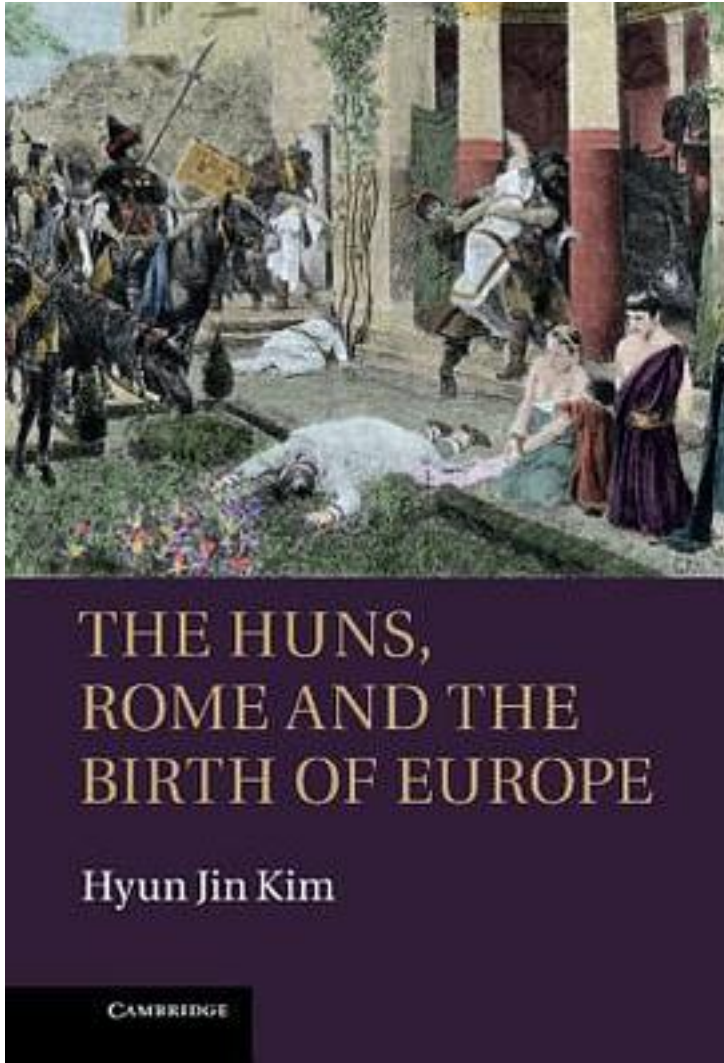


The Huns, Rome and the Birth of Europe



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The Huns have often been treated as primitive barbarians with no advanced political organisation. Their place of origin was the so-called 'backward steppe'. It has been argued that whatever political organisation they achieved they owed to the 'civilizing influence' of the Germanic peoples they encountered as they moved west. This book argues that the steppes of Inner Asia were far from 'backward' and that the image of the primitive Huns is vastly misleading. They already possessed a highly sophisticated political culture while still in Inner Asia and, far from being passive recipients of advanced culture from the West, they passed on important elements of Central Eurasian culture to early medieval Europe, which they helped create. Their expansion also marked the beginning of a millennium of virtual monopoly of world power by empires originating in the steppes of Inner Asia. The rise of the Hunnic Empire was truly a geopolitical revolution.

作者介绍:

Hyun Jin was born in Seoul South Korea and grew up in Auckland New Zealand. His love of Classics and Ancient History began very early under the influence of his father who moved his family from Korea to New Zealand specifically for the purpose of studying ancient Greek of all things! The father was too old to master the language and the task fell on his son, who somehow managed to overcome the temptation to become a lawyer, and chose the path of academia and classical learning. After three and a half years in the UK at Oxford University (as D Phil student) and four years at Sydney University (as postdoctoral research fellow) he has moved to Melbourne. He is the author of two books: the first on Greek and Chinese ethnography and the second on the Huns and the fall of the Western Roman Empire.

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评论

作为Kim的博士毕业论文，此书还算可圈可点。不过硬伤也是有的。首先是对于中世纪法兰克封建社会的起源进行了过渡的解读，认为欧洲的封建制是收到了匈人迁徙后所带来的“中亚游牧意识形态”的影响，未免有些牵强。其次是对游牧社会的二元性的解读，虽然提到了空间上的二元性，并提到了契丹社会，但是忽略了契丹南北院双轨制这种更深层次的dualism.此外，根据身边的洋人朋友反应，第三章大量引用来自中国的primary source，但是没有对术语进行足够的解释，特别是地名。缺少汉学基础的读者读起来不免云山雾绕。

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书评

作者重估了匈人在旧罗马帝国覆亡和新蛮族欧洲诞生中的作用，尤其提出了早期中古欧洲的社会政治制度来自于内亚，正是西迁的匈人将其带到了欧洲。这些制度包括但不限于：绝对的君主权，不稳定的王位继承，王室遗产及领土人民在诸子之间的剖分，属臣等级的递减，进贡取代纳税，...

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