



In a Sea of Bitterness: Refugees During the Sino-Japanese War (Hardback)

By R. Keith Schoppa

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, United States, 2012. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 236 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The Japanese invasion of Shanghai in 1937 led some thirty million Chinese to flee their homes in terror, and live--in the words of artist and writer Feng Zikai-- in a sea of bitterness as refugees. Keith Schoppa paints a comprehensive picture of the refugee experience in one province--Zhejiang, on the central Chinese coast--where the Japanese launched major early offensives as well as notorious later campaigns. He recounts stories of both heroes and villains, of choices poorly made amid war s bewildering violence, of risks bravely taken despite an almost palpable quaking fear. As they traveled south into China s interior, refugees stepped backward in time, sometimes as far as the nineteenth century, their journeys revealing the superficiality of China s modernization. Memoirs and oral histories allow Schoppa to follow the footsteps of the young and old, elite and non-elite, as they fled through unfamiliar terrain and coped with unimaginable physical and psychological difficulties. Within the context of Chinese culture, being forced to leave home was profoundly threatening to one s sense of identity. Not just people but whole institutions also...



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