



# Luxuriant Gems of the Spring and Autumn (Translations from the Asian Classics)

*Zhongshu Dong*

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*The Spring and Autumn (Chunqiu)* is a chronicle kept by the dukes of the state of Lu from 722 to 481 B.C.E. *Luxuriant Gems of the "Spring and Autumn" (Chunqiu fanlu)* follows the interpretations of the *Gongyang Commentary*, whose transmitters sought to explicate the special language of the *Spring and Autumn*. The work is often ascribed to the Han scholar and court official Dong Zhongshu, but, as this study reveals, the text is in fact a compendium of writings by a variety of authors spanning several generations. It depicts a utopian vision of a flourishing humanity that they believed to be Confucius's legacy to the world.

The Gongyang masters thought that Confucius had written the *Spring and Autumn*, employing subtle phrasing to indicate approval or disapproval of important events and personages. *Luxuriant Gems* therefore augments Confucian ethical and philosophical teachings with chapters on cosmology, statecraft, and other topics drawn from contemporary non-Confucian traditions. A major resource, this book features the first complete English-language translation of *Luxuriant Gems*, divided into eight thematic sections with introductions that address dating, authorship, authenticity, and the relationship between the *Spring and Autumn* and the *Gongyang* approach. Critically illuminating early Chinese philosophy, religion, literature, and politics, this book conveys the brilliance of intellectual life in the Han dynasty during the formative decades of the Chinese imperial state.

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