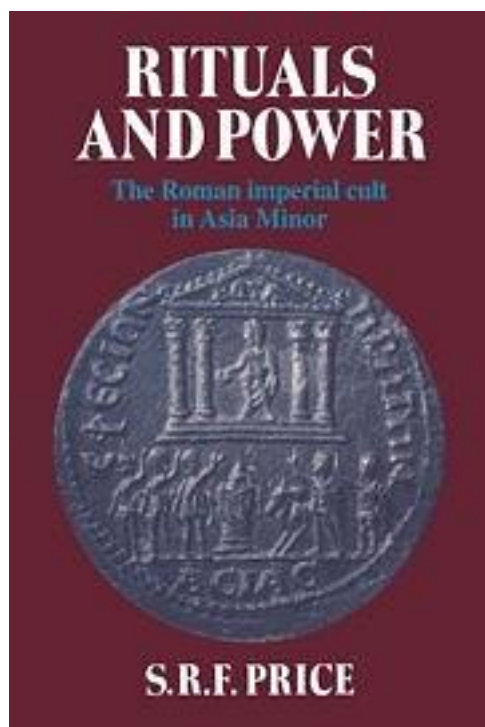


Rituals and Power



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著者:S. R. F. Price

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In his study of the Greek cults of the Roman emperor in Asia minor, Simon Price attempts to discover why the Roman Emperor was treated like a god. He contends that ever since the emergence of Christianity within the Roman Empire the problem has been misinterpreted; a Christianizing distinction between religion and politics has led to the cult being considered simply as a form of political honours. Drawing on anthropology as well as numismatics and archaeology, literary sources and inscriptions, Dr Price offers a fundamentally different perspective. He examines how the Greek cults of the Roman Emperor located the Emperor with their subjection to the external power of Rome. The book falls into two major parts. The first analyses the

historical, social and cultural contexts of the Imperial cult, showing that the cult was deeply rooted in the Greek cities. The second focusses on the evocations of the rituals of temples, images and sacrifices. It casts light on the architechural development of Greek Cities, on cult statues in the ancient world and on the vitality and flexibility of the Greek religious system. In his concluding chapter the author draws out some of the general implications of the book; comparative material from Africa and Cambodia help our understanding of the relationship between religious ritual and political power. This book, which assumes no knowledge of Latin or Greek, will appeal to students and teachers of ancient history and archaeology. It will also attract anthropologists, historians and others interested in the interpretation of rituals and in the history of early Christianity.

作者介绍:

目录:

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标签

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评论

精妙而广博的体系叙述。强调「宗教」的政治礼仪功能，消解其与后代宗教的过度联系，与希腊化时代的divine rulership关联，在当时是开创之作，而今已有超越。众多考古文献和实物史料的运用是Price的亮点。与已有中译的《古希腊人的宗教生活》对读，会发现在罗马这边对政治运作的强调甚至有点过。关于建筑、图像和祭祀的研究更倾向于从宗教意义上考察，其中关于建筑的部分比较亮眼，祭祀的部分后来学者有比较多的颠覆性讨论了（参Versnel 2011的讨论）。终章什么角度都谈了一些，既宣称宗教有其自立之意，又反复强调宗教对政治和外交的相干作用，给出一种相对持中的论述。中间引入Bourdieu的gift exchange理论略显失败，后来Liebeschuetz和Mellor等人又有深入，奠基之作。

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