
The third in a multivolume series of biographical dictionaries on Chinese women, this work complements The Qing Period, 1644-1911, ed. by C. Wing-chung Ho et al. (CH, Jun'99, 36-5370), and The Twentieth Century, 1912-2000, ed. by Lee and Stefanowska (CH, Jun'03, 40-5523). This volume is distinct from its predecessors, and from other biographical reference works covering Chinese history, as it covers the lives of women who have been previously excluded from historical studies and reference works. The biographies in this volume span more than 2,000 years, and the entries are divided into three sections titled "Antiquity through Zhou," "Qin through Han," and "Three Kingdoms through Sui." The volume focuses on both women of notoriety due to their elevated status in society, and those who were not of high rank. The work also provides researchers with a helpful glossary of Chinese names, a chronology of dynasties and major rulers, and a finding list that identifies women of each period by background or field of endeavor. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-level undergraduates through faculty/researchers; general readers. -- L. Lampert, California State University--Northridge