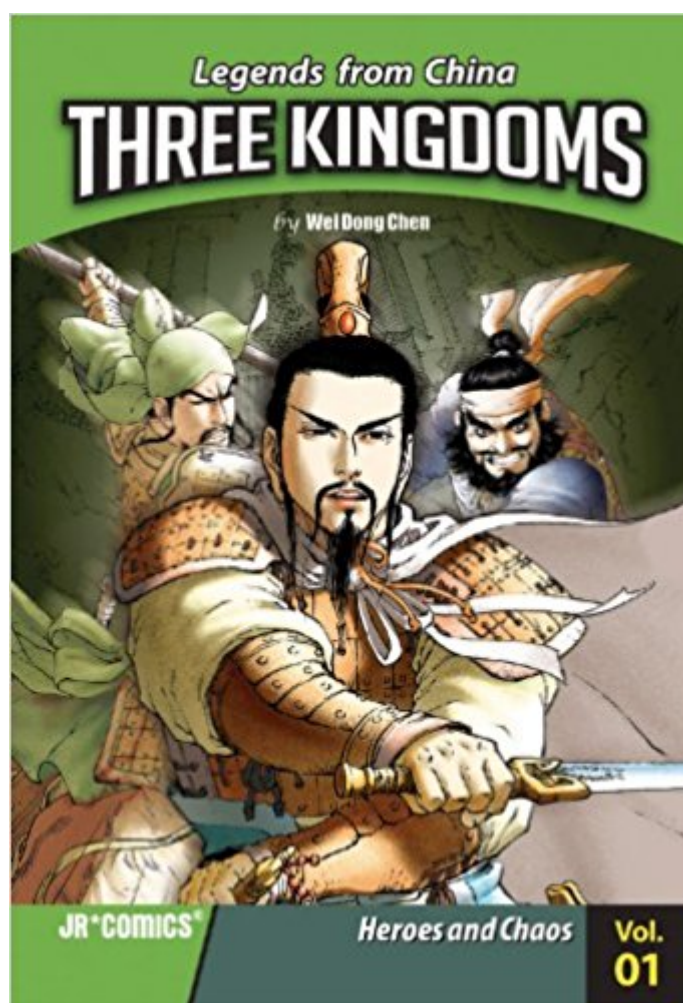


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Three Kingdoms 01: Heros And Chaos (Legends From China: Three Kingdoms)



Synopsis

At the end of the second century, the lands of ancient China are thrown into turmoil when the Han Dynasty collapses, and when a tyrant overthrows the weak emperor, a group of regional lords forms an army to restore the nation. But bravery and valor are soon stifled by ambition and cunning, and the coalition dissolves before the battle is even won. Now, a new group of heroes must emerge if China is to survive.

Book Information

Series: Three Kingdoms (Book 1)

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Customer Reviews

Gr 5-9-Lots of information and lots of fight scenes are packed into this compact book, which will definitely be educational for readers, if a little overwhelming in terms of the scope of this adventure. Based on the 14th-century novel *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, the story focuses on three brothers, Bei Liu, Yu Guan, and Fei Zhang, who turn the tide of some of China's most epic battles. The line between literature and history is not always a clear one-the story is based on a novel, but the novel was based on history, so Western readers may be confused about which parts of the story are fact or fiction. *Heroes and Chaos* reads in part like a textbook, with an overview of the story and maps at the beginning of each chapter, followed by the next portion of the story told in graphic-novel form. The illustrations are colorful and filled with action, using an eye-catching mix of panel shapes and sizes that will help readers follow the story. This is definitely an ambitious series, comprising 20 volumes, and it will probably be most useful for educators looking for ways to make Asian history and culture come alive.-Andrea Lipinski, New York Public Library (c) Copyright 2013. Library

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This first volume begins the retelling of a famous Chinese novel, *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. Set at the end of the Han dynasty, the story centers on three blood brothers, Bei Liu, Yu Guan, and Fei Zhang, as they help General Zhuo Dong fight against the rebel Yellow Scarf army, then join the coalition of feudal lords opposing Zhuo Dong when he executes the young emperor and seizes power for himself. Prose synopses accompanied by maps precede each chapter of the book, providing information to help readers understand what is happening. Teen fans of Chinese cinema will recognize the story as one told in the movie *Red Cliff*. The colorful, detailed art depicts the ornate clothing and armor of the lords as well as the highly expressive faces of the characters. While the story includes considerable violence, most of it is not pictured. This book provides discerning readers with an accessible introduction to Chinese historical fiction. Grades 5-8. --Kat Kan

I bought the 20 volume *Monkey King* series for my son and then I saw this. My son is in third grade and he was able to read the *Monkey King* series on his own. This series is more difficult for him to understand on his own so I read it first, go over the plot and the characters with him, and then he reads it on his own. It's a complicated plot involving 18 different factions engaged in political intrigue and military strategy, so my son has lots of questions and we work it out together. He thinks he is reading a comic book but he's actually learning something about Chinese literature and history. Not a bad way to spend quality time together.

Great Read!

The names in the books are all wrong! Everyone knows Liu Bei, Guan Yu, and Zhang Fei. The author westernizes their names; given name, surname. The main characters are now called "Bei Lui, Yu Guan, and Dei Zhang." It is such a shame! The graphics are nice though.

Reason for Reading: I love Chinese history. Though I usually am interested in 20th century history, I have read Chinese mythology and thought this dive into ancient history sounded interesting. First I'll start off with some caveats, the publisher's recommended reading age has not been given at this time but I'll vouch that it will be younger than my recommended age of 16+. ">Read more

The Legends From China series comic and text version of the Romance of the Three Kingdoms, one of the four great classics of Chinese literature, is a masterpiece of (relatively) simple storytelling, with great visuals. The only confusing point at times is the similarity in appearance of the many, many burly and bearded ancient warriors we are following, mainly because there are so many of them and most of them are quite invincible. But after a while the maze of characters starts to become clearer, and it's easy to become immersed in this amazing tale. Each book of about 170 pages is broken up into three or four individual tales, or adventures, mostly following our three heroes - Liu Bei, Guan Yu and Zhang Fei - as they go about their sworn mission, but also breaking away from time to time to tell someone else's tale (usually someone that's doomed to failure or death). Each section begins with an overview of what's to come (i.e. forecasting and spoilers), a map of the vicinity of China that is covered, as well as the odd box tale or illustration of a hero or two. Curiously, the text follows a western convention of family name last, inverting names like Liu Bei as "Bei Liu" (Liu is the family name), seemingly pretending that English convention is to do the same with all Chinese names, like Zedong Mao (Mao is the family name), or Kai Shek Chiang (Chiang is the family name, etc). Oh well...The tale opens with a description of the main characters of the book, then an overview of the first part, followed by backstory for the epic of the dying days of the Han empire, with garish illustrations accompanied by text. Then the real story begins, with a sometimes-silly depiction of the three friends swearing their vow in a peach garden. There is their first battle aiding Han troops against the Yellow Scarves band of rebels, that first meeting with Dong Zhuo, and Zhang Fei's spicy outbursts provide big, broad blasts of riotous humour. Some confusion over the fate of the young royals, Emperor Shao and Liu Xie (later Emperor Xian), before we hear the roar that "I, Dong Zhuo, rule all that exists! The whole world belongs to me!!" Yes, China was the greatest kingdom in the East, maybe in the world, in the third century AD, and Dong Zhuo its mightiest leader... at least for a while. Plenty of battles between our band of brothers and Lu Bu, and then the splintering of the coalition through petty rivalries, including the burning of Luoyang and the theft of the emperor's seal, and the brief appearance of a few officials with names like Cai Mao (who?) and Kuai Yue (who?!). The near-assassination of Cao Cao, and so we end this chapter and get ready for part two. Can't wait!

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