

## <<西方文明史>>

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### 前言

正如德国人的人文著述中充满日尔曼民族的自豪感和优越感那样，西方历史学家在撰写他们自己的文明史时，往往会过度褒扬西方人的民族性、制度和文化。

在他们的笔下，西方文明通常被看做人类文明发展的主线和轴心，东方文明则自然成为“化外”或“非主流”。

M．A．凯什岚斯基（M．

A．Kishlallsky）等人的《西方文明史》似乎突破了这一思想束缚和文化囿固，采用一种客观的、联系的和发展的观点来追溯西方文明的历史足迹。

这在林林总总的西方文明史的著作当中，不得不说是难能可贵的了。

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### 内容概要

《西方文明史》既紧紧把握了政治发展的线索，同时又兼顾了经济、文化等诸多领域，并运用“新史学”的方法，将底层大众的日常社会生活也囊括其中，力求多层次、多角度地揭示西方文明起源、发展、演进、更新的漫长历程和整体图景。

在叙述和阐释西方文明历史的过程中，作者将大多数精力“一直聚焦在拓展出一种对西方文明的可靠的和易读的叙述上”，而并非要将之写成“一部百科全书”。

因此，凡是与这一学术主旨不相关的庞杂内容一概不予叙述，而那些被长期忽略了的“普通男女的历史”则被纳入到叙事之中。

此外，作者还从文明的“亲缘”关系出发，将斯拉夫文明作为西方文明的组成部分而不是边缘地带来加以叙述。

正是基于这样的新理念，该书囊括了历史地理、政治制度、经济样式、地区冲突与战争、宗教、思想观念、文化艺术、社会生活等诸多的内容，让读者对西方文明史的整体轮廓与丰厚积淀有了一个比较清晰的认识。

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### 作者简介

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## 章节摘录

The West is an idea . It is not visible from space . An astro-naut viewing the blue——and -white terrestrial sphere can make out the forms of Africa , bounded by the Atlantic , the Indian Ocean , the Red Sea , and the Mediterranean . Australia , the Americas , and even Antarctica are distinct patches of blue-green in the darker waters that surround them . But nothing comparable separates Asia from Europe , East from West . Viewed from 100 miles up , the West itself is invisible . Although astronauts can see the great Eurasian landmass curving around the Northern Hemisphere , the Ural Mountains—the theoretical boundary between East and West——appear faint from space . Certainly they are less impressive than the towering Himalayas , the Alps , or even the Caucasus . People , not geology, determined that the Urals should be the arbitrary boundary between Europe and Asia . Even this determination took centuries . Originally, Europe was a name that referred only to central Greece . Gradually, Greeks extended it to include the whole Greek mainland and then the landmass to the north . Later, Roman explorers and soldiers carried Europe north and west to its modern boundaries . Asia too grew with time . Initially, Asia was only that small portion of what is today Turkey inland from the Aegean Sea . Gradually, as Greek explorers came to know of lands far-ther east , north , and south , they expanded their understand.

ing of Asia to include everything east of the Don River to the north and of the Red Sea to the south . Western civilization is as much an idea as the West itself . Under the right conditions , astronauts can see the Great Wall of China snaking its way from the edge of the Himalayas to the Yellow Sea . No comparable physical legacy of the West is so massive that its details can be discerned from space . Nor are Western achievements rooted forever in one corner of the world . What we call Western civilization belongs to no particular place . Its location has changed since the origins of civilization , that is , the cultural and social traditions characteristic of the civitas, or city . Western cities appeared first outside the " West " , in the Tigris and Euphrates river basins in present-day Iraq and Iran , a region that we today call the Middle East . These areas have never lost their urban traditions , but in time , other cities in North Africa , Greece , and Italy adapted and expanded this heritage . Until the sixteenth century c... the western end of the Eurasian landmass was the crucible in which disparate cultural and intellectual traditions of the Near East , the Mediterranean , and northern and western Europe were smelted into a new and powerful alloy . Then " the West " expanded by establishing colonies overseas and by giving rise to the " settler societies " of the Americas , Australia and New Zealand , and South Africa . Western technology for harnessing nature , Western forms of economic and political organization , Western styles of art and music are for good or ill—dominant influences in world civilization . Japan is a leading power in the Western traditions of capitalist commerce and technology . China , the most populous country in the world , adheres to Marxist socialist principles——a European political tradition . Millions of people in Africa , Asia , and the Americas follow the religions of Islam and Christianity, both of which developed from Judaism in the cradle of Western civilization .

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### 编辑推荐

《西方文明史(第5版)》囊括了历史地理、政治制度、经济样式、地区冲突与战争、宗教、思想观念、文化艺术、社会生活等诸多的内容，让读者对西方文明史的整体轮廓与丰厚积淀有了一个比较清晰的认识。

This bust of Socrates portrays him with the traditional beard of the philosopher . His features display the tradition that this man , whose thoughts were the most beautiful , was nevertheless of remarkably homely appearance . The battle of Agincourt ( 1415 ) was one of the great battles of the Hundred Years ' War . The heavily armored French cavalry met defeat at the hands of a much smaller force of disciplined English pikemen and longbowmen . This image of Henry VIII is among the most recognizable from an age of monarchy that began in the sixteenth century and coincided with the consolidations of nations in western Europe and their expansion into all corners of the globe . Everywhere small principalities and kingdoms were absorbed by their larger and more powerful neighbors , and Europe's military might was on display as far east as India and as far west as Peru . Though England played but a small part in a century dominated by Spain and France , even its monarch could believe that he bestrode the world like a colossus . This cartoon depicts the plight of the French peasants . An old farmer is bowed down under the weight of the privileged aristocracy and clergy while birds and rabbits , protected by unfair game laws , eat his crops .

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