

Unveiling the Hidden Ties: China and the Foundation of the American Republic

The history of the United States is often viewed through the lens of its European origins, but the role of China in shaping its foundation has long been overlooked. In "China and the Founding of the United States," historian Dr. Valerie Hansen meticulously unravels this neglected connection, revealing the profound impact China had on the creation of American ideals, institutions, and identity.

China's Influence on Founding Principles

Contrary to popular belief, the United States was not born solely from European enlightenment ideas. Hansen argues that Chinese philosophical and political concepts significantly influenced the founding fathers. Confucius's teachings on morality, social harmony, and the importance of education resonated with the likes of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington.



China and the Founding of the United States: The Influence of Traditional Chinese Civilization

by Mary McAleese

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

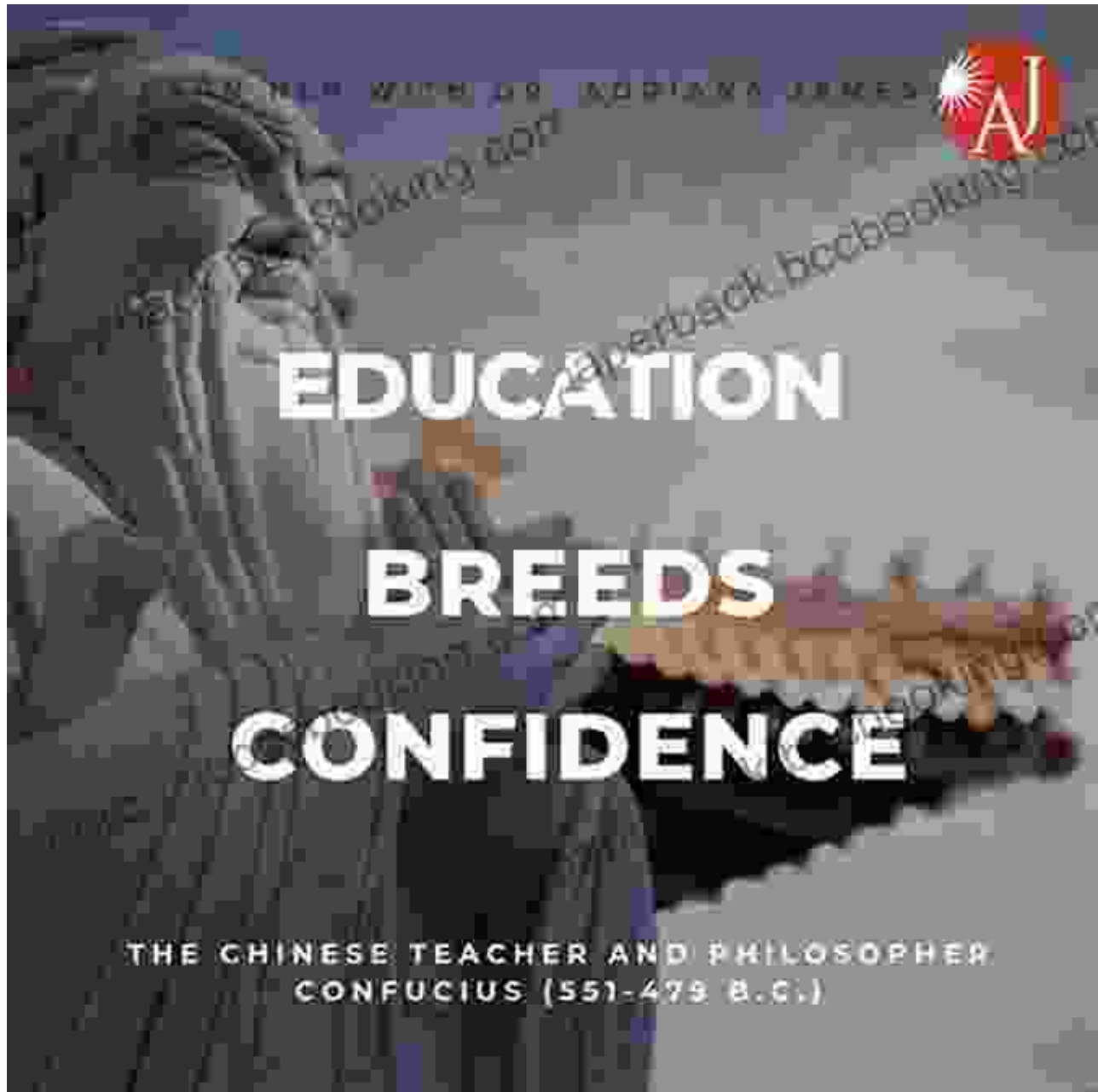
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Confucianism emphasized the virtue of thrift, which strongly influenced the economic policies of the early republic. The founders believed in the importance of self-reliance and limited government intervention, reflecting their admiration for China's well-organized society and its emphasis on personal responsibility.

Chinese Inspiration in American Institutions

The United States Constitution, considered a masterpiece of political science, draws parallels to ancient Chinese legal codes. Provisions such as the separation of powers and the impeachment process have striking similarities to the Zhou Dynasty's system of governance. Additionally, the American judicial system's focus on precedence echoes the Chinese concept of "fa," or law based on precedents.



The Role of Chinese Goods

Beyond philosophical and institutional influences, Chinese goods played a pivotal role in the American economy. Porcelain, tea, and silk were highly valued imports that stimulated commerce and laid the foundation for global trade. The demand for Chinese goods fueled the development of American

seaports and spurred westward expansion in search of new sources of raw materials.



Chinese porcelain, a high-demand import that influenced American commerce and culture

Cultural Exchange and American Identity

The newfound connection with China also influenced American culture and identity. The Chinese respect for tradition and family values found expression in the early American focus on community and religious observance. Chinese art, literature, and philosophy were widely admired

and studied, contributing to the formation of a distinct American aesthetic and intellectual landscape.



Dr. Valerie Hansen's groundbreaking book, "China and the Founding of the United States," challenges the traditional narrative of American history. By illuminating the profound influence China had on the founding ideals, institutions, and identity of the United States, it offers a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of the nation's origins. This meticulously researched and engaging work is a must-read for anyone interested in American history, international relations, or the interconnectedness of global cultures.

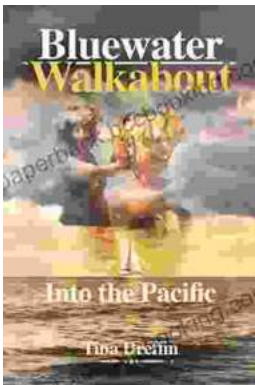


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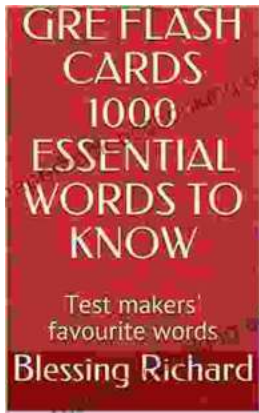
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