By the founding of the Qing dynasty (1644-1911), Sichuan province, on the far southwestern borders of the empire, had been reduced to the status of a barren frontier. Decades of civil conflict, rebellion, and invasion had devastated its cultural centers and forced the flight of the province’s elites. I trace here the process by which Sichuan was slowly reintegrated into the book culture and intellectual life of the imperial mainstream; examine the limits of this integration; and consider its consequences for both imperial rule and provincial identity in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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3:30 PM-5:00 PM
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