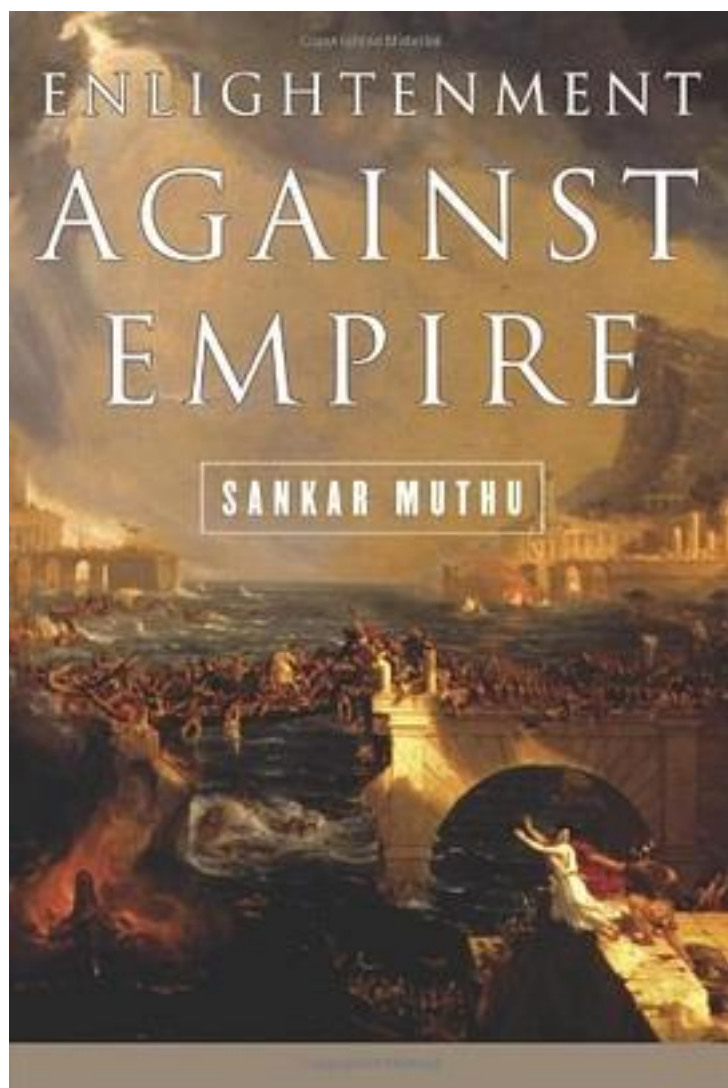


Enlightenment against Empire



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著者:Sankar Muthu

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In the late eighteenth century, an array of European political thinkers attacked the very foundations of imperialism, arguing passionately that empire-building was not only unworkable, costly, and dangerous, but manifestly unjust. "Enlightenment against Empire" is the first book devoted to the anti-imperialist political philosophies of an age often regarded as affirming imperial ambitions. Sankar Muthu argues that thinkers such as Denis Diderot, Immanuel Kant, and Johann Gottfried Herder developed an understanding of humans as inherently cultural agents and therefore necessarily diverse. These thinkers rejected the conception of a culture-free "natural man." They held that moral judgments of superiority or inferiority could be made neither about entire peoples nor about many distinctive cultural institutions and practices. Muthu shows how such arguments enabled the era's anti-imperialists to defend the freedom of non-European peoples to order their own societies. In contrast to those who praise "the Enlightenment" as the triumph of a universal morality and critics who view it as an imperializing ideology that denigrated cultural pluralism, Muthu argues instead that eighteenth-century political thought included multiple Enlightenments. He reveals a distinctive and underappreciated strand of Enlightenment thinking that interweaves commitments to universal moral principles and incommensurable ways of life, and that links the concept of a shared human nature with the idea that humans are fundamentally diverse. Such an intellectual temperament, Muthu contends, can broaden our own perspectives about international justice and the relationship between human unity and diversity.

作者介绍:

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标签

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评论

读了康德部分。作者对康德的理解很多都十分不靠谱，于是得出了颇有新意的结论。

当成历史书来看的话问题很多。不过其中讨论狄德罗对卢梭“高贵野蛮人”的批判还算可以。对康德和反帝国思想的关系的讨论很牵强，而且康德的Kultur的概念和作者所提的cultural incommensurability之间的关系似乎也很成问题。

没想到康德这么hippy啊.....

试图以“反帝国主义”的角度来恢复更多元的“Enlightenments”。康德一章观点比较新颖，认为康德提出了道德自由与文化自由两种不同的人类属性。重复的论述太多，100来页的篇幅其实就够。作者既然立了pluralizing the Enlightenment的flag，期待他有更宏大的叙述。

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