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"The Craft of the Chinese Commentator: Wang Bi on the Laozi"
Albany: State University of New York Press (SUNY Series)
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Abstract:

A systematic study of Wang Bi's (226-249) commentary on the Laozi, this book provides the first systematic study of a Chinese commentator's scholarly craft and introduces a highly sophisticated Chinese way of reading the Taoist classic, one that differs greatly from Western interpretations.

The Laozi has been translated into Western languages hundreds of times over the past two hundred years. It has become the book of Chinese philosophy most widely appreciated for its philosophical depth and lyrical form. Nevertheless, very little attention has been paid to the way in which this book was read in China. This book introduces the reader to a highly sophisticated Chinese way of reading this Taoist classic, a way that differs greatly from the many translations of the Laozi available in the West

About the Author:

Rudolf G. Wagner is Professor of Chinese Studies at the Institute of Chinese Studies, University of Heidelberg, Germany. His previous books include *Reenacting the Heavenly Vision: The Role of Religion in the Taiping Rebellion*, *The Contemporary Chinese Historical Drama: Four Studies*, and *Inside a Service Trade: Studies in Contemporary Chinese Prose*. He received the Leibnitz Award for scholarly excellence from the German Research Foundation in 1993.

