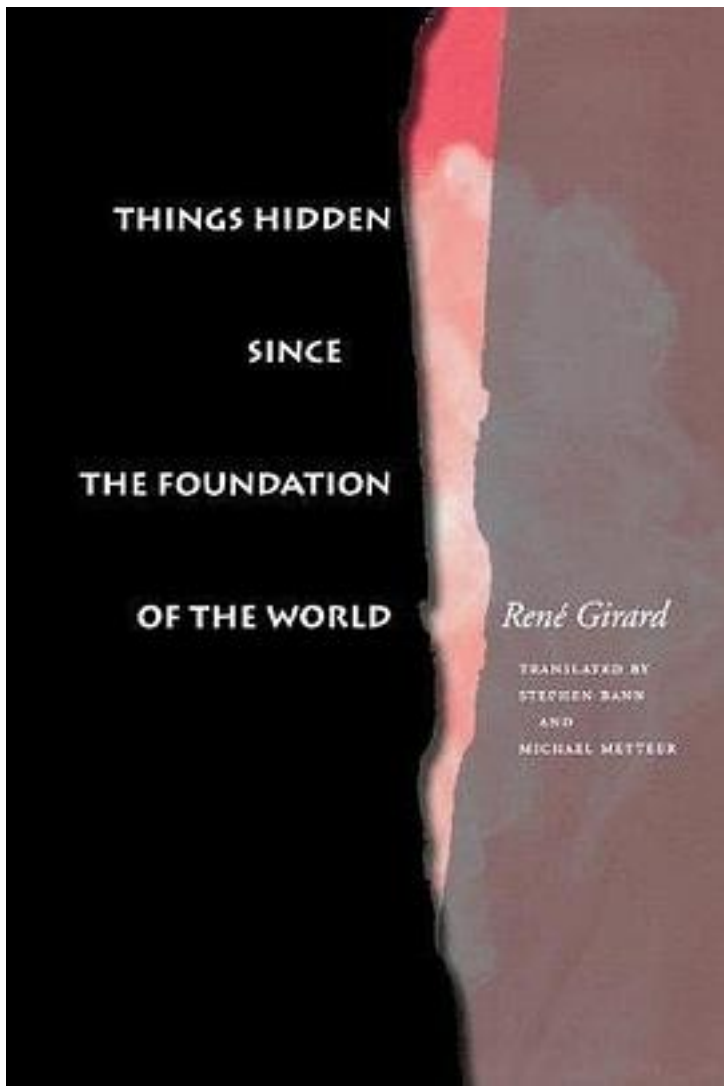


Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World



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著者:René Girard

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An astonishing work of cultural criticism, this book is widely recognized as a brilliant and devastating challenge to conventional views of literature, anthropology, religion, and psychoanalysis. In its scope and interest it can be compared with Freud's "Totem and Taboo, the subtext Girard refutes with polemic daring, vast erudition, and a persuasiveness that leaves the reader compelled to respond, one way or another. This is the single fullest summation of Girard's ideas to date, the book by which they will stand or fall. In a dialogue with two psychiatrists (Jean-Michel Oughourlian and Guy Lefort), Girard probes an encyclopedic array of topics, ranging across the entire spectrum of anthropology, psychoanalysis, and cultural production. Girard's point of departure is what he calls "mimesis," the conflict that arises when human rivals compete to differentiate themselves from each other, yet succeed only in becoming more and more alike. At certain points in the life of a society, according to Girard, this mimetic conflict erupts into a crisis in which all difference dissolves in indiscriminate violence. In primitive societies, such crises were resolved by the "scapegoating mechanism," in which the community, en masse, turned on an unpremeditated victim. The repression of this collective murder and its repetition in ritual sacrifice then formed the foundations of both religion and the restored social order. How does Christianity, at once the most "sacrificial" of religions and a faith with a non-violent ideology, fit into this scheme? Girard grants Freud's point, in "Totem and Taboo, that Christianity is similar to primitive religion, but only to refute Freud--if Christ is sacrificed, Girard argues, it is not because God willed it, but because human beings "wanted it. The book is not merely, or perhaps not mainly, biblical exegesis, for within its scope fall some of the most vexing problems of social history--the paradox that violence has social efficacy, the function of the scapegoat, the mechanism of anti-semitism.

作者介绍:

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标签

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评论

Girard的书还没有被翻译成中文吗？他在学界的不受重视是一个比较有趣的谜。我猜是因为他讲的道理大家都一看就懂，是真正的道理，所以显得不高深，没有继续发挥阐释把人转晕的能力哈哈

基拉尔野心很大，固执地一遍遍讲那些东西，引起的异议和误解也很大，但是多看几本就能看出他的现实关怀。我觉得他的思想实际上比看起来更深刻，即便如此，只理解了最简单一层的意思也能得到很好的启发。何况基拉尔文风好，逻辑严谨，有理有据（从来不否认自己说的东西只是假设）。

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书评

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