



REINVENTING SOY
IN REPUBLICAN CHINA



Jia-Chen Fu

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The Other Milk: Reinventing Soy in Republican China



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In the early twentieth century, China was stigmatized as the "Land of Famine. Soybeans, protein-loaded and domestically grown, had been a common meals in China, and soybean milk (doujiang) was poised for reinvention for the present day age." Meanwhile in Europe and america, researchers and industrialists seized upon the soybean as a miracle plant that may help build modern economies and healthy nations. Scientific soybean milk became symbolic of national growth and development on Chinese conditions, and its own competition with cow's milk reflected China's relationship to global modernity and imperialism. Jia-Chen Fu's in-depth study of the intertwined interactions between diet, wellness, and nation illuminates the multiple forces which have been essential in the forming of nutrition research in China. The Other Milk explores the curious paths that led to the notion of the deficient Chinese diet plan and to soybean milk as the best way to promise food security for the masses.



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