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centuriesIntroduction; Wet rice cultivation and basin societies; Historical overview of irrigation in the three basins; Institutional changes and the differentiation of social identities; Role of the gentry in the transformation of local society; Lijia system, religious reform and the gentry; Establishment of common property based on village temples; Conclusion; Notes; Bibliography

Chapter 3: The Lancang Guard and the construction of Ming society in northwest YunnanIntroduction; Location of Beisheng and the native officials in northwest Yunnan; Position of Beisheng on the communication route to Sichuan; Native officials in northwest Yunnan during early Ming; Revolt by and unrest among ethnic leaders and the Lancang Guard; Revolts by indigenous leaders in the early Ming; Unrest in the mountain tracts of Iron Chain Gorge; Lancang Guard; Interaction between the Guard and border society; Tribute and tax; Deployment of native official troops

Appointment of a Military Defence Vice-CommissionerLancang Guard and social change in local society; Changing the structure of society; Promoting Confucian education; Irrigation projects; Establishment of market systems; Construction of local ethnic status; Conclusion; Notes; Bibliography; Chapter 4: The Mu Native Official's governance of the Tibetan world and his sponsorship of Tibetan Buddhism; Introduction; Sources; The Mu Native Official's military campaigns in Southern Kham: the case of Muli; Physical location of Muli and its leaders; Military campaigns

Sommario/riassunto

This book examines how the Ming state transformed the multi-ethnic society of Yunnan into a province. Yunnan had remained outside the ambit of central government when ruled by the Dali kingdom, 937-1253, and its foundation as a province by the Yuan regime in 1276 did not disrupt Dali kingdom style political, social and religious institutions. It was the Ming state in the fourteenth to seventeenth centuries through its institutions for military and civilian control which brought about profound changes and truly transformed local society into a province. In contrast to other studies which have portrayed Yunnan as a non-Han frontier region waiting to be colonised, this book, by focusing on changes in local society, casts off the idea of Yunnan as a border area far from civilisation.
