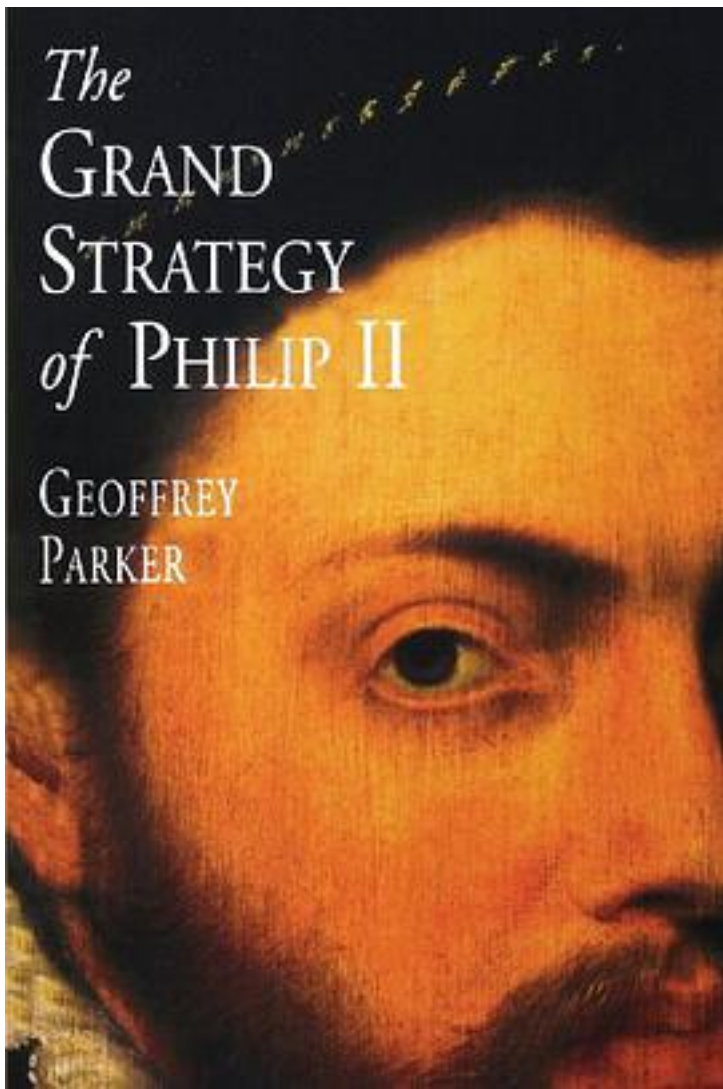


The Grand Strategy of Philip II



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From 1556 until his death in 1598, Philip II of Spain ruled the first global empire in history. This book investigates the strengths and weaknesses of Philip's strategic vision, the priorities that underlay his policies, the practices and prejudices that influenced his decision-making, and the external factors that affected the achievements of his goals. Geoffrey Parker begins by examining the defining characteristics of Spain's strategic culture: the king's distinctive system of government; the "information overload" that threatened to engulf it; and the various strategic priorities and assumptions used to overcome the disparity between aims and means. He then exploits the surviving documentation - from the Habsburgs, their allies, and their adversaries - on the formation of strategy in three crucial case studies: Philip's unsuccessful efforts to maintain his authority in the Netherlands; his defective peacetime management of foreign relations with Scotland and England; and his failed Armada campaign against England. Finally, Parker examines the small but fatal flaws in the execution of Philip's Grand Strategy, assesses the response of the king and his ministers to their failures, and questions whether the outcome might have been different with other policy options, another ruler, or a different strategic culture. Pointing to modern parallels between Philip's problems of governance and those facing Hitler and Churchill, or Kennedy and Johnson, this book provides a commentary on the nature of empires and the decision-making processes of the great powers.

作者介绍:

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标签

西方历史

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书评

书确实比较学术化，引用的一手资料远远超过他人研究的成果，以至于看完全书，再去翻书后的参考文献，不得不快速浏览通过。看完全书，再去回顾最早的章节到底写了什么，真是一点也记不起来了。

此书准确的讲，应该命名为腓力二世80年代的英国战略的制定和执行，这部分内容占据

...

虽然此书是本有用的书。讲的30年战争前的欧洲布局。但书的索引居然占了本书的1/2

。书的码洋奇高，或许此书码洋虽然搭着通胀的顺班车，然而此时此刻此书的出版确实不道德的。。。

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