

<<弥尔顿政治著作选>>

图书基本信息

书名：<<弥尔顿政治著作选>>

13位ISBN编号：9787562023722

10位ISBN编号：7562023727

出版时间：2003-5

出版时间：政法大学出版社

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页数：279

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内容概要

John Milton was not only the greatest English Renaissance poet but also devoted twenty years to prose writing in the advancement of religious, civil and political liberties. The height of his public career was as chief propagandist to the Commonwealth regime which came into being following the execution of King Charles I in 1649. The first of the two complete texts in this volume, *The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates*, was easily the most radical justification of the regicide at the time. In the second, *A Defence of the People of England*, Milton undertook to vindicate the Commonwealth's cause to Europe as a whole. They are central to an understanding both of the development of Milton's political thought and the climax of the English Revolution itself. This is the first time that fully annotated versions have been published together in one volume, incorporating a wholly new translation of the *Defence*. The introduction outlines the complexity of the ideological landscape which Milton had to negotiate, and in particular the points at which he departed radically from his sixteenth-century predecessors. Further aids to students include a full chronology of Milton's life and important contemporary events, a select bibliography, and biographies of persons mentioned in the text.

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So if this method of punishment is considered more moderate when used by a king against his people, why is the same method not believed to be more moderate when used by a people against their king, and even more welcome to the king himself. You preferred the king to be killed secretly and without witnesses, either so that no memory should remain of the wholesome nature of such a good example or so that the consciousness of such a glorious deed should have avoided the light and to have had laws and justice itself by no means in its support.

Then you heighten the matter by saying that it was not in the uproar or the factional strife of the nobles, or in the frenzy of rebels, soldiers or people, not from hatred, nor fear, nor eagerness to rule, nor blind impulse of mind, but by planning and design that they accomplished the crime they had long meditated. O you deserved indeed to turn from being a lawyer into a grammarian! You who, from the accidents of a case, as they say, which in themselves have no force, commence scolding when you have not yet proved whether the deed should be judged either as faulty or praiseworthy. Now see how easily H will attack you: if the deed was fair and fitting, the authors are the more greedy to be praised because they were occupied by no sentiments but acted for the sake of virtue alone. If it was difficult and burdensome, they are the more greatly to be praised because they acted not on blind impulse but by planning and design. However would rather believe that these things were done by divine instigation, whenever recall to mind the unexpected eagerness of spirit, the firm agreement with which the whole army, which a great part of the populace had joined, from almost all counties in the kingdom, with one voice, demanded punishment for the king himself as the author of all their ills.

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