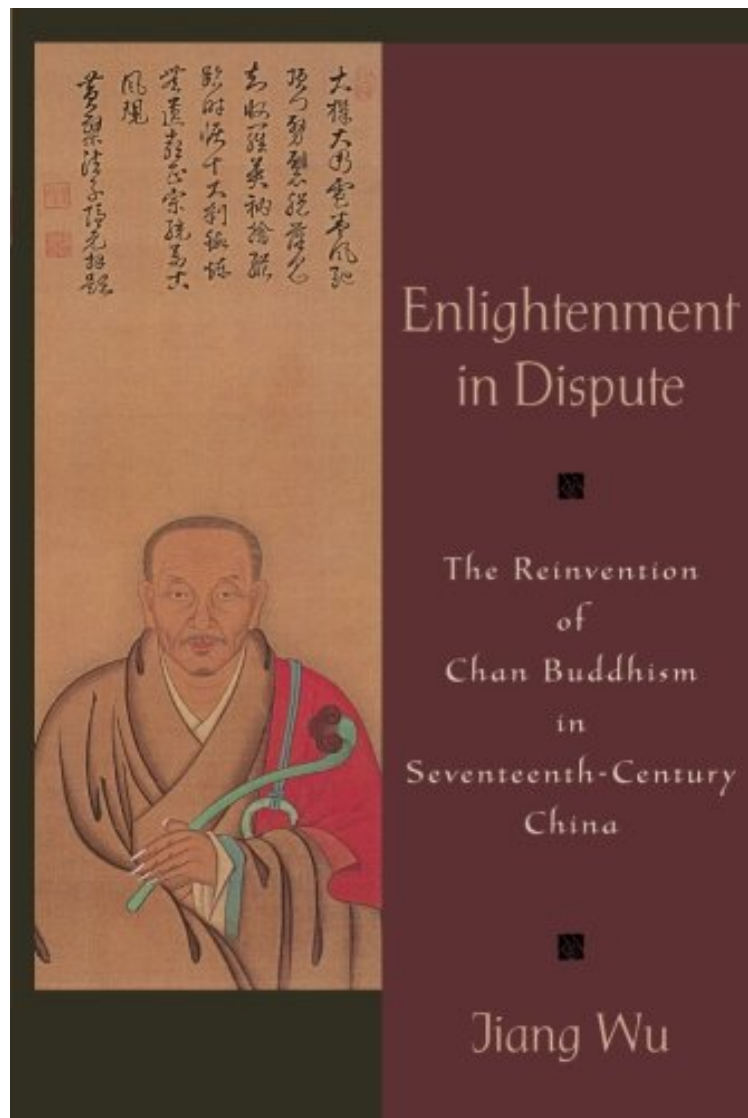


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Enlightenment in Dispute: The Reinvention of Chan Buddhism in Seventeenth-Century China

Jiang Wu

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Jiang Wu : Enlightenment in Dispute: The Reinvention of Chan Buddhism in Seventeenth-Century China before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Enlightenment in Dispute: The Reinvention of Chan Buddhism in Seventeenth-Century China:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Chan in Modern Times By Francois Lachaud A very interesting

study, though marred by postmodernist lingo. One of the crucial issues--lineage--and relations with the literati are inserted within a revamped DIY Marxist frame that does more damage than good. All this being said, an important book, despite the fact that artistic works and their contribution to the renewal of visual arts under the Qing are entirely missing. The material world rules the spiritual sphere as always, and I was a bit disappointed to see that my copy did not arrive in perfect state. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Kindle format is not very useful By X. Zu This review is mostly about the kindle-format, NOT about the content of this book (I bought the kindle because I deemed the content of this book highly). The references are NOT inter-textually inked, so it's quite a hassle if you want to examine any of the author's claims in detail, which greatly hindered my reading process. This book is valuable mostly because of the extensive and in-depth examination of primary materials, without a inter-textually linked reference list, it's really difficult to follow the discussion. I still opted to buy the kindle version simply because it's more portable than a heavy printed copy and it's searchable.

Enlightenment in Dispute is the first comprehensive study of the revival of Chan Buddhism in seventeenth-century China. Focusing on the evolution of a series of controversies about Chan enlightenment, Jiang Wu describes the process by which Chan reemerged as the most prominent Buddhist establishment of the time. He investigates the development of Chan Buddhism in the seventeenth century, focusing on controversies involving issues such as correct practice and lines of lineage. In this way, he shows how the Chan revival reshaped Chinese Buddhism in late imperial China. Situating these controversies alongside major events of the fateful Ming-Qing transition, Wu shows how the rise and fall of Chan Buddhism was conditioned by social changes in the seventeenth century.

"Jiang Wu's groundbreaking work Enlightenment in Dispute goes a long way toward augmenting our understanding of Buddhism in the Qing dynasty, and will quickly become an indispensable classic in Buddhist studies."-----Charles B. Jones, *China International*: Vol. 18, No. 4, 2011: 545-549. "This book opens up new venues for thinking about Chinese Buddhism in late imperial times and will also be highly useful to scholars of Chinese sociointellectual history."--- Jimmy Yu, *Religious Studies*, VOLUME 35, NUMBER 2 (JUNE 2009), p. 146. "Enlightenment in Dispute stands as an invaluable resource for further scholarly exploration of seventeenth-century Buddhist traditions."----- Jennifer Eichman, *Journal of Chinese Religions*, vol. 37 (2009): 144-147. "Drawing on a wide range of Buddhist and historical sources, including the Jiaxing Buddhist canon, monastic gazetteers, Chan recorded sayings and lamp records, rare sources from the Manpukuji archive in Japan, as well as Dharma transmission records from the Shanghai Library, Wu successfully highlights the robust activities, dialogues and disputes among the various Chan communities in the seventeenth century." Jack Meng-Tat Chia, *Journal of Buddhist Ethics*, Volume 18, 2011: 189-193. "Jiang Wu's Enlightenment in Dispute succeeds in its bold claim that the revival of Chan Buddhism deserves to be seen as playing a significant role in 17th-century Chinese history. Among Wu's many important findings are his specific tracing of Chan in late Ming thought and factionalism, the significance of Chan 'textual spirituality' in the intellectual questing of the time, the surprising use of the law in the adjudication of disputed Dharma transmissions, the intersections of Chan with Ming loyalist sentiments and actions, and the central part played by Yongzheng (first as prince and then as emperor) in defining Chan doctrinal legitimacy and ultimately his own enlightenment. The book is a valuable addition to our studies of China's turbulent and formative 'long seventeenth century.'" --Jonathan Spence, author of *The Search for Modern China* and *Return to Dragon Mountain* "Truly a work of merit for the history of religious and intellectual thought, practice, and sociopolitics in later imperial China, this book by Jiang Wu is a very welcome addition to scholarship on the changes in Chinese learned culture from the late sixteenth to the early eighteenth century. It is carefully composed to offer access for readers on several levels, from the relative newcomer to Chan Buddhism to the seasoned sinologist. Those who specialize in the late Ming and early Qing period will find that Enlightenment in Dispute completes our picture of the late-Ming 'Buddhist revival' by extending its canvas to include maturation and decline. Wu's book also makes an essential addition to our current knowledge of Buddhism in seventeenth-century elite social life, and it forms a fascinating complement to our understanding of 'fundamentalist' trends in contemporaneous Confucian thought and ritual practice." --Lynn Struve, Professor in the Department of History, Indiana University

From the Inside Flap Enlightenment in Dispute is the first comprehensive study of the revival of Chan Buddhism in seventeenth-century China. Focusing on the evolution of a series of controversies about Chan enlightenment, Jiang Wu describes the process by which Chan reemerged as the most prominent Buddhist establishment of the time. He argues that the revival of Chan Buddhism depended upon reinventions of previous Chan ideals, which had been largely lost after the Song dynasty. Wu investigates the development of Chan Buddhism in the seventeenth century, focusing on controversies involving issues such as correct practice and lines of lineage. In this way, he shows how the Chan revival reshaped Chinese Buddhism in late imperial China. Situating these controversies alongside major events of the fateful Ming-Qing transition, Wu shows how the rise and fall of Chan Buddhism was conditioned by social changes in the seventeenth century.