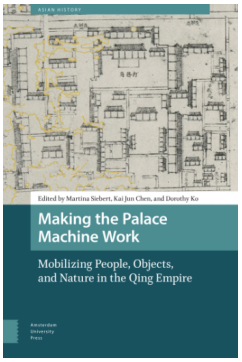
Environment & Society Portal

Multimedia Library Collection: Books & Profiles

Making the Palace Machine Work: Mobilizing People, Objects, and Nature in the Qing Empire

Siebert, Martina, Kai Jun Chen, and Dorothy Ko (eds.)



Making the Palace Machine Work. Cover.

2021 Amsterdam University Press

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License .

Siebert, Martina, Kai Jun Chen, and Dorothy Ko, eds. *Making the Palace Machine Work: Mobilizing People, Objects, and Nature in the Qing Empire*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2021.

Making the Palace Machine Work: Mobilizing People, Objects, and Nature in the Qing Empire brings the studies of institutions, labour, and material cultures to bear on the history of science and technology by tracing the workings of the Imperial Household Department (*Neiwufu*) in the Qing court and empire. An enormous apparatus that employed 22,000 men and women at its heyday, the Department operated a "machine" with myriad moving parts. The first part of the book portrays the people who kept it running, from technical experts to menial servants, and scrutinises the paper trails they left behind. Part II uncovers the working principles of the machine by following the production chains of some of its most splendid products: gilded statues, jade, porcelain, and textiles. Part III examines the complex task of managing living organisms and natural environments, including lotus plants grown in imperial ponds in Beijing, fresh medicines sourced from disparate regions, and tribute elephants from Southeast Asia.

—Amsterdam University Press


This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License
.

Download:
Full book https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/making_the_palace_machine_work.pdf

Related links:

- Amsterdam University Press
  https://www.aup.nl/en/book/9789048553228/making-the-palace-machine-work
- "The Distant Roots of Beijing's Palaces" by Ian Miller
  https://doi.org/10.5282/rcc/9133

Websites linked in this text:

- https://www.aup.nl/en/book/9789048553228/making-the-palace-machine-work#toc

Books & Profiles Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
Making the Palace Machine Work: Mobilizing People, Objects, and Nature in the Qing Empire
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/9404
Print date: 14 November 2026 15:14:22