Going Soft? The US and China Go Global

Edited by

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CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARS PUBLISHING
Introduction

YAO GUANG

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN AMERICA

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

Marginal Religions
Chapter Twenty-Five

Women, Religion, and Women’s Rights in America

Women of color and women of poverty have long been at the forefront of the fight for women’s rights. The struggle for equality has been a constant battle fought by women of all races and backgrounds. The fight for women’s rights has been a struggle for justice and equality, and has been fought by women of all ages and backgrounds.

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"Women's Religious Authority in America."

WORKS CITED

Conclusions

Women's religious authority is reinforced through various institutional mechanisms, including the Constitution, which grants women the right to practice their religion in public and private settings. This authority is further reinforced through social and cultural norms, which encourage women to engage in religious activities.

However, women's religious authority is often challenged by patriarchal structures, which seek to control women's religious expression and limit their access to religious resources. This challenge is particularly acute in places where religious institutions are controlled by men, who seek to uphold traditional gender roles and limit women's participation in religious activities.

Despite these challenges, women's religious authority is evolving, and women are increasingly taking control of religious institutions and activities. This is particularly evident in places where women are active in religious leadership roles, and where women's religious authority is recognized and respected by religious leaders and institutions.

In conclusion, women's religious authority is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, one that is shaped by historical, social, and cultural factors. As women continue to gain power and influence in religious institutions, we can expect to see further development in the ways in which women exercise their religious authority.
Chapter Twenty-Six

IN A COMING-OF-AGE NARRATIVE
LITERARY REPRESENTATION
RELIGION, DIASPORA, AND HYBRID IDENTITY

Lyn Ng

Chapter Twenty-Six
What is "soft power"? How can a country acquire and enjoy it? Is it the product of public or private initiatives? How significant is "soft power" in world affairs?

The concept of "soft power," the idea that international success depends not just upon weaponry, force, and military coercion, but also on admiration and respect for a country's culture and way of life, is winning ever-greater global attention. As China enjoys ever-increasing heft on the global scene, many Chinese officials seek to emulate the past success of the United States in dominating the world, not simply militarily, but in terms of influence and prestige. Most are very conscious that "soft power" can be extremely valuable in terms of supplementing and boosting their country's military and strategic position, but are often uncertain as to how to deploy the instruments of propaganda and cultural diplomacy most effectively.

The essays in this volume, largely written by scholars based in mainland China, represent an extended effort to debate and assess the theoretical concept of "soft power" and just what it means and how it works in practice. The authors focus upon the practical impact and implications of "soft power" in diverse settings and situations in the United States past and present. How, they ask, does "soft power" relate to issues of religion, gender, race, and social equality, at home and abroad? What do American elections and political rhetoric do for American "soft power"? Will China succeed in rivalling the United States in power, whether hard, soft, or smart? And how will "soft power" feature in US-China relations, present and future?

"A fascinating collection of work on Sino-American comparative issues. This volume is of help both for understanding the interaction between China and the United States, but also (and perhaps even more importantly) for grasping the views they hold of each other."
—O. A. Westad, author of Restless Empire: China and the World since 1750

Priscilla Roberts is an Associate Professor of History and the Honorary Director of the Centre of American Studies at the University of Hong Kong. She has published numerous books and articles, including three earlier themed volumes of essays by Chinese scholars working on the United States. She is currently completing a study of think tanks and US-China policy after World War II.