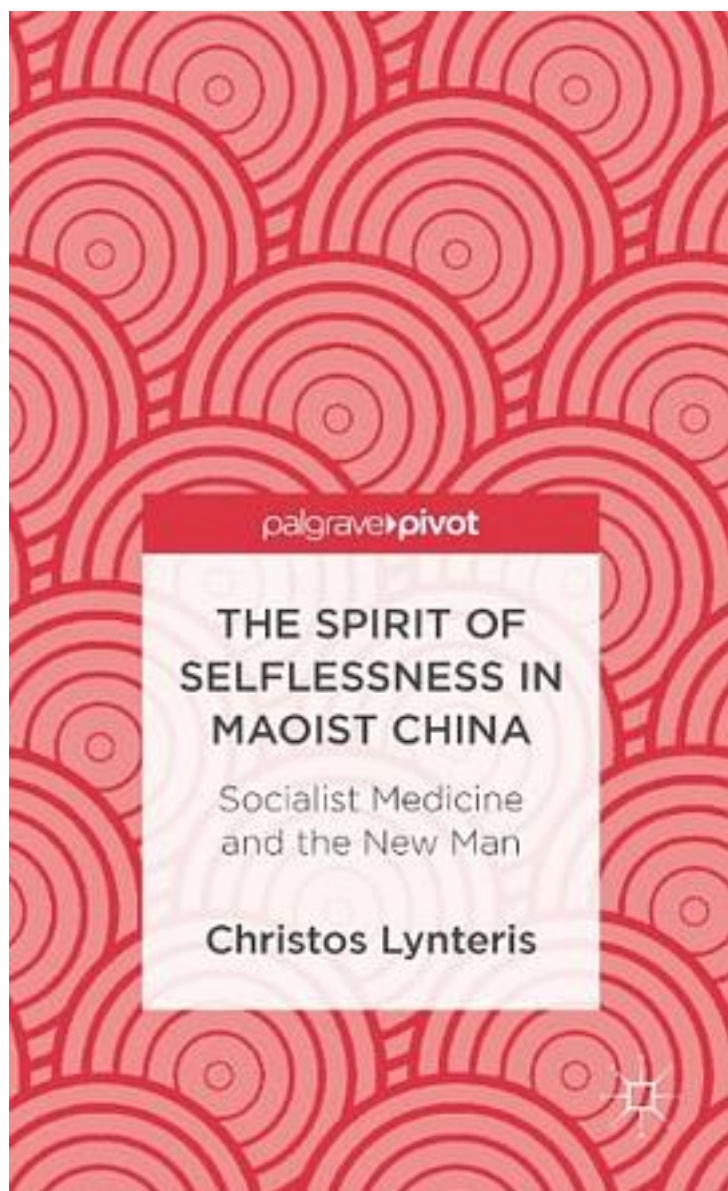


The Spirit of Selflessness in Maoist China



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Assuming power in 1949, the Chinese Communist Party was faced with a crucial problem: how to construct the socialist 'New Man'? On the one hand, led by Liu Shaoqi, the proponents of the technocracy advocated self-cultivation. Led by Mao Zedong, their opponents advocated the exact opposite technique: the abolition of the self and the institution of a mass subjectivity. Examining this conflict through the analytical lens of Foucault's 'technologies of the self' and in relation to biopolitics, the book explores how the battle for the self in Maoist China revolved around the interpretation of the 'spirit of selflessness' as embodied by the heroic Canadian doctor, Norman Bethune, who lost his life as a volunteer doctor of the Red Army. The book narrates how, called to embody this selfless spirit, medical doctors were trapped in a spiral between cultivation and abolition, leading to the explosion of ideology during the Cultural Revolution.

作者介绍:

Christos Lynteris is a Mellon/Newton Research Fellow at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH) of the University of Cambridge, researching the social ecology of plague in Inner Asia. He read and lectured social anthropology at the University of St Andrews and completed this book under a Fellowship at the Centro Incontri Umani, in Ascona, Switzerland.

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标签

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英语学术类书籍

评论

这本书从对白求恩精神的双重阐释出发，讨论社会主义“新人”的概念。本书一半是建国后的医学、公共卫生史，一半是共产党高层人物代表作的文本分析（比如刘少奇的论共产党员的修养）。思想概念史的部分，我读得不多，无法评价。但医疗史的部分，结合了英文著作中比较新和经典的对PRC医学发展的描述，用精炼篇幅梳理了医学界的发展过程。这本书论证展开的部分少，提及的概念多。可以作为PRC医疗史（政治层面）的大纲来读。 本书一个明显的缺点：中文人名的拼音错误颇多，比如杨献珍成了Yang Xiazheng。

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