

# Confucian Christian: The Life of Wang Zhixin

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To historians of Christianity in China, Wang Zhixin (1881-1968) is a well-known and prominent figure. Yet no scholar has yet provided a full account of his life. Based on a vast amount of first hand resources and contact with Wang's daughter and son, the author aims to present a detailed biography of this important, but under-explored, Christian writer. Wang was trained in his childhood in the Confucian Classics. After his conversion to Christianity, he served as the editor-in-chief of various Christian journals such as the *Chinese Christian Advocate* (*Xing Hua Pao*) and the *Literature Monthly* (*Wen She Yue Hon*). During the 1930s and 1940s, Wang taught at the University of Fukien and the University of Shanghai respectively, actively promoting National Learning. Tragically, Wang was subjected to persecution in the politically turbulent period of the People's Republic of China during the 1950s and 1960s. By the end of his age, Wang had lived long enough to witness the major events and changes of the three ruling governments: the Qing, the Nationalists and the Communists. Finally, the article analyses Wang's contributions to the Chinese Church Indigenous Movement in the 1920s. First of all, he produced many pioneering pieces of work for the Chinese Church Indigenous Movement and so left behind abundant materials on Indigenized Christianity. Secondly and more importantly, in his numerous writings Wang strove for a fitting balance between Confucian teachings and Christianity. His idea of cultural integration was a landmark in the history of the Chinese Church Indigenous Movement.