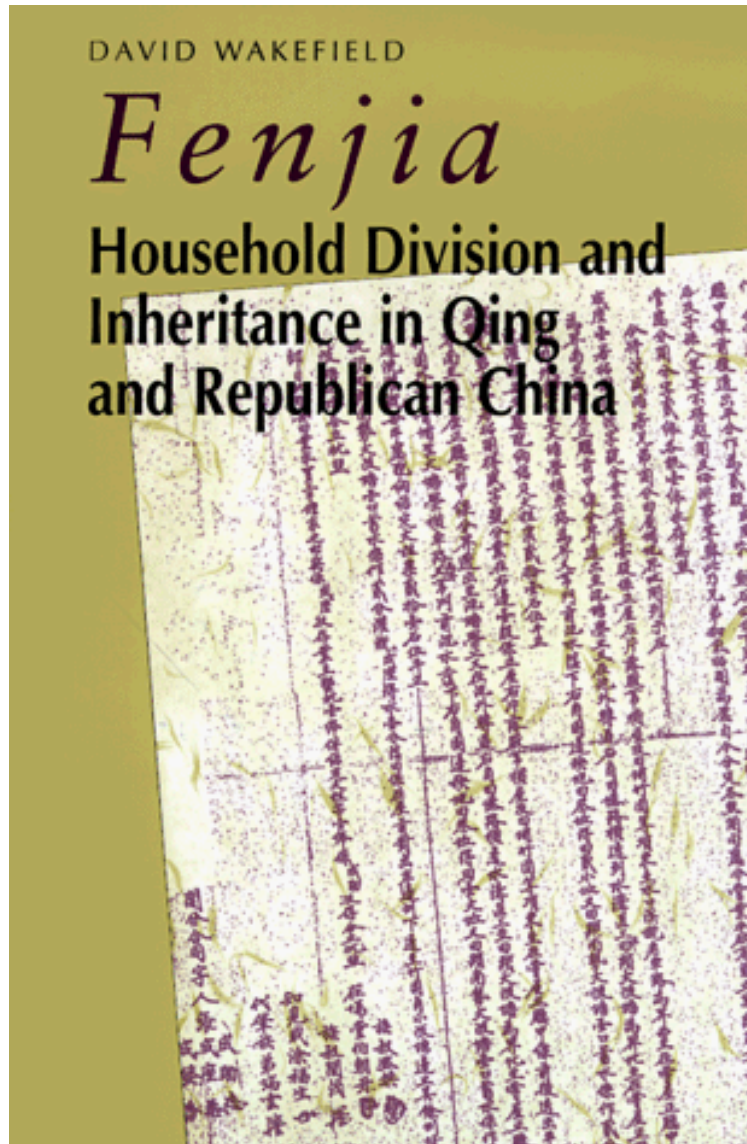


Fenjia: Household Division and Inheritance in Qing and Republican China

David Wakefield

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#4226110 in Books Univ of Hawaii Pr 1998-09-01 1998-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.50 x 5.75 x 1.00l, 1.31 #File Name: 0824820924272 pages | File size: 46.Mb

David Wakefield : Fenjia: Household Division and Inheritance in Qing and Republican China before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fenjia: Household Division and Inheritance in Qing and Republican China:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. the best study of a vital topic By A Customer Wakefield's book is by far the best study (and the only book-length study in English) of a vital topic for Chinese social and economic history.

He draws on a rich range of sources from several regions of China, including Qing household division contracts and legal cases, and Japanese social surveys of rural China conducted in the early twentieth century. He confirms the longstanding view that the principle of equal division between sons informed social practice broadly throughout China, but also shows the many creative strategies ("orientations" is his term), varying by region and class, that people employed to get around the imperatives of "equal division." The book is a major achievement, made all the more impressive by the author's long struggle with cancer while he was writing; the book would have been even better if the author had had a couple more healthy years to rework it. Wakefield's book will be the point of departure for any future study of Chinese inheritance practices. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Lost Scholar By Chad C. Ross He was my friend. I do so miss him.

The division of household property in agricultural societies lies at the centre of the transmission of economic control from one generation to the next. In assembling a body of data concerned with fenjia (household division) in Qing and Republican China, this text investigates one of the central topics in understanding how Chinese society functioned and continues to function. In his presentation of case studies of household division, the author determines that equal division was the rule, yet living parents and single siblings had property rights as well. Variations in inheritance orientations had dramatic effects on landownership patterns, lineage property patterns, lineage strength, class formations and even on state efficiency and its influence on village society. The text explores social class, women and the nuclear family, family documents and law in order to weave the different traditions into a vision of how inheritance, family, lineage and state interacted over the course of Qing and Republican China.