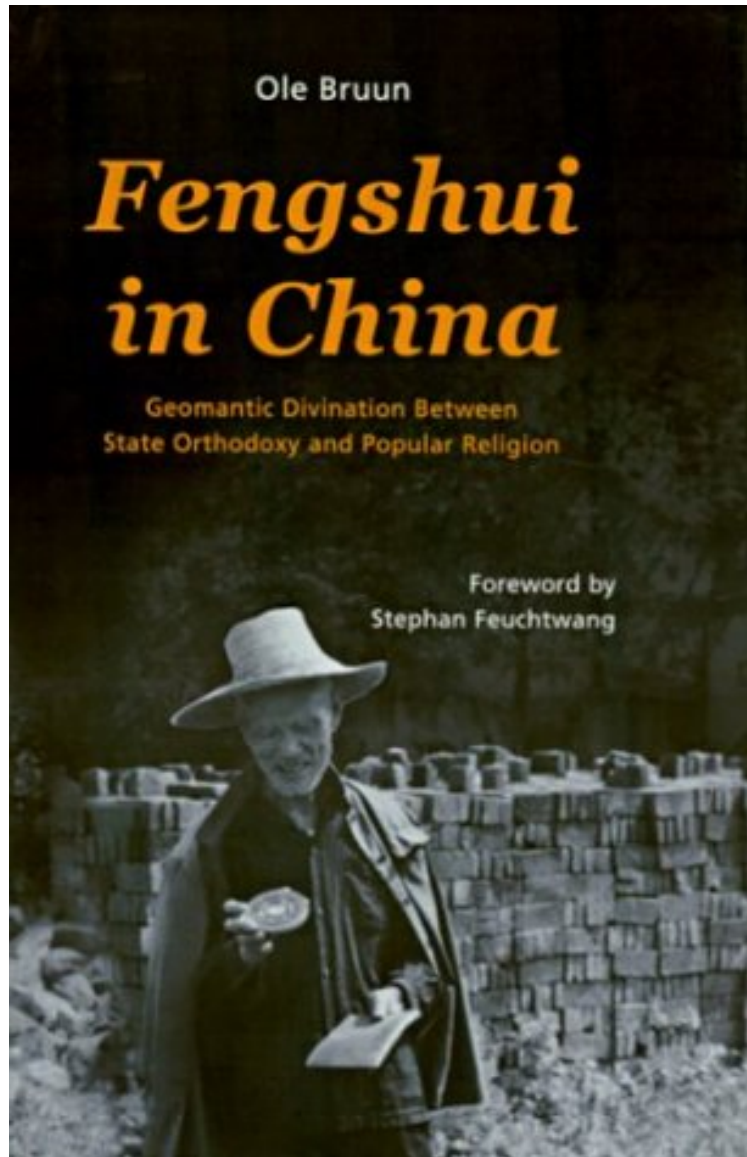


[Mobile book] Fengshui in China: Geomantic Divination between State Orthodoxy and Popular Religion

Fengshui in China: Geomantic Divination between State Orthodoxy and Popular Religion

Ole Bruun

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Ole Bruun : Fengshui in China: Geomantic Divination between State Orthodoxy and Popular Religion before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fengshui in China: Geomantic Divination between State Orthodoxy and Popular Religion:

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Tough Love for the McFengshui CrowdBy CustomerBruun walks

through villages and interviews people and feng shui practitioners about the state of the practise today compared to 150 years ago. This book is bound to be a disappointment for the McFengshui crowd because the people "seeing" feng shui (that is, in Chinese terms, those who practise on behalf of clients) all use compasses. The so-called schools advocated by McFengshui types don't exist (and never existed) in China. But it's also difficult for those who know the traditional material to see what has happened to the state of the art in its birthplace; it's hard to not be moved by what was lost during the turbulent days of the Cultural Revolution, and how many feng shui masters paid dearly for their knowledge.

For well over a century, Chinese fengshui, or "geomancy," has interested Western laymen and scholars. Today, hundreds of popular manuals claim to use its principles in their advice on how people can increase their wealth, happiness, longevity, and so on. This study is quite different, approaching fengshui from an academic angle. The focus is on its significance in China, but the recent history of its reinterpretation in the West is also depicted. The author argues that fengshui serves as an alternative tradition of cosmological knowledge, which is used to explain a range of everyday occurrences in rural areas, such as disease, mental disorders, accidents, and common mischief. The study includes a historical account of fengshui over the last 150 years augmented by the results of anthropological fieldwork on contemporary practices in two Chinese rural areas.