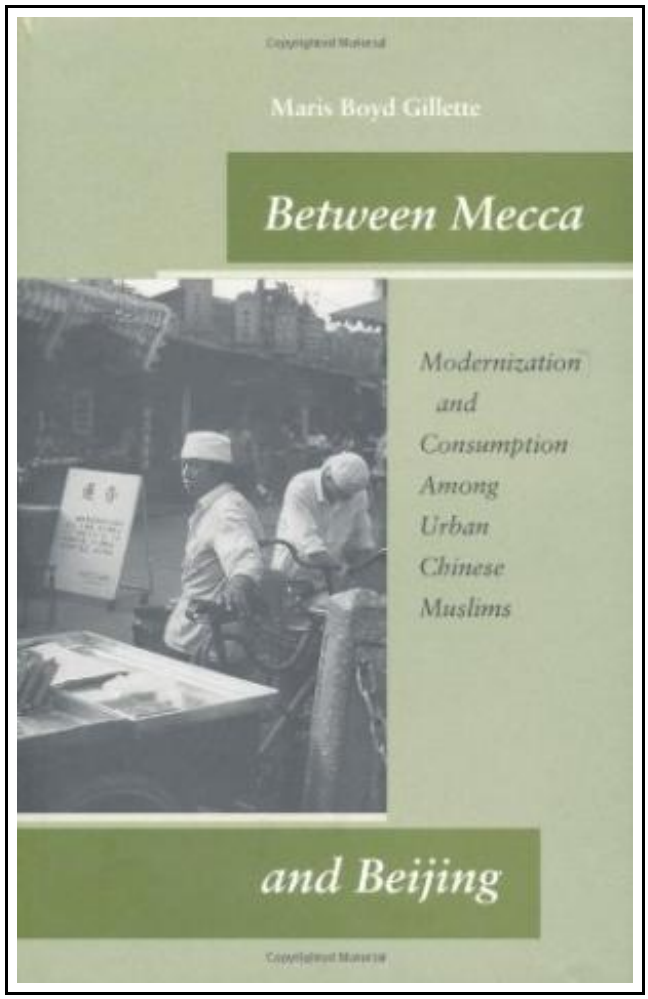
Between Mecca and Beijing: Modernization and Consumption Among Urban Chinese Muslims



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BETWEEN MECCA AND BEIJING: MODERNIZATION AND CONSUMPTION AMONG URBAN CHINESE MUSLIMS

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Stanford University Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Between Mecca and Beijing: Modernization and Consumption Among Urban Chinese Muslims, Maris Boyd Gillette, Between Mecca and Beijing examines how a community of urban Chinese Muslims uses consumption to position its members more favorably within the Chinese government's official paradigm for development. Residents of the old Muslim district in the ancient Chinese capital of Xi'an belong to an official minority (the Hui nationality) that has been classified by the state as "backward" in comparison to China's majority (Han) population. Though these Hui urbanites, like the vast majority of Chinese citizens, accept the assumptions about social evolution upon which such labels are based, they actively reject the official characterization of themselves as less civilized and modern than the Han majority. By selectively consuming goods and adopting fashions they regard as modern and non-Chinese - which include commodities and styles from both the West and the Muslim world - these Chinese Muslims seek to demonstrate that they are capable of modernizing without the guidance or assistance of the state. In so doing, they challenge one of the fundamental roles the Chinese Communist government has claimed for itself, that of guide and purveyor of modernity. Through a detailed study of the daily life - eating habits, dress styles, housing, marriage and death rituals, religious practices, education, family organization - of the Hui inhabitants of Xi'an, the author explores the effects of a state-sponsored ideology of progress on an urban Chinese Muslim neighborhood.

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