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The Romance of the Three

Kingdoms Penguin

A new translation and abridgement of one of the four classical Chinese novels - an epic story of warring factions in the era of China's Han dynasty. Written more than six centuries ago and still read by millions throughout Asia today, *The Romance of Three Kingdoms* is an epic Chinese novel set during the Han dynasty that dramatizes the lives of feudal lords and their retainers, recounting their personal and military battles, intrigues, and struggles to achieve dominance for almost 100 years. Part historical record and part legend, the novel covers the turbulent final years of the Han dynasty when China broke into three competing kingdoms, and delves into the politics of war, power, and diplomacy, causing it to be viewed not just as a great work of literature, but also as a guide for success in business and leadership. The most famous historical novel in China, it has inspired countless adaptations worldwide and remains one of the most beloved works of East Asian literature.

Romance of the Three Kingdoms CreateSpace

Romance of the Three Kingdoms, attributed to Luo Guanzhong, is a historical novel set in the turbulent years towards the end of the Han dynasty and the Three Kingdoms period in Chinese history, starting in 169 AD and ending with the reunification of the land in 280. The story - part historical, part legend, and part mythical - romanticises and dramatises the lives of feudal lords and their retainers, who tried to replace the dwindling Han dynasty or restore it. While the novel follows hundreds of characters, the focus is mainly on the three power blocs that emerged from the remnants of the Han dynasty, and

would eventually form the three states of Cao Wei, Shu Han, and Eastern Wu. The novel deals with the plots, personal and military battles, intrigues, and struggles of these states to achieve dominance for almost 100 years. *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* is acclaimed as one of the Four Great Classical Novels of Chinese literature; it has a total of 800,000 words and nearly a thousand dramatic characters (mostly historical) in 120 chapters. The novel is among the most beloved works of literature in East Asia.

Romance of the Three Kingdoms XinXii

"The world under heaven, after a long period of division, tends to unite; after a long period of union, tends to divide..." The Han dynasty is falling, the rebels and warlords fight each other for the hegemony in China. Who will bring peace to these lands? *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, Written by Luo Guanzhong in the 14th century, is one of the four great Chinese classical novels. Discover it in this new edition with illustrations from Ming and Qing dynasties and the whole text in Simplified Chinese. Compare it using the Table of Contents!

Three Kingdoms**A Historical Novel Univ of California Press**

Updated with a new foreword by Moss Roberts for this fifteenth anniversary edition, *Three Kingdoms* tells the story of the fateful last reign of the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220), when the Chinese empire was divided into three warring kingdoms. Writing some twelve hundred years later, the Ming author Luo Guanzhong drew on histories, dramas,

and poems portraying the crisis to fashion a sophisticated, compelling narrative that has become the Chinese national epic. This abridged edition captures the novel's intimate and unsparing view of how power is wielded, how diplomacy is conducted, and how wars are planned and fought. As important for Chinese culture as the Homeric epics have been for the West, this Ming dynasty masterpiece continues to be widely influential in China, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam and remains a great work of world literature.

Romance of the Three Kingdoms
Tuttle Publishing

This epic saga of brotherhood and rivalry, of loyalty and treachery, of victory and death, forms part of the indelible core of classical Chinese culture and continues to fascinate modern-day readers. In 220 EC, the 400-year-old rule of the mighty Han dynasty came to an end and three kingdoms contested for control of China. Liu Pei, the legitimate heir to the Han throne, elects to fight for his birthright and enlists the aid of his sworn brothers, the impulsive giant Chang Fei and the invincible knight Kuan Yu. The brave band faces a formidable array of enemies, foremost among them the treacherous and bloodthirsty Ts'ao Ts'ao. The bold struggle of the three heroes seems doomed until the reclusive wizard Chuko Liang offers his counsel, and the tide begins to turn. Romance of the Three Kingdoms is China's oldest novel and the first of a great tradition of historical fiction. Believed to have been compiled by the play-wright Lo Kuan-chung in the late fourteenth century, it is indebted to the great San-kuo chi (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms) completed by the historian Ch'en Shou just before his death in 297 CE. The

novel first appeared in print in 1522. This edition, translated in the mid-1920s by C. H. Brewitt-Taylor, is based on a shortened and simplified version which appeared in the 1670s. An Introduction to this reprint by Robert E. Hegel, Professor of Chinese and Comparative Literature at Washington University, provides an insightful commentary on the historical background to the novel, its literary origins and its main characters.

Romance of the Three Kingdoms
Volume 1 *Tuttle Publishing*

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Romance of the Three Kingdoms

Compiled by Luo Guan Zhong in the Ming Dynasty, and revised by Mao Zong Gang and his father in the Qing Dynasty, the Romance of the Three Kingdoms has been for centuries -- and still remains -- China's greatest classical novel. It is a vast collection of the best known and best loved tales, both historical and legendary, passed on from generation to generation by story-tellers, through popular plays and operas, and in writing.

Romance of the Three Kingdoms (Traditional Chinese Edition) - Treasured Four Great Classical Novels Handed Down from Ancient China

San Guo Yan Yi: a Historical Novel and Legends of the Heroes *e-artnow*

Romance of the Three Kingdoms Vol 3

In Simplified Chinese & Pinyin *LEONG BIK YOKE*

This book is the third and final volume of Romance of the Three Kingdoms translated from original text (traditional Chinese) into Simplified Chinese with Pinyin and comes with free audio files and English definition for all the words used in this book. The link and password to download the audio files are on the

last page of the book. The Word List is in this volume. Romance of the Three Kingdoms (simplified Chinese: 三国演义; pinyin: Sānguó Yǎnyì) is a 14th-century historical novel attributed to Luo Guanzhong. It is set in the turbulent years towards the end of the Han dynasty and the Three Kingdoms period in Chinese history, starting in 169 AD and ending with the reunification of the land in 280 AD. The story - part historical, part legend, and part mythical - romanticises and dramatises the lives of feudal lords and their retainers, who tried to replace the dwindling Han dynasty or restore it. While the novel follows hundreds of characters, the focus is mainly on the three power blocs that emerged from the remnants of the Han dynasty, and would eventually form the three states of Cao Wei, Shu Han, and Eastern Wu. The novel deals with the plots, personal and military battles, intrigues, and struggles of these states to achieve dominance for a period of almost 100 years. Romance of the Three Kingdoms is acclaimed as one of the Four Great Classical Novels of Chinese literature; it has a total of 800,000 words and nearly a thousand dramatic characters (mostly historical) in 120 chapters. We have compiled the entire text into 3 volumes: Volume 1 - Chapters 1 to 52 Volume 2 - Chapters 53 to 102 Volume 3 - Chapters 103 to 120 and Word List For more information, please visit www.allmusing.net

Romance of the Three Kingdoms Vol 2

In Simplified Chinese & Pinyin *LEONG BIK YOKE*

This book is the second volume of Romance of the Three Kingdoms translated from original text (traditional

Chinese) into Simplified Chinese with Pinyin and comes with free audio files and English definition for all the words used in this book. The link and password to download the audio files are on the last page of the book. The Word List is in Volume 3. Romance of the Three Kingdoms (simplified Chinese: 三国演义; pinyin: Sānguó Yǎnyì) is a 14th-century historical novel attributed to Luo Guanzhong. It is set in the turbulent years towards the end of the Han dynasty and the Three Kingdoms period in Chinese history, starting in 169 AD and ending with the reunification of the land in 280 AD. The story – part historical, part legend, and part mythical – romanticises and dramatises the lives of feudal lords and their retainers, who tried to replace the dwindling Han dynasty or restore it. While the novel follows hundreds of characters, the focus is mainly on the three power blocs that emerged from the remnants of the Han dynasty, and would eventually form the three states of Cao Wei, Shu Han, and Eastern Wu. The novel deals with the plots, personal and military battles, intrigues, and struggles of these states to achieve dominance for a period of almost 100 years. Romance of the Three Kingdoms is acclaimed as one of the Four Great Classical Novels of Chinese literature; it has a total of 800,000 words and nearly a thousand dramatic characters (mostly historical) in 120 chapters. We have compiled the entire text into 3 volumes: Volume 1 – Chapters 1 to 52 Volume 2 – Chapters 53 to 102 Volume 3 – Chapters 103 to 120 and Word List For more information, please visit www.allmusing.net

Romance of the Three Kingdoms Volume II

(Illustrated English-Simplified Chinese edition) XinXii

“The world under heaven, after a long period of division, tends to unite; after a long period of union, tends to divide...” The Han dynasty is falling, the rebels and warlords fight each other for the hegemony in China. Who will bring peace to these lands? Romance of the Three Kingdoms, Written by Luo Guanzhong in the 14th century, is one of the four great Chinese classical novels. Discover it in this new edition with illustrations from Ming and Qing dynasties and the whole text in Simplified Chinese. Compare it using the Table of Contents!

Guan-Yu the Hero Partridge Singapore

Romance of the Three Kingdoms, a classic historical novel of enormous influence, is considered to be one of the four great Chinese classic novels. Written by Luo Guanzhong, a scholar who lived in the late Yuan and early Ming dynasties, it chronicled the efforts of the Wei, Shu, and Wu kingdoms to reunite the empire at the end of the Eastern Han Dynasty. This fascinating period in Chinese history inspired many other authors, poets, artists, and playwrights, including Luo Guanzhong's novel, which is a work of enduring historical and literary impact and beauty. Guan Yu, the hero, has had a significant impact on Chinese culture and the arts. That influence has spread to Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and to all Chinese communities in the world. Guan Yu is well respected and worshiped in Taoism, Buddhism, Shintoism, and Caodaiism. He has also influenced modern entertainment and mass media as well, including television, video games, Manga, and more. The study and critical interpretation of Romance of the Three Kingdoms and

Guan Yu has captivated scholars, artists, and writers for centuries. Now, modern-day scholar and collector Frankie KT Neo offers the best of his research. Readers are invited to a detailed tour of his extensive collection of antiques and other artifacts commemorating Three Kingdoms and its hero, Guan Yu. His collection, called the Sanfen Tang Collection, currently features more than a thousand pieces, many of which are detailed within.

The Romance of Three Kingdoms *Disruptive Publishing*

Romance of Three Kingdoms, dating to the 14th Century, is the legendary epic of the fall of Han and the founding of Jin. Dealing with plots, complex men, wars, intrigues, marriages and assassinations, this book, one of the four great Chinese classics, is foundational literature on a par with The Illiad or The Lay of the Cid.

Romance Of The Three Kingdoms: **The Brave Brothers** *World Scientific*

Liu Bei thinks he is all alone in saving people from troublemakers. Luckily, he meets two good guys who are brave and heroic. Together, they start an army. The three men get along so well that they decide they won't just be friends. They'll be brothers! Join Liu Bei, Guan Yu and Zhang Fei as they fight against bullies and protect China!

Romance of the Three Kingdoms Vol 1

In Simplified Chinese & Pinyin *LEONG BIK YOKE*

This book is the first volume of Romance of the Three Kingdoms translated from original text (traditional Chinese) into Simplified Chinese with Pinyin and comes with free audio files and English

definition for all the words used in this book. The link and password to download the audio files are on the last page of the book. The Word List is in Volume 3. Romance of the Three Kingdoms (simplified Chinese: 三国演义; pinyin: Sānguó Yǎnyì) is a 14th-century historical novel attributed to Luo Guanzhong. It is set in the turbulent years towards the end of the Han dynasty and the Three Kingdoms period in Chinese history, starting in 169 AD and ending with the reunification of the land in 280 AD. The story – part historical, part legend, and part mythical – romanticises and dramatises the lives of feudal lords and their retainers, who tried to replace the dwindling Han dynasty or restore it. While the novel follows hundreds of characters, the focus is mainly on the three power blocs that emerged from the remnants of the Han dynasty, and would eventually form the three states of Cao Wei, Shu Han, and Eastern Wu. The novel deals with the plots, personal and military battles, intrigues, and struggles of these states to achieve dominance for a period of almost 100 years. Romance of the Three Kingdoms is acclaimed as one of the Four Great Classical Novels of Chinese literature; it has a total of 800,000 words and nearly a thousand dramatic characters (mostly historical) in 120 chapters. We have compiled the entire text into 3 volumes: Volume 1 – Chapters 1 to 52 Volume 2 – Chapters 53 to 102 Volume 3 – Chapters 103 to 120 and Word List For more information, please visit www.allmusing.net

The Three Kingdoms, Volume 1: The Sacred Oath

The Epic Chinese Tale of Loyalty and War in a Dynamic New Translation

(with Footnotes) Tuttle Publishing

This exciting new translation with footnotes is more readable than past versions and will appeal to modern readers. The Three Kingdoms is an epic Chinese novel written over six centuries ago. It recounts in vivid historical detail the turbulent years at the close of the Han Dynasty when China broke into three competing kingdoms and over half the population were either killed or driven from their homes. Part myth, part fact, readers will experience the loyalty and treachery, the brotherhood and rivalry of China's legendary heroes and villains during the most tumultuous period in Chinese history. Considered the most significant work in classic Chinese literature, The Three Kingdoms is read by millions throughout Asia today. Seen not just as a great work of art, many Chinese view it as a guide to success in life and business as well as a work that offers moral clarity—while many foreigners read it to gain insights into Chinese society and culture. From the saga of The Three Kingdoms, readers will learn how great warriors motivate their troops and enhance their influence while disguising their weaknesses and turning the strengths of others against them. This first volume in a trilogy introduces Liu Bei and his sworn brothers-in-arms Zhang Fei and Guan Yu, whose allegiance is sorely tested in a society that is in flux where each group is fighting for its survival against the other.

San Kuo**Or Romance of the Three Kingdoms****China's Great Classical Novels 2****Romance of The Three Kingdoms, Learn Mandarin Fast, Improve****Vocabulary with Epic Classics of Chinese Literature (Simplified Characters, Pinyin, Graded Reader Level 6)**

Romance of The Three Kingdoms (三国演义), originally written about 600 years ago by Luo Guanzhong (罗贯中, 1330 AD - 1400 AD), a pioneering work of historical romance novels, is one of the four classic novels of Chinese literature. It is also first literary novel and the first Zhanghui (章回) style novel in the history of the Chinese literary tradition (in the Zhanghui style of traditional Chinese novel, each chapter is headed by a couplet providing the essence of the corresponding text). The novel narrates the period of Chinese history of nearly a hundred years from the end of the Eastern Han Dynasty (东汉, 25 AD - 220 AD) to the beginning of the Western Jin Dynasty (西晋, 266 AD - 316 AD). It mainly describes the wars and battles among the heroes in the late Eastern Han Dynasty (东汉末年) and the political and military struggles among the Wei (魏), Shu (蜀), and Wu (吴) Kingdoms (三国). In the end, Sima Yan (司马炎) unified the three kingdoms and established the Jin Dynasty (晋). The story thoroughly reflects the transformation of various social struggles, contradictions in the era of the Three Kingdoms and summarizes the historical changes of the contemporary era shaping a group of heroic figures of the Three Kingdoms.

Kindle Edition:
www.amazon.com/dp/B087PKJ8YM
 Paperback Edition:

www.amazon.com/dp/B087R5Q4LH The book has 6 chapters in the following order: Chapter 1: A Group of Men Competing Against Dong Zhuo (第一回: 宴桃园豪杰三结义, 斩黄巾英雄首立功) Chapter 2: Defeat of Yuan Shao (第二回: 董卓废帝, 李傕郭汜围城) Chapter 3: Liu Sun and the Three Kingdoms (第三回: 曹操献刀进相府, 吕布白河渡口擒貂蝉)

Chapter 4: First Sight of the Three Kingdoms (第一回: 桃园三结义) Chapter 5: Three-pointed World (第二回: 曹操献刀) Chapter 6: The Unification (第三回: 官渡之战) The current book volume, China's Great Classical Novels 2, is a Level 6 Chinese reading practice book. It would introduce you to the famous Chinese novel Romance of The Three Kingdoms. The 2nd volume in the Classical Novels of Chinese Literature (中国古典小说) series includes both the Chinese text (simplified characters) and pinyin Romanization. With about over 1300 unique Chinese characters, the volume would be suitable for the lower intermediate and advanced level Chinese language learners (HSK 3-6). Overall, the reading series offers you a variety of elementary level books (Level 1/2/3/4/5/6) to understand China as well as practice Chinese reading fast. More books are available on the author's homepage: <https://amzn.to/2ZnR4cg>

Romance of the Three Kingdoms

San Kuo Chih Yen-i

Guanyu-Yu, the Hero in Romance of the Three Kingdoms

The Hero in Romance of the Three Kingdoms Chinese Edition Xlibris Corporation

Romance of the Three Kingdoms, a classic historical novel of enormous influence, is considered to be one of the four great Chinese classic novels. Written by Luo Guanzhong, a scholar who lived in the late Yuan and early Ming dynasties, it chronicled the efforts of the Wei, Shu, and Wu kingdoms to reunite the empire at the end of the Eastern Han Dynasty. This fascinating period in Chinese history inspired many other

authors, poets, artists, and playwrights, including Luo Guanzhong's novel, which is a work of enduring historical and literary impact and beauty. Guan Yu, the hero, has had a significant impact on Chinese culture and the arts. That influence has spread to Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and to all Chinese communities in the world. Guan Yu is well respected and worshiped in Taoism, Buddhism, Shintoism, and Caodaiism. He has also influenced modern entertainment and mass media as well, including television, video games, Manga, and more. The study and critical interpretation of Romance of the Three Kingdoms and Guan Yu has captivated scholars, artists, and writers for centuries. Now, modern-day scholar and collector Frankie KT Neo offers the best of his research. Readers are invited to a detailed tour of his extensive collection of antiques and other artifacts commemorating Three Kingdoms and its hero, Guan Yu. His collection, called the Sanfen Tang Collection, currently features more than a thousand pieces, many of which are detailed within.

Fate and Prognostication in the Chinese Literary Imagination BRILL

The essays collected in Fate and Prognostication in the Chinese Literary Imagination deal with the issues hidden in the Chinese conception of fate as represented in literary texts and films, with a focus placed on human efforts to solve the riddles of fate prediction.

Romance of the Three Kingdoms

San Kuo Chih Yen-i

Romance of the Three Kingdoms

A Humorous Interpretation of the

Historical Chinese Classic

Romance of the Three Kingdoms Volume 3 Of 3 *Createspace Independent Publishing Platform*

Romance of the Three Kingdoms Volume 3 of 3 is the final volume in the classic set during the end of the Han Dynasty.

Three Kingdoms and Chinese Culture *SUNY Press*

A multi-disciplinary exploration of China's first great classical novel, Three Kingdoms, and its influence on Chinese culture.

Romance of the Three Kingdoms, Vol. 1

(Illustrated Edition) *Createspace Independent Publishing Platform*

"The world under heaven, after a long period of division, tends to unite; after a long period of union, tends to divide..." The Han dynasty is falling, the rebels and warlords fight each other for the hegemony in China. Who will bring peace to these lands? Romance of the Three Kingdoms, Written by Luo Guanzhong in the 14th century, is one of the four great Chinese classical novels. Discover it in this new edition with 240 Qing dynasty illustrations, maps and footnotes.

Romance of the Three Kingdoms Volume 1 *Tuttle Publishing*

This epic saga of brotherhood and rivalry, of loyalty and treachery, of victory and death forms part of the indelible core of classical Chinese culture and continues to fascinate modern-day readers. In 220 EC, the 400-year-old rule of the mighty Han dynasty came to an end and three kingdoms contested for control of China. Liu Pei, the legitimate

heir to the Han throne, elects to fight for his birthright and enlists the aid of his sworn brothers, the impulsive giant Chang Fei and the invincible knight Kuan Yu. The brave band faces a formidable array of enemies, foremost among them the treacherous and bloodthirsty Ts'ao Ts'ao. The bold struggle of the three heroes seems doomed until the reclusive wizard Chuko Liang offers his counsel, and the tide begins to turn. Romance of the Three Kingdoms is China's oldest novel and the first of a great tradition of historical fiction. Believed to have been compiled by the play-wright Lo Kuan-chung in the late fourteenth century, it is indebted to the great San-kuo chi (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms) completed by the historian Ch'en Shou just before his death in 297 CE. The novel first appeared in print in 1522. This edition, translated in the mid-1920s by C. H. Brewitt-Taylor, is based on a shortened and simplified version which appeared in the 1670s. An Introduction to this reprint by Robert E. Hegel, Professor of Chinese and Comparative Literature at Washington University, provides an insightful commentary on the historical background to the novel, its literary origins and its main characters.

Romance of the Three Kingdoms, Vol. 1

(with Footnotes and Maps)

"The world under heaven, after a long period of division, tends to unite; after a long period of union, tends to divide..." The Han dynasty is falling, the rebels and warlords fight each other for the hegemony in China. Who will bring peace to these lands? Romance of the Three Kingdoms, Written by Luo Guanzhong in the 14th century, is one of

the four great Chinese classical novels. Discover it in this new edition with maps and footnotes.

Romance of the Three Kingdoms (English Edition)

Romance of the Three Kingdoms is a 14th-century historical novel attributed to Luo Guanzhong. It is set in the turbulent years towards the end of the Han dynasty and the Three Kingdoms period in Chinese history, starting in 169 AD and ending with the reunification of the land in 280. The story - part historical, part legend, and part mythical - romanticises and dramatises the lives of feudal lords and their retainers, who tried to replace the dwindling Han dynasty or restore it. While the novel follows hundreds of characters, the focus is mainly on the three power blocs that emerged from the remnants of the Han dynasty, and would eventually form the three states of Cao Wei, Shu Han, and Eastern Wu. The novel deals with the plots, personal and military battles, intrigues, and struggles of these states to achieve dominance for almost 100 years.

Pop! Lit For Kids (Set 2) World Scientific

Taking classic stories from Asia and the West, Pop! Lit for Kids reimagines them into easy-to-read stories that provide the perfect introduction to classic tales. The most well-loved stories from around the world have been adapted into a form that will excite and entertain children everywhere. Readers can embark on new adventures with famous beloved storybook characters. In addition, the books come to life with augmented reality features, giving readers an enhanced experience that they'll never forget!

Three Kingdoms

Wu Hu, Romance of the Three Kingdoms, History of the Han Dynasty, End of the Han Dynasty, Records of Three Kingdoms, Military History *University-Press.org*

Please note that the content of this book primarily consists of articles available from Wikipedia or other free sources online. Pages: 51. Chapters: Wu Hu, Romance of the Three Kingdoms, History of the Han Dynasty, End of the Han Dynasty, Records of Three Kingdoms, Military history of the Three Kingdoms, Timeline of the Three Kingdoms period, Empty Fort Strategy, Weilue, Green Dragon Crescent Blade, Oath of the Peach Garden, Xuantu Commandery, Red Hare, Second Chinese domination, Period of Disunity, Zhang Fei Temple, Valley of the Fallen Phoenix.

Romance of the Three Kingdoms

A card game of epic warfare based on chinese legend.

The Three Kingdoms, Volume 3: Welcome The Tiger

The Epic Chinese Tale of Loyalty and War in a Dynamic New Translation *Tuttle Publishing*

This exciting new translation with footnotes is more readable than past versions and will appeal to modern readers. The Three Kingdoms is an epic Chinese novel written over six centuries ago. It recounts in vivid historical detail the turbulent years at the close of the Han Dynasty when China broke into three competing kingdoms and over half the population were either killed or driven from their homes. Part myth, part fact, readers will experience the loyalty and treachery, the brotherhood and

rivalry of China's legendary heroes and villains during the most tumultuous period in Chinese history. Considered the greatest work in classic Chinese literature, *The Three Kingdoms* is read by millions throughout Asia today. Seen not just as a great work of art, many Chinese view it as a guide to success in life and business as well as a work that offers great moral clarity—while many foreigners read it to gain insights into Chinese society and culture. From the saga of *The Three Kingdoms*, readers will learn how great warriors motivate their troops and enhance their influence while disguising their weaknesses and turning the strengths of others against them. This third volume concludes the tale of Liu Bei and his sworn brothers-in-arms, Zhang Fei and Guan Yu, whose loyalty and fidelity are sorely tested in a society at war for its very survival.

Records of the Three Kingdoms in Plain Language *Hackett Publishing*

The saga of the Three Kingdoms—which recounts the dramatic story of the civil wars (ca. 180–220 CE) that divided the old Han Empire into the Shu, Wei, and Wu states—remains as popular as ever in China, having served as the basis of not only traditional operas and ballads, but also, in more recent years, of movies, television dramas, and video games. Translated into English for the first time here, the *Sanguozhi pinghua* (thirteenth century CE) provides a complete and fast-paced narrative account of the events of the period, from the beginning of the civil wars to the demise of the Three Kingdoms and the short-lived reunification of the realm by the Jin dynasty. Shorter, clearer, and more accessible to Western audiences than Luo Guanzhong's later, greatly expanded *Romance* (*Sanguo yanyi*)—and

beautifully rendered in this edition by two modern-day masters of the art of Chinese literary translation—the *Records of the Three Kingdoms in Plain Language* provides an ideal introduction to one of the foundational Chinese epic traditions. Tables of major Chinese dynasties and reigns, a guide to understanding formal Chinese naming conventions, a glossary of Chinese names and terms, and reproductions of some woodcuts from the original edition of the text are included.

A Study of Two Classics

A Cultural Critique of The Romance of the Three Kingdoms and The Water Margin

Ever since they were written in the fourteenth century, *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* and *The Water Margin* have been considered masterpieces of traditional Chinese fiction. People from different social strata have read them and remembered their stories and characters. Since the early twentieth century, Chinese critics have regarded them as part and parcel of their country's literary heritage, offering largely positive artistic assessments even as they criticize their feudal elements. In contemporary China the popularity of the two novels has made them logical choices for adaptation, resulting, for example, in a large number of films and TV dramas based on episodes in the two novels. Given their importance in traditional Chinese literature, these two classics have garnered a tremendous amount of critical attention from scholars. However, nearly all critics have treated them as literary works, failing to explore, in a concentrated manner, their cultural values even as they acknowledge their

widespread social influence. This book is not a work of literary criticism in the conventional sense. Rather, it is a cultural/ideological critique. Liu Zaifu's interest lies not in the artistry of the two novels but in the cultural values they reflect and spread. In summing up the worship of violence as the ideal in *The Water Margin* and the worship of trickery as the ideal in *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, Liu Zaifu uses the two novels as windows to look into certain unhealthy aspects of Chinese culture, linking the novels' enduring popularity and social impact to the Chinese national character. Liu also contrasts the two novels with other classics, such as *The Classic of Mountains and Seas* and *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, to demonstrate the multiplicity of Chinese culture. As he calls the two classics into question, he continues to carry the May Fourth critical spirit in contemporary China and expands the scope of cultural criticism. *A Study of Two Classics* is the first book that focuses exclusively on the cultural values of the two classics. In addition, Liu Zaifu examines how traditional commentators like Jin Shengtian and Li Zhi promoted the cultural values embedded in the two classics and how these harmful values are received and reinforced in contemporary China. He draws inspiration from May Fourth intellectuals,

particularly Lu Xun, and from a wide range of works by Western scholars. For instance, he uses Oswald Spengler's notion of "pseudomorphosis" to explain the degeneration and falsification of certain values in Chinese culture. As he engages in cultural comparison either implicitly or explicitly he also asks questions about modernity and modernization. Liu's style is essayistic, which allows him to bring both erudition and personal observation into play. Originally written for a Chinese audience, this highly anticipated translated work will help English-speaking readers understand the issues a leading contemporary Chinese critic tries to address. This is a critical book for scholars and students in Asian studies and literature. This book is part of the Cambria Sinophone World Series (series editor: Victor H. Mair).

Romance of the Three Kingdoms

Romance of the Three Kingdoms

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Three Kingdoms Romance *Library of Alexandria*

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