

<<安德鲁·弗莱彻政治著作选>>

图书基本信息

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内容概要

Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun(1653-1716)was one of the most acute observers of the European political order of his time,and an important forerunner of the Scottish Enlightenment.Famous in his own day and since for his patriotic position to the Anglo-Scottish Union of 1707,in his political thought Fletcher was an admirer of the ancients and a student of Machiavelli,who sought to adapt Machiavelli's concepts to a world increasingly shaped by commerce.His lucidly written works address the fate of small nations dominated by larger,the concentration of power and wealth in great capital cities,and the prospects for new political union which would be to the benefit of all of Europe's regions. This is the first complete modern edition of Fletcher's works.The editor's introduction draws on new research into Fletcher's life and thought,and the annotated text enables to appreciate for the first time the range and sharpness of Fletcher's analysis. 作者简介： JOHN ROBERT TSON is university lecturer in modern history and a Fellow of StHugh's College,Oxford.He has written extensively on the Anglo-Scottish Union and the Scottish Enlightenment.Most recently he edited A Union for Empire.Political Thought and the Union of 1707(1995).

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## 章节摘录

Two hundred years being already passed since this alteration began, Europe has felt the effects of it by sad experience; and the true causes of the change are now become more visible. To lay open this matter in its full extent, it will be necessary to look farther back, and examine the original and constitution of those governments that were established in Europe about the year 400, and continued till this alteration. When the Goths, Vandals, and other warlike nations, had at different times, and under different leaders, overrun the western parts of the Roman empire, they introduced the following form of government into all the nations they subdued. The general of the army became king of the conquered country; and the conquest being absolute, he divided the lands amongst the great officers of his army, afterwards called barons; who again parcelled out their several territories in smaller portions to the inferior soldiers that had followed them in the wars, and who then became their vassals, enjoying those lands for military service. The king reserved to himself some demesnes for the maintenance of his court and attendance. When this was done, there was no longer any standing army kept on foot, but every man went to live upon his own lands; and when the defence of the country required an army, the king summoned the barons to his standard, who came attended with their vassals. Thus were the armies of Europe composed for about eleven hundred years; and this constitution of government put the sword into the hands of the subject, because the vassals depended more immediately on the barons than on the king, which effectually secured the freedom of those governments. For the barons could not make use of their power to destroy those limited monarchies, without destroying their own grandeur; nor could the king invade their privileges, having no other forces than the vassals of his own demesnes to rely upon for his support in such an attempt.

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