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Manchuria entered the twentieth century as a neglected backwater of the dying Qing dynasty, and within a few short years became the focus of intense international rivalry to control its resources and shape its people. This book examines the place of religion in the development of Manchuria from the late nineteenth century to the collapse of the Japanese Empire in 1945. Religion was at the forefront in this period of intense competition, not just between armies, but among different models of legal, commercial, social and spiritual development, each of which imagined a very specific role for religion in the new society. Debates over religion in Manchuria extended far beyond the region, and shaped the personality of religion that we see today. This book is an ambitious contribution to the field of Asian history and to understanding of the global meaning and practice of the role of religion.

Cover image: Corpus Christi procession at Fushun mission, 1938. Image from Maryknoll Mission Archives.

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Empire and the Meaning of Religion in Northeast Asia

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Thomas David DuBois is a leading scholar of religion in East Asian history and the author of *Religion and the Making of Modern East Asia* and *Sacred Village: Social Change and Religious Life in Rural North China*. His work has been published in Arabic, Chinese, and Russian translation.

PROOF

Empire and the Meaning of Religion in Northeast Asia

Manchuria 1900–1945

Thomas David DuBois



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