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"'Appendices'"'A. Li Zuoche and Chen Yu's Exchange"'; "'B. Liu Jing's ; Address to the High Emperor (Liu Bang)"'; "'C. Zhufu Yan's Address to Emperor Wu (Liu Che)"'; "'D. Chao Cuo Address to Emperor Wen (Liu Heng)"'; "'E. Zou Yang's Address to the King of Wu (Liu Pi)"'; "'F. Liu An's Address to Emperor Wu (Liu Che)"'; "'G. Zhao Chongguo's Exchange with Emperor Xuan (Liu Bingyi)"'; "'H. Wei Xiang's Address to Emperor Xuan (Liu Bingyi)"';
"'I. Hou Ying Address to Emperor Yuan (Liu Shi)"'; "'J. Yan Yous Address to Wang Mang"'; "'Notes"'; "'Bibliography"'; "'Index'"

Sommario/riassunto

What were the intentions of early China's historians? Modern readers must contend with the tension between the narrators' moralizing commentary and their description of events. Although these historians had notions of evidence, it is not clear to what extent they valued what contemporary scholars would deem "hard" facts. Offering an innovative approach to premodern historical documents, Garret P. S. Olberding argues that the speeches of court advisors reveal subtle strategies of information management in the early monarchic context. Olberding focuses on those addresses concerning military campaigns where evidence would be important in guiding immediate social and political policy. His analysis reveals the sophisticated conventions that governed the imperial advisor's logic and suasion in critical state discussions, which were specifically intended to counter anticipated doubts. Dubious Facts illuminates both the decision-making processes that informed early Chinese military campaigns and the historical records that represent them.