



## The reception of *The Orphan of Zhao* in eighteenth-century French-language periodicals

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Abstract: Eighteenth-century critics' attention to the Chinese play entitled *The Orphan of Zhao* was mainly a result of the successful staging of *L'Orphelin de la Chine* (Voltaire's adaptation) in France. This play was considered a representative work of Chinese literature and was analyzed by journalists from a literary point of view. Their reviews reveal their attraction to foreign literature as well as their devotion to classic French taste. Moreover, *The Orphan of Zhao* served as a work of reference, or indeed a tool in certain literary critiques, for both Élie-Catherine Fréron and François Arnaud.

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