

The Royal Hunt In Eurasian History

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In his book, *The royal hunt in Eurasian history*, Thomas Allsen attempts to provide an account of the various ways in which hunting was used as a political tool across three continents. Historians have long been aware of the popularity of the hunt in courts throughout the world, but the tendency has been to seclude it in a broader discussion about conspicuous consumption or early leisure and sport. This, according to Allsen, precludes any comprehensive understanding of the great significance hunting had across the globe for thousands of years. As such, Allsen designed his book to encourage further research into hunting practices. The great breadth of the topic requires Allsen to focus solely on political hunting which he renames the 'Royal Hunt' to distinguish it from subsistence hunting or tribal hunting which have different group dynamics. Allsen demonstrates that the historical uniformity of hunting practices across Eurasia renders it a valuable, untapped source of information on cultural interaction and transmission. To that end, Allsen clearly defines his aims as explaining both the longevity of the Royal Hunt and its uniformity across Eurasia.

The royal hunt is a very erudite and engaging history. Although Allsen uses the Royal Hunt to make important points about the field of social history he doesn't mire himself in endless discussion of historiography or developmental theories; he is genuinely attempting to redress a deficiency in the study of hunting. Chapters one to six provide an account of the various tools, animals, venues, and management issues relating to the Royal Hunt. The levels of opulence, creativity and organization discussed in these chapters firmly establish the deep symbolic value of the Hunt throughout Eurasia. Chapters seven to twelve cover the political uses of the Hunt and its transmission over such a vast area. This section reconciles the Royal Hunt with the idea of an interconnected Eurasian community linked by the Silk Road. The book does

well to provide equal attention to most areas of Eurasia and beyond despite the diversity of peoples to be covered. This is largely because Allsen assumes his readership possesses a basic knowledge of the histories of the societies bordering the Silk Road. But this would seem unavoidable given the enormity of the task.

Allsen uses the Royal Hunt to make much broader points about social history generally. He is particularly hostile to the idea that the Hunt could be compartmentalized under a chapter heading, or that it should have a start and a finish between clearly defined dates. Allsen describes the Royal Hunt as an amalgam of political, religious, economic, and social needs and practices. Each of these spheres heavily borrowed from the symbolism of hunting to the extent that it is often difficult to distinguish between them. One example was the practice of assembling hunting parties to tour the lands of regional magnates. On such occasions the line between politics and leisure was deliberately blurred. For this reason, Allsen doesn't try to address the Hunt in isolation from other historical themes; he reconciles them well in what is a very significant study. This versatility went hand in hand with the vitality of the Hunt. According to Allsen, the Royal Hunt became such an indispensable political tool that it was only with the advent of popular government in the twentieth century that rulers had to find new means of expression to meet the changing political standards.

Versatility is also an essential component in Allsen's understanding of cultural exchange. At the core of his theory about the Royal Hunt as a ceremony he posits the argument that the culture of any given society is a mix of local, regional, and universal traditions. Hunting, and indeed, the Royal Hunt was one of these shared universal practices which could, broadly speaking, be found across Eurasia with local variations. This shared familiarity with the symbolism of the Hunt made it a useful tool for communication between people of different languages, lifestyles, and habitations. This in turn consolidated the uniformity of hunting practices and opened the possibility for greater cultural exchange. An example might be the exchange of hunting animals, such as elephants, as symbols of wealth, power and prestige. By broadening the parameters through which inter-cultural dialogue is recorded, Allsen has shown that regional interaction was far more prevalent

Allsen, Thomas T. *The Royal Hunt in Eurasian History*. Series: Encounters with Asia. UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS. The Royal Hunt in Eurasian History. Front Cover. Thomas T. Allsen. ISEAS Publishing, - Animals and civilization - pages. The Royal Hunt in Eurasian History. Allsen, Thomas T.: Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, pp., Publication Date: May From antiquity to the nineteenth century, the royal hunt was a vital component of the political cultures of the Middle East, India, Central Asia, and China. Besides. The royal hunt in Eurasian history By Thomas Allsen, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, Pp. ISBN This extraordinarily well-documented study of the history and cultural connotations, as well as the politics, of the royal hunt by a leading Mongologist will be of. The Royal Hunt in Eurasian History. By Thomas T. Allsen. pp. x, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, - Volume 17 Issue 3. Hungarians of Jewish origin and ended at. Auschwitz. Thomas Allsen, emeritus professor of history vibrant history of Eurasian royal hunts focussing on Iran. History is an example. It is Allsen's most ambitious most provocative book. The title tells us the subject. The royal hunt, almost every Eurasian ruler in human history. Get this from a library! The royal hunt in Eurasian history. [Thomas T Allsen]. The Royal Hunt in Eurasian History by Thomas loveinamasonjar.com Author: Prof. Thomas T. Allsen. Year of Publication: Source: The Internet. Publisher: University of. From antiquity to the nineteenth century, the royal hunt was a vital component of the political cultures of the Middle East, India, Central Asia, and. Buy the The Royal Hunt In Eurasian History online from Takealot. Many ways to pay. Free Delivery Available. Non-Returnable. We offer fast, reliable delivery to.

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