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The Rise of Vernacular Print Secondary Scholarship

Joseph McDermott is an author who focuses on Chinese literature development through the writing and printing of books. The information is based on the events that occurred between 1000 and 1800 in history considering all??? the events that took place in China. In his description, he uses the Chinese culture and history represented in books and compares it with the other nations as a way of drawing a line between the different civilizations. The book reveals some important aspects of the book collection in Chinese history and how that affects how the society understands the issue [what issue?].

It is clear that China has undergone many changes in its woodblock over the centuries as the books written in the 11th and 12th C are not similar to those in the 20th C. The author explains the whole process that involved regular writing, printing of books and the factors contributing to the substitution between what and what?. When printing started taking root in China, it is also important to take into consideration the aspects of marketing and distribution of the books to get them to the target audience (McDermott, 2006). From the chapter’s descriptions, it is clear that the book gives its insight about government and private book collections as part of the historical legacies of what?.

To make a better comparison between what and what?, the author involves the writing and printing in other Asian parts like Japan as well as the European regions. What stands out in this description is that Chinese books were printed, consumed and distributed by scholars and literati mainly from the Yangzi Delta and Central China. Speaking of the consumption of these pieces of literature, the author presents different personalities like wily book collectors as well as shoe-repairman collectors. The literature is a presentation of both the well-educated eloquent readers and those who are still struggling since there are explanations involving both sides (McDermott, 2006). Most of these personalities that McDermott brings out are all significant in the growth of the reading culture when it comes to China as they determine how people purchase the different books available in the market. The reading habits of people have changed over the centuries with a surprisingly reducing??? range since people have more methods of getting information.

The 12th Century was an important period for Chinese writers and publishers as it marked the origin of most literature materials and hence influenced the rest of the generations. The author, therefore, describes a general explanation of the printed version of the Chinese culture through books ranging from 1000 to 1800s and how this has defined the history of the nation. Most of the aspects of Chinese culture can be learned through the kind of books that were written over the years. Book culture has an important place in society as it brings together all the aspects of learning. Students depend on the same cultural explanations even in the 21st Century as they require the basics to connect to contemporary society (McDermott, 2006). McDermott is known for his interests in the Chinese economic, social and cultural history has published several books on the same, it gives people from the same culture and outside a chance to study more and make conclusions.

Full of generalities that do not bring out McDermott’s underlying arguments and opaque in places. 3/5

References

McDermott, J. P. (2006). *A social history of the Chinese book: books and literati culture in late imperial China* (Vol. 1). Hong Kong University Press.