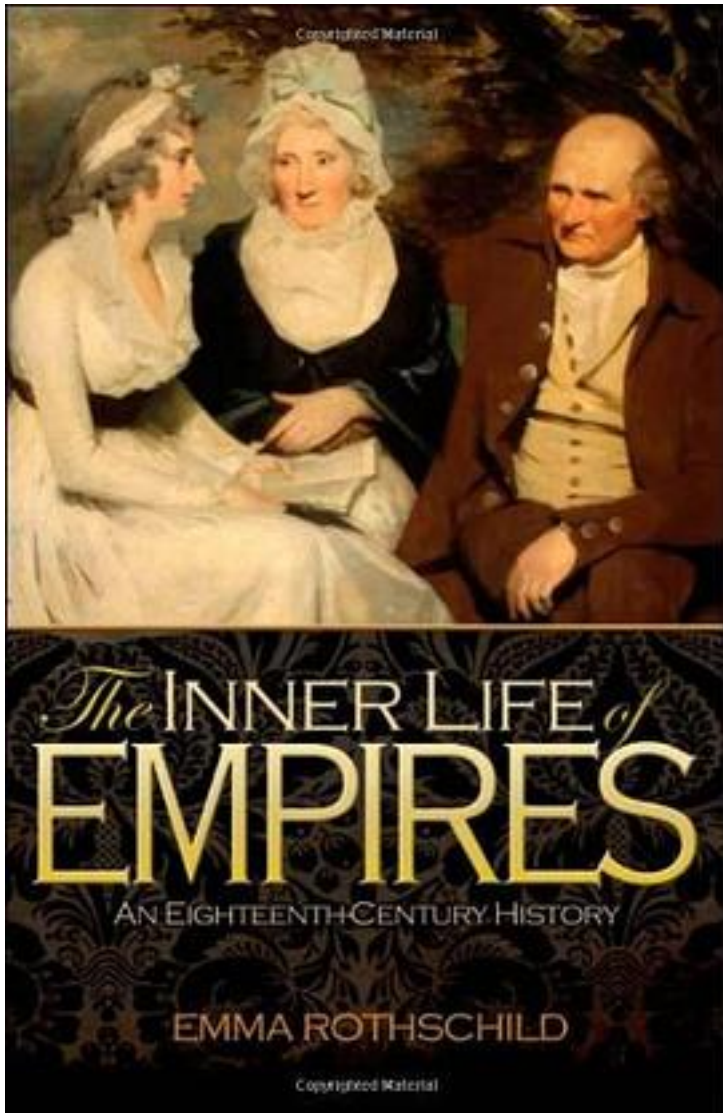


The Inner Life of Empires



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著者:Emma Rothschild

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They were abolitionists, speculators, slave owners, government officials, and occasional politicians. They were observers of the anxieties and dramas of empire. And they were from one family. "The Inner Life of Empires" tells the intimate history of the Johnstones--four sisters and seven brothers who lived in Scotland and around the globe in the fast-changing eighteenth century. Piecing together their voyages, marriages, debts, and lawsuits, and examining their ideas, sentiments, and values, renowned historian Emma Rothschild illuminates a tumultuous period that created the modern economy, the British Empire, and the philosophical Enlightenment. One of the sisters joined a rebel army, was imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle, and escaped in disguise in 1746. Her younger brother was a close friend of Adam Smith and David Hume. Another brother was fluent in Persian and Bengali, and married to a celebrated poet. He was the owner of a slave known only as "Bell or Belinda," who journeyed from Calcutta to Virginia, was accused in Scotland of infanticide, and was the last person judged to be a slave by a court in the British isles. In Grenada, India, Jamaica, and Florida, the Johnstones embodied the connections between European, American, and Asian empires. Their family history offers insights into a time when distinctions between the public and private, home and overseas, and slavery and servitude were in constant flux. Based on multiple archives, documents, and letters, "The Inner Life of Empires" looks at one family's complex story to describe the origins of the modern political, economic, and intellectual world.

作者介绍:

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现任哈佛大学杰里米和简·诺尔斯历史学讲座教授以及历史与经济学联合中心主任，剑桥大学荣誉历史学教授以及莫德林学院研究员。15岁的时候升入牛津大学萨莫维尔学院，成为该学院有史以来最年轻的女学生。她本人来自英国的金融世家。著作有《经济情感：亚当·斯密、孔多赛和启蒙运动》等。

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书评

文/严杰夫
在艾瑞克·霍布斯鲍姆的眼中，18世纪末到19世纪中叶的那段历史显然是激荡人心的。在他的书中，英国工业革命和法国大革命被看成是撬动世界历史的“双生子”。这就是他那著名的“双元革命”，也因此他将那个年代称为“革命的年代”。
霍布斯鲍姆的宏大叙事固然有...

"The eleven Johnstone siblings of Westerhall, in Scotland, were 'a large and disorderly family,' whose lives, playing out on three continents between 1723 and 1813, illuminate what Rothschild calls an 'empire of intimate exchanges.' The subject is well chos...

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