



# **The Huainanzi: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Government in Early Han China, by Liu An, King of Huainan (Translations from the Asian Classics)**

*An Liu, John S. Major, Sarah Queen, Andrew Meyer, Harold D. Roth*

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Compiled by scholars at the court of Liu An, king of Huainan, in the second century B.C.E, *The Huainanzi* is a tightly organized, sophisticated articulation of Western Han philosophy and statecraft. Outlining "all that a modern monarch needs to know," the text emphasizes rigorous self-cultivation and mental discipline, brilliantly synthesizing for readers past and present the full spectrum of early Chinese thought.

*The Huainanzi* locates the key to successful rule in a balance of broad knowledge, diligent application, and the penetrating wisdom of a sage. It is a unique and creative synthesis of Daoist classics, such as the *Laozi* and the *Zhuangzi*; works associated with the Confucian tradition, such as the *Changes*, the *Odes*, and the *Documents*; and a wide range of other foundational philosophical and literary texts from the *Mozzi* to the *Hanfeizi*.

The product of twelve years of scholarship, this remarkable translation preserves *The Huainanzi*'s special rhetorical features, such as parallel prose and verse, and showcases a compositional technique that conveys the work's powerful philosophical appeal. This path-breaking volume will have a transformative impact on the field of early Chinese intellectual history and will be of great interest to scholars and students alike.

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