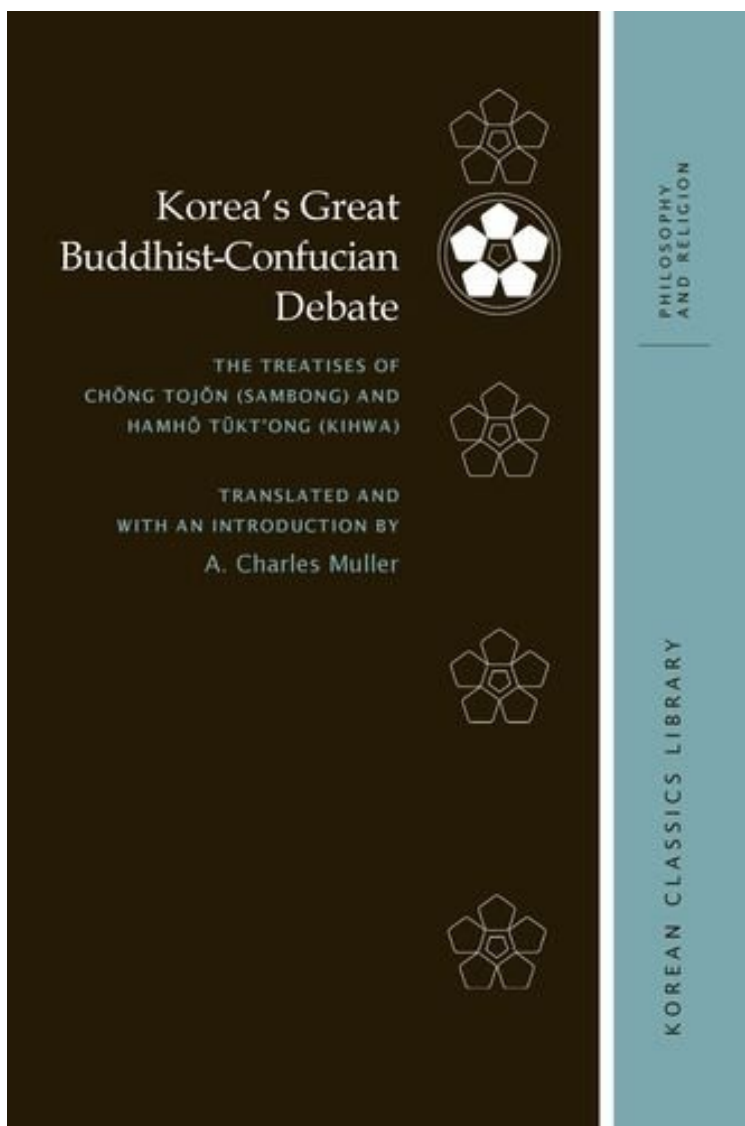


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Korea's Great Buddhist-Confucian Debate: The Treatises of Chong Tojon (Sambong) and Hamho Tuktong (Kihwa) (Korean Classics Library: Philosophy and Religion)

A. Charles Muller

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#191475 in Books 2015-05-31 2015-05-31 Original language: Korean 9.00 x 6.25 x 1.00l, .99 #File Name: 0824853806192 pages | File size: 48.Mb

A. Charles Muller : Korea's Great Buddhist-Confucian Debate: The Treatises of Chong Tojon (Sambong) and Hamho Tuktong (Kihwa) (Korean Classics Library: Philosophy and Religion) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Korea's Great Buddhist-Confucian Debate: The Treatises of Chong Tojon (Sambong) and Hamho Tuktong (Kihwa) (Korean Classics Library: Philosophy and

Religion):

This volume makes available in English the seminal treatises in Korea's greatest interreligious debate of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. *On Mind, Material Force, and Principle* and *An Array of Critiques of Buddhism* by Confucian statesman Chng Tojn (1342-1398) and *Exposition of Orthodoxy* by Sn monk Kihwa (1376-1433) are presented here with extensive annotation. A substantial introduction provides a summary and analysis of the philosophical positions of both Neo-Confucianism and Buddhism as well as a germane history of the interactions between these two traditions in East Asia, offering insight into religious tensions that persist to this day. Translator A. Charles Muller shows how, from the time Confucianism and Buddhism met in China, these thought systems existed, along with Daoism, in a competing relationship that featured significant mutual influence. A confrontative situation eventually developed in China, wherein Confucian leaders began to criticize Buddhism. During the late-Kory and early-Chosn periods in Korea, the Neo-Confucian polemic became the driving force in the movement to oust Buddhism from its position as Korea's state religion. In his essays, Chng drew together the gamut of arguments that had been made against Buddhism throughout its long history in Korea. Kihwa's essay met Neo-Confucian contentions with an articulate Buddhist response. Thus, in a rare moment in the history of religions, a true philosophical debate ensued. This debate was made possible based upon the two religions' shared philosophical paradigm: essence-function (ch'e-yong). This traditional East Asian way of interpreting society, events, phenomena, human beings, and the world understands all things to have both essence and function, two contrasting yet wholly contiguous and mutually containing components. All three East Asian traditions took this as their underlying philosophical paradigm, and it is through this paradigm that they evaluated and criticized each other's doctrines and practices. Specialists in philosophy, religion, and Korean studies will appreciate Muller's exploration of this pivotal moment in Korean intellectual history. Because it includes a broad overview of the interactive history of East Asian religions, this book can also serve as a general introduction to East Asian philosophical thought.

Korea's Great Buddhist Confucian Debate: The Treatises of Chong Tojon (Sambong) and Hamho Tukt'ong (Kihwa) is a superlative book put together by Korean Studies scholar and translator A. Charles Muller.-- "Buddhistdoor" *Korea's Great Buddhist Confucian Debate: The Treatises of Chng Tojn (Sambong) and Hamh Tktong (Kihwa)* is a superlative book put together by Korean Studies scholar and translator A. Charles Muller. (Buddhistdoor) On the whole, Muller's book is an important new resource that can serve as a great introduction to the historical developments and meanings of the Buddhist-Confucian discourses in premodern East Asia. With his masterful translation of the polemical essays of a Buddhist monk and a Confucian scholar-official, the book can be recommended for undergraduate or graduate students and scholars in East Asian studies and religious studies who are interested in interreligious relations. (H-Buddhism) **About the Author** A. Charles Muller is professor in the Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology at the University of Tokyo. His main work lies in the fields of Korean Buddhism, East Asian Yogcra, East Asian classical lexicography, and online scholarly resource development. Robert E. Buswell, Jr. holds the Irving and Jean Stone Endowed Chair in Humanities at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where he is also Distinguished Professor of Buddhist Studies in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures and founding director of the university's Center for Buddhist Studies and Center for Korean Studies.