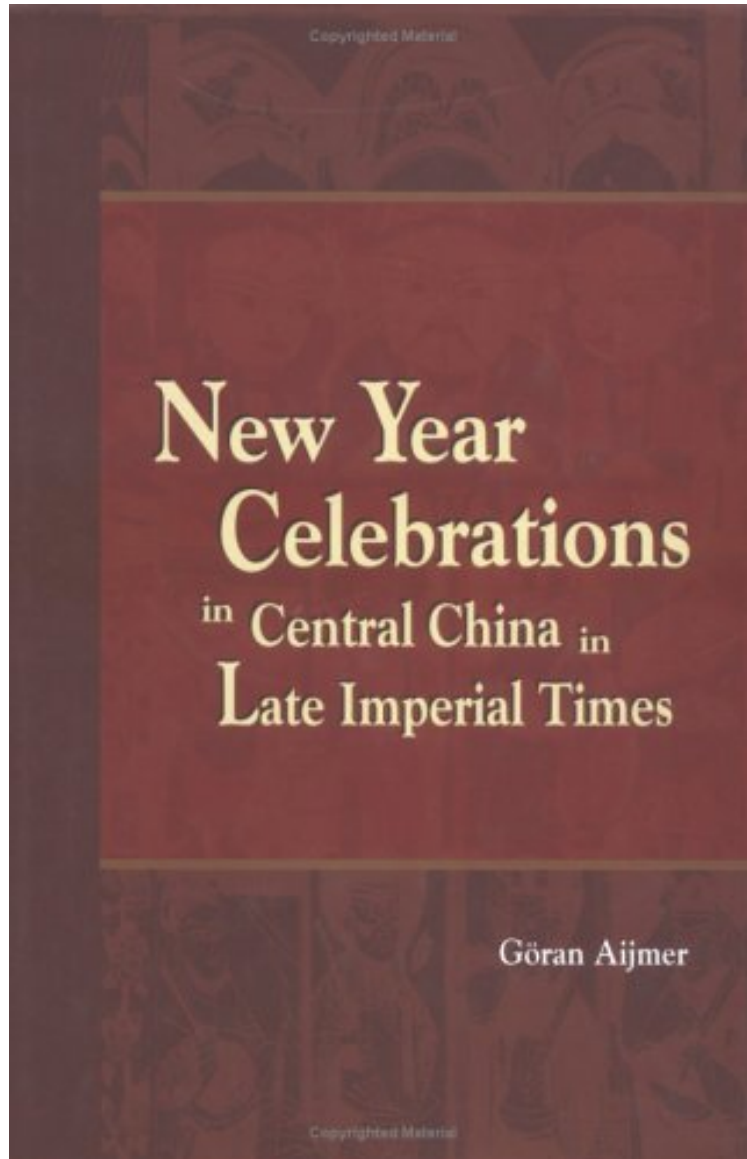


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New Year Celebrations in Central China in Late Imperial Times

Gran Aijmer

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Keenly attuned to the play of symbols, this anthropological study explores one of the major manifestations of Chinese

popular tradition: the celebration of lunar the New Year. It analyzes a multitude of folk practices within a holistic perspective on Chinese traditional society, crafting a new picture of a world in which the social rhetoric of gender, lineage continuity, and ancestry were challenged by ritual manifestations of iconic symbolism. Viewed through the lens of Chinese imagery, the traditional calendar reveals new stories about the social organization of time as an expression of existential concerns in late imperial Chinese social life.

Goran Aijmers new book on lunar new year festivities in Central China is by far and away the best available source on this topic in any language. Of particular interest is Aijmers attention to ancestor worship and the everyday practices associated with the cult of filial piety. The book also breaks new ground by treating leisure as a legitimate subject of research in Chinese late imperial history. About the Author Goran Aijmer is professor of social anthropology at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and is currently associated with the Gothenburg Research Institute.