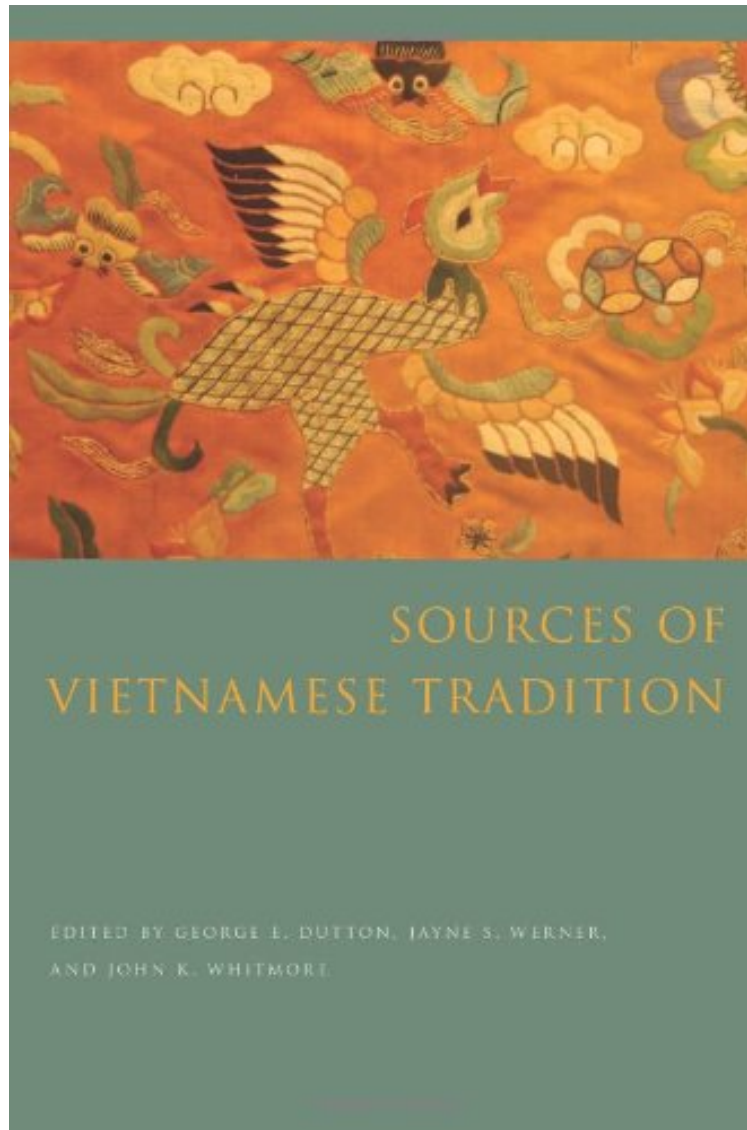


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From Brand: Columbia University Press : Sources of Vietnamese Tradition (Introduction to Asian Civilizations) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sources of Vietnamese Tradition (Introduction to Asian Civilizations):

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people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Mimi Phamvery nice a good book when one need to learn about vietnamese culture history14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Gripping, scholarly, enlightening story of the turtle's claw and what came afterBy James P OllenWhat a pleasure to find a description of Vietnamese history that sticks to source material and has no political axe to grind! The excerpts from long-ago writers are mercifully brief and illustrate relevant issues that tell a classic story of the mountain and the sea, the white chicken and the golden turtle, the north and the south.The maps are superb, although I would have liked to see more maps such as shown in the Landmark edition of Herodotus. I liked the clarity of the modern pinyin spelling of Chinese names followed by their Vietnamese equivalents. The book helped me to appreciate the intertwined myth and non-fiction that is the ancient story of Vietnam. Although I found it at a bookstore, not at , I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in Vietnamese history.

Sources of Vietnamese Tradition provides an essential guide to two thousand years of Vietnamese history and a comprehensive overview of the society and state of Vietnam. Strategic selections illuminate key figures, issues, and events while building a thematic portrait of the country's developing territory, politics, culture, and relations with neighbors. The volume showcases Vietnam's remarkable independence in the face of Chinese and other external pressures and respects the complexity of the Vietnamese experience both past and present.The anthology begins with selections that cover more than a millennium of Chinese dominance over Vietnam (111 B.C.E.939 C.E.) and follows with texts that illuminate four centuries of independence ensured by the Ly, Tran, and Ho dynasties (10091407). The earlier cultivation of Buddhism and Southeast Asian political practices by the monarchy gave way to two centuries of Confucian influence and bureaucratic governance (14071600), based on Chinese models, and three centuries of political competition between the north and the south, resolving in the latter's favor (16001885). Concluding with the colonial era and the modern age, the volume recounts the ravages of war and the creation of a united, independent Vietnam in 1975. Each chapter features readings that reveal the views, customs, outside influences on, and religious and philosophical beliefs of a rapidly changing people and culture. Descriptions of land, society, economy, and governance underscore the role of the past in the formation of contemporary Vietnam and its relationships with neighboring countries and the West.

[Sources of Vietnamese Tradition] will be indispensable for students interested in Vietnamese society and political theory.... Essential. (Choice)This addition to the venerable Introduction to Asian Civilizations series marks a major step in the maturation of Vietnam Studies in the American academy. (Foreign Affairs)This is an excellent volume that fills a long-standing need for English-language translations of primary documents that cover the chronological breadth and diverse concerns of the Vietnamese past. (Journal of Asian Studies)The anthology furnishes a good sense of the structure of 'Vietnamese' history and is sure to function both as a formidable work of reference and a sound base for further exploration of the subject. (A.V.M. Horton Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society)About the AuthorGeorge E. Dutton is associate professor of Southeast Asian languages and cultures and vice chair of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research focuses on social movements, historiographical issues, and colonial culture and education, and he is the author of *The Tay So'n Uprising: Society and Rebellion in Eighteenth-Century Vietnam*. Jayne S. Werner is associate research scholar in the Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University and professor emerita of political science at Long Island University. Her most recent book is *Gender, Household, and State in Post-Revolutionary Vietnam*. John K. Whitmore is research associate at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Michigan, and a specialist on premodern Vietnamese and Southeast Asian history. He has taught at Yale University, the University of Virginia, and the University of California, Los Angeles.