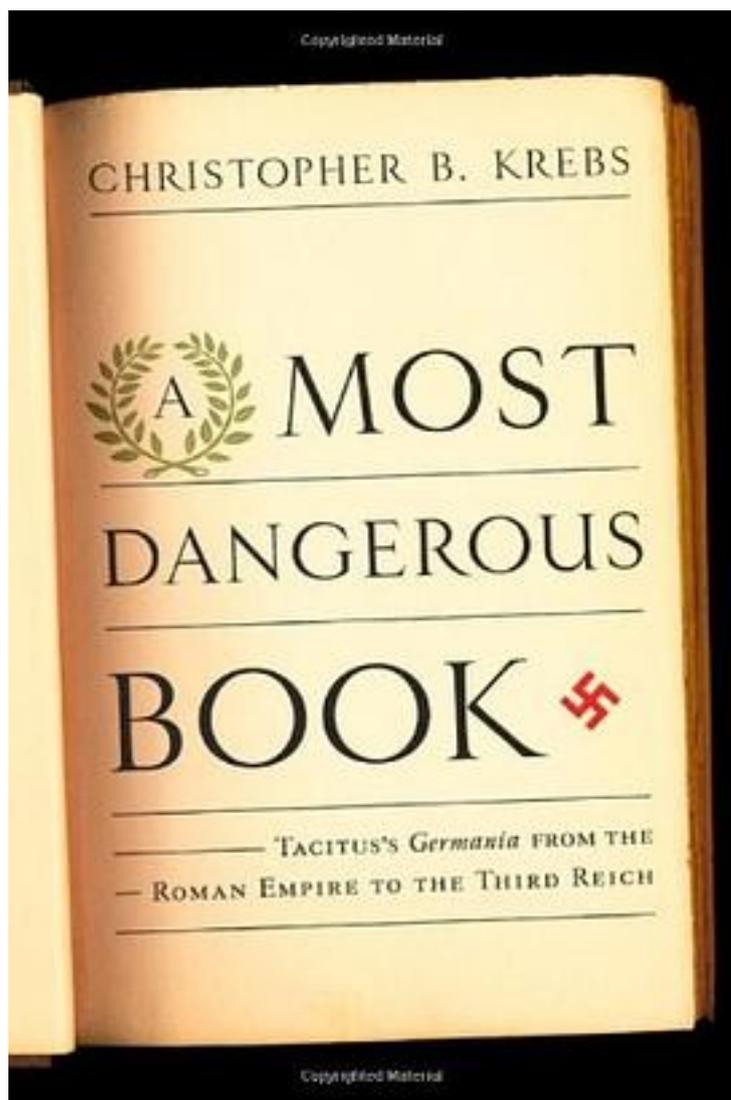


# A Most Dangerous Book



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著者:Christopher B. Krebs

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The pope wanted it, Montesquieu used it, and the Nazis pilfered an Italian noble's villa to get it: the *Germania*, by the Roman historian Tacitus, took on a life of its own as both an object and an ideology. When Tacitus wrote a not-very-flattering little book about the ancient Germans in 98 CE, at the height of the Roman Empire, he could not have foreseen that the Nazis would extol it as "a bible," nor that Heinrich Himmler, the engineer of the Holocaust, would vow to resurrect Germany on its grounds. But the *Germania* inspired—and polarized—readers long before the rise of the Third Reich. In this elegant and captivating history, Christopher B. Krebs, a professor of classics at Harvard University, traces the wide-ranging influence of the *Germania* over a five-hundred-year span, showing us how an ancient text rose to take its place among the most dangerous books in the world.

作者介绍:

Editorial Reviews

From Publishers Weekly

Harvard classics professor Krebs writes a scholarly but lucid account of the abuse of history. Written in 98 C.E. by the Roman official Tacitus, *About the Origin and Mores of the Germanic Peoples* was lost for centuries but resurfaced around 1500 as Germans were growing resentful of foreign domination—in this case from the Catholic Church in Rome. The rediscovered book launched a primitivist myth that captivated admirers over the next 500 years, from Martin Luther to Heinrich Himmler, who loved its portrayal of ancient Germans as freedom-loving warriors, uncultured but honorable, in contrast to decadent Romans. In fact, Tacitus probably never visited Germany, Krebs notes. Rather, using books and travelers' reports, he wrote for a Roman audience who shared his romantic view of northern barbarians. Enthusiastic German readers, culminating in the Nazis, ignored Tacitus's disparaging comments, misread passages to confirm their prejudices, and proclaimed that the ancient historian confirmed their national superiority. This is an inventive analysis of, and warning against, an irresistible human yearning to find written proof of one's ideology. Illus. (May)

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Review

“A razor-sharp, eminently readable reminder of the potency of bad ideas. Christopher Krebs shows how intellectuals through the ages used and abused a Latin classic, Tacitus's *Germania*, and tells the unnerving story of its final transformation into a Nazi 'bible'. Fascinating stuff.” (Anthony Everitt, author of *Hadrian and the Triumph of Rome*)

“A most exciting book! In Krebs' hands, the story of the *Germania* manuscript becomes part thriller, part detective story.... A must-read for anyone interested in the pernicious power of the ideas of antiquity—and a timely reminder of the responsibilities placed on readers as well as writers.” (Tim Rood, University of Oxford, author of *American Anabasis*)

“A fascinating story of how a book could be used and—especially—abused over two thousand years, as enemies saw it as presenting Germans as brutish and barbarian, while German nationalistic pride extracted a quite different message of a nation that was simple, virtuous, and pure.... beautifully told by Christopher Krebs.” (Christopher

Pelling, editor of Greek Tragedy and the Historian )

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## 标签

政治学

欧洲研究

塔西佗

英文原版

政治哲学

想读“最危险的书”

新书记

德国

## 评论

无历史=无政治

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作为一份特定文本的传播/文化/思想史还是挺有意思的，但是整个thesis感觉没有argue得特别好，而更多是按时间顺序堆砌塔西佗的文本在不同作者笔下或中心或边缘的存在，作者所说的依照斯金纳式的治思想史思路则很难看到，甚至有点反其道而行的样子。

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重读

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## 书评

无论是球迷还是体育主持人都会叫德国足球—日耳曼战车。众人所知，这代表着他们团结、血性、激情、永不放弃……  
所有的精神都来源于他们的“祖先日耳曼人”。而在二战中，“日耳曼人”这个称呼却成为却海因里希·希姆莱、阿道夫·希特勒战争的武器。《一本最危险的书》正...

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当虚幻成为一种真实，真实则变得暗淡，走向虚幻。生命、荣耀、灾难都将在一场虚幻的真实中演绎，所有在这过程中诞生的骄傲、荣光、哭泣与悲伤，都已不再是无所谓的有无。  
在我的内心中，有两个民族，一直都占据有重量级的地位，就像他们的国度曾带给地球生灵的震撼，一个是俄...

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15世纪人文主义者坎帕诺以塔西佗所著《日耳曼尼亚志》中的描述为基础，写道：  
“当一个青年男性作为一个成人开始进入社会时，这个青年会得到一面盾和一支矛来学习技艺，回报社群对他的期望；甚至是丈夫带入婚姻的财产中也包含了武器。原因很简单，‘没有武器什么也做不成’”。...

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在我们一贯的印象里，德国人总是优秀与严谨的代名词。尤其在希特勒执政的时代，德意志被鼓吹为“世界上最优秀的民族”，并且试图称霸世界，甚至意图建立“日耳曼尼亚计划”的世界之都。  
二战时期，希特勒领导的纳粹分子有极强的战斗力，对自己的优越性坚信不疑，对希特勒也有着...



空间与微博经常会有一些很俗气很直接的文章与段子，被大量转发，比如“遇到这样的男人你就嫁了吧”。转发的人未必认可这样的文字，而是她们需要这样的文字来表明自己的态度，情绪上指给有心人听。可是，这和这本书有什么关系了，如你所想，可能一点关系都没有。人类，有很多办...

《一本最危险的书》看题目是不是很吸引人，同样内容也很吸引人。本书对德国民族性的解读堪比《菊与刀》对日本民族性的解读。书中的主要内容和背景大体如下：公元98年，罗马帝国历史学家塔西佗完成著作《日耳曼尼亚志》。在短短二十来页的篇幅中，塔西佗将古日耳曼人描述...

塔西佗作为罗马帝国时代早期的史家，其作品虽有亡佚，但也留下了两部残缺的长史、两个短篇，及一篇修辞学短论。而《日耳曼尼亚志》(Germania)就是那两个短篇之一，记载了早期日耳曼人的一些习性民俗。他在书中的态度，犹如后世伏尔泰谈到中国，卢梭论及“高贵的野蛮人”，充满...

这是关于日耳曼民族“我们是谁”、“我们何时起源”、“我们如何成长”、“我们将往何处”的阐释，这样的工具和概念框架形成了日耳曼民族的民族性，我们向来喜欢妖魔化民族主义，觉得这是不安和动乱的来源，但民族主义（民族性的成熟）是自治原则和民主原则在西方的根源之一， ...

《一本最危险的书》书评  
本书是美国斯坦福大学古典学系古典学副教授和德国学教授克里斯托弗.B.克里布斯的著作，内容主要是古罗马作家塔西佗的短篇著作《日耳曼尼亚志》的前世今生。二战过后，劫后余生的人们后怕不已，昨日种种犹如噩梦不堪回首，所以使出种种手段防范法西斯主...

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