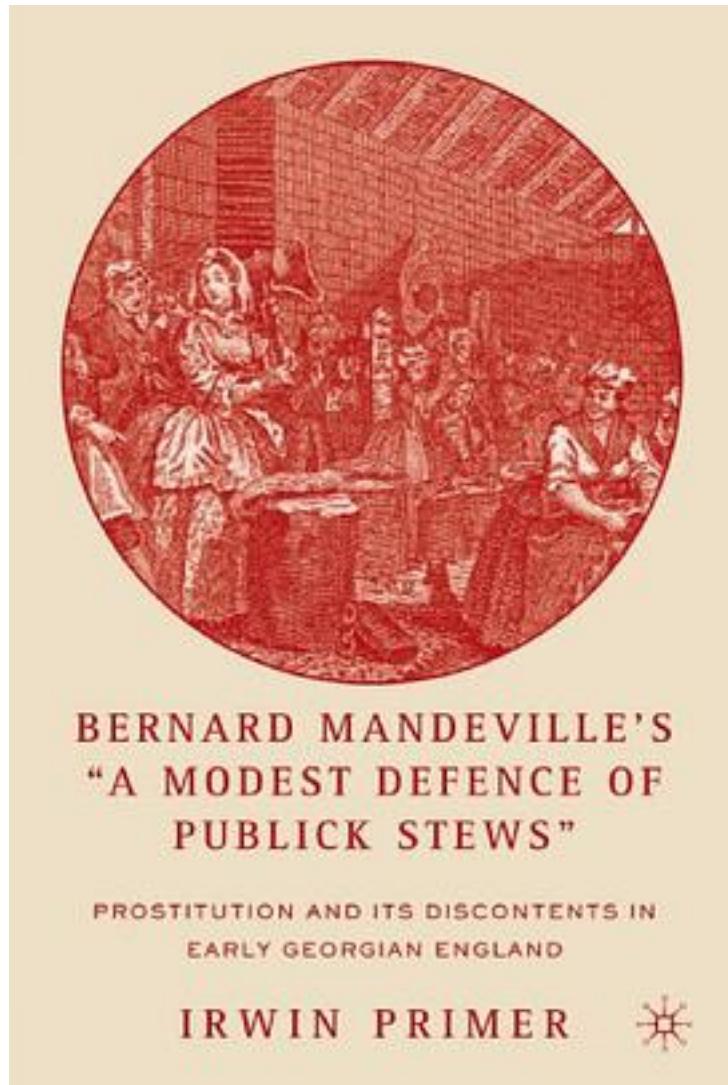


Bernard Mandeville's "A Modest Defence of Publick Stews"



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著者:Irwin Primer

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In A Modest Defence of Publick Stews (1724) its reputed author Dr. Bernard Mandeville argues that the best solution to the problems of prostitution (with its related evils of venereal disease, infanticide and other crimes) is not to stamp it out—an impossibility—but to legalize it and regulate it under strict government supervision. This proposal seems serious enough, but Mandeville's satire, with bawdy humor and passages of deliberately faulty reasoning, calls into question the seriousness of this somewhat utopian project. In this first annotated edition, the editor reveals that this complex work often relies upon ancient Classical and Renaissance authors (Plato, Ovid, Martial, Shakespeare, Ariosto, Milton, Butler and especially Montaigne) and that it merits reconsideration as a work richer in literary values and vitality than most readers had previously imagined. It also remains very pertinent to our ongoing debates on prostitution and sexuality in this era of HIV and AIDS.

作者介绍:

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标签

Mandeville

评论

曼德维尔这篇短文最重要的也许是最后那一部分，它点明了他在《蜜蜂的寓言》中“私人的恶德，公众的利益”这一著名论断的主要对手。这是《新约·罗马书》中的一段话：“为什么不说，我们可以作恶以成善呢？这等人定罪是该当的。”将政治的德性与基督教道德分开，我们看到了马基雅维利的身影。

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书评

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