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## Nota di contenuto

Cover; Christians in Asia before 1500; Title Page; Copyright Page; Table of Contents; List of Maps and Plates; Foreword; Abbreviations; 1 Introduction; 2 Apostolic Times and Apostolic Traditions; 3 A Necessary Excursus into Theology; 4 Christians in Syria and Palestine; Introduction; The Role of Jewish Christianity; The Spread of Christianity in the Region; Cultural Tensions; Three Key Centres: Jerusalem, Antioch, Edessa; Some Major Figures and their Influence; The Ascetic Spirit of Syrian Christianity; Syrian Mysticism and Monasticism; Common Religiosity and Distinctive Communions Under Muslims and Crusaders to AD 15105 Christians in 'Arabia'; Christian Beginnings among Arabs; Conflicts Without and Within; Interaction with Islam; 6 Christians in Armenia and Georgia; Introduction; Christian Beginnings and Establishment; Under Political Pressures prior to Islam; Theological Stances; The Impact of Islam; The Era of the Crusaders and Thereafter; 7 Christians in Persia (Iran); Foundations Laid; Through Persecution to Autonomy; Both Autonomous and Predominantly Nestorian; Under Muslims and Mongols; Emphases, Concerns and Domestic Organisation of The Church of the East' Monks and Missionaries Retrospect; 8 Christians in India; Early Links between India and 'the West'; Apostolic Foundations?; The Indian Christian Community until AD 1520; South Indian Christians - their Lives, Status and Relationship o Indian Culture; The Organisation and Theology of the Church; The Impact of the Portuguese; Retrospect; 9 Christians in Central Asia; Central Asia as the Scene of Nestorian Expansion; Chorasan and Adjacent Areas; Transoxania / West Turkestan; The Southern Silk Route; The Northern Silk Route; North of the Tien-Shan Mountains; Decline of Christianity Organisation of the Church in Central and East AsiaThe Plurality of Christian Denominations in Central Asia and the Appearance of Latin Christians; Christian Literature in Central Asia; 10 Christians in China; Christians in Pre-T'ang China?; The Appearance of Christians in T'ang China; The Monument at Sian-fu; The Chinese Nestorian Texts of the T'ang Period; The Decline of Christianity in T'ang China; The Mongols in China; Nestorians among the Ruling Mongols; Khubilai Khan's Attitude to Christianity; Nestorianism in the Secular Life of Yuan China; Christian Monks and Hermits in Yuan China Franciscan Envoys, Legates and MissionariesJohn of Montecorvino; Later Franciscans in China; 11 Christians in South-East Asia; Ancient Trade Routes and Consequent Possibilities; Evidence of Christians in South-East Asia before AD 1500; 12 Conclusion; Notes; Appendices; A. General Chronological Chart; B. Chronological Table for the 'Church of the East'; C. Christians in Japan; Bibliography; Index

## Sommario/riassunto

The history of Christianity in Asia is little dealt with either by Church historians or by historians of religion. It is generally unknown, even amongst theologians, that there was a long history of Christianity in Persia, India, Central Asia and China before the appearance on the scene of the first missionaries from the West. A systematic history of the Christian Church in Asia before 1500 is needed.Drawing on material hitherto unknown in the English speaking world, this is a timely and important book because there is a heightened interest today in the early forms of Asian Christianity. T