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Der Ort für chinesische Sprache und Kultur

SINOLOGISCHE VORTRAGSREIHE:  
*Freunde aus der Ferne*

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**THE HISTORICAL ECOLOGY OF THE YANGZI DELTA:  
RECONSTRUCTING THE ECONOMIES OF THE WU  
AND YUE KINGDOMS**

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The Yangzi Delta has been among the world's richest places for the past millennium, but its ancient history is neglected, and it is often described as a swampy backwater until it was colonized by northerners after the fall of the Han Empire in 200 CE. However, this is incorrect because seven centuries earlier the region had already been home to two of the most powerful kingdoms in East Asia, namely Wu and Yue. This paper combines archaeological and textual evidence to reconstruct the human ecology of those states and to speculate on their political economies.

