

The *Yijing* : a guide



Adler, Joseph A. Oxford, 2022

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Of the Chinese Confucian classics, the *Yijing* (also *I Ching*, *Zhou Yi*, or *Book of Changes*) is the most complex in terms of history, composition, interpretation, and use. It was first translated into English in 1876, and recent decades have seen an explosion of interest in the *Yijing*. Adler (formerly, Kenyon College) has established himself as an expert in the field. Adler recently published a full translation of Zhi Xi's *The Original Meaning of the Yijing* ([CH, May'20, 57-2863](#)), and this present addition to the "Guides to Sacred Texts" series, which "offers brief, accessible introductions to sacred texts" (p. vii), is a concise yet exhaustive introduction to the *Yijing* for non-specialists. Whereas Richard Smith's similarly brief introduction for general readers, *The I Ching: A Biography* ([CH, Aug'12, 49-6720](#)), focuses more on the history and development of the *Yijing*, the present title is a comprehensive introduction, including an overview of the very complex accumulated origins of the different layers of the text, its cultural significance both in China and abroad, and how it was interpreted and used. Taking a culturally comparative perspective, Adler does a superb job of demonstrating how "the *Yijing* represents the 'essence' of Chinese culture" (p. 156).

Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.

Reviewer: [C. D. Smith](#), California State University, Sacramento

Recommendation: Recommended

Readership Level: General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty

Interdisciplinary Subjects: [Asian and Asian American Studies](#)

Subject: [Humanities - Language & Literature - Asian & Oceanian](#)

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