

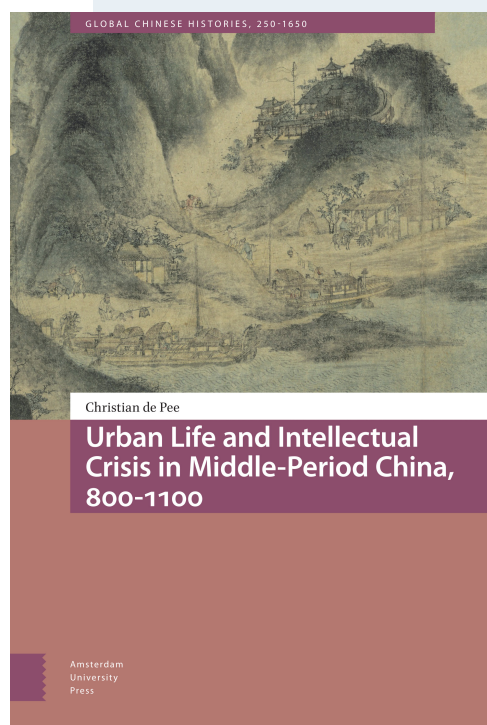
Christian Pee

Urban Life and Intellectual Crisis in Middle-Period China, 800-1100

In the eleventh century, the cities of the Song Empire (960-1279) emerged into writing. Literati in prior centuries had looked away from crowded streets, but literati in the eleventh century found beauty in towering buildings and busy harbors. Their purpose in writing the city was ideological. On the written page, they tried to establish a distinction that eluded them in the avenues and to discern an immanent pattern in the movement of people, goods, and money. By the end of the eleventh century, however, they recognized that they had failed in their efforts. They had lost the Way in the city. *Urban Life and Intellectual Crisis in Middle-Period China, 800-1100* reveals the central place of urban life in the history of the eleventh century. Important developments in literary innovation and monetary policy, in canonical exegesis and civil engineering, in financial reform and public health, converge in this book as they converged in the city.

BIOGRAPHY

Christian de Pee is Professor of History at the University of Michigan. He is the author of *The Writing of Weddings in Middle-Period China: Text and Ritual Practice in the Eighth through Fourteenth Centuries* and a co-editor of *Senses of the City: Perceptions of Hangzhou and the Southern Song (1127-1179)*.



Global Chinese Histories, 250-1650
July 2022
290 pages,
Hardback
156.0 x 234.0 mm
€117.00 / £106.00 / \$144.00

ISBN 978 94 6372 166 0
e-ISBN 978 90 485 5433 1
BISAC HIS008000 / POL002000
BIC HBJF / HBLC1

KEYWORDS

Song Dynasty, early modern history, urban history, urban literature, economic thought

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