

Recent Religion - May 2019

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Truth and Nation-State Building : A Theologian's Perspective / John Samuel Pobee

Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (GAAS), Accra, Ghana 2018

iv, 44 pages

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\$ 12.00 / null

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Pluralism and Harmony in the Religions of China / Ye Xiaowen

Foreign Languages Press, Beijing, China 2018

viii, 294p.

9787119114453

\$ 20.00 / null

600 gm.

Taking into account the Sino-foreign ideological interactions, this book makes a vivid tour to the Chinese development of religions for several thousand years. In a reasonably objective language, it systematically reviews Chinese religious traditions, precisely summarizes the fundamental feature of Chinese ancient religions and their mutual relationships as "a diversified harmony", which is specifically interpreted as "honoring the heaven and ancestors, pursuing harmony of diverse sources, prioritizing politics with the support of religions, and valuing virtues in favor of worldly affairs". The book straightens up the history and status quo of Christianity and Islam as well as of the Chinese-foreign religious exchanges, tells the religious development in Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, and provides insight into the world's relevant hot issues such as the religious extremism, terrorism and heresy. This book interprets the "harmony" of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism in traditional Chinese culture. In both theoretical and practical veins, it answers why the Communist Party of China, an atheistic Party, can sincerely adopt the policy of freedom in religious belief, unite the believers and non-believers to the largest extent into the cause of reform and opening-up and socialist modernization drive, so as to contribute to the realization of the China Dream of national renewal.

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Postulata Vice-Province Sinensis in Urbe Proponenda = A Blueprint for a renewed SJ Mission in China / Noel Golvers

F. Verbiest Institute KU Leuven, Belgium 2018

248p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789492768056

\$ 55.00 / null

In this new text, sealed at Peking on March 1, 1680 and addressed to Superior General Giovanni Paolo Oliva, Ferdinand Verbiest speaks as Vice-Provincial of the China mission. He formulates a small series of postulata, requests, which partly repeat longstanding complaints from the mission, posed again on the occasion of its centennial jubilee and at a moment when opportunities appeared limitless, yet constrained by the juridical and structural framework of the Vice-Province.

Some of the arguments in this internal document, one not meant to be published, also show Verbiest's concern safeguarding, in the short term, Jesuit positions in China vis-à-vis other missionary congregations.

More than in any other document, these postulata show that Verbiest deserved the title of column missionis, pillar of the mission, for his talent at forceful argumentation, using all possible means to strengthen the China mission's position, especially by freeing it from the Japan Province and promoting it to the level of a full Province within the Society of Jesus.

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