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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; Chorasana and Adjacent Areas; Transoxania / West Turkestan; The Southern Silk Route; The Northern Silk Route; North of the Tien-Shan Mountains; Decline of Christianity
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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
