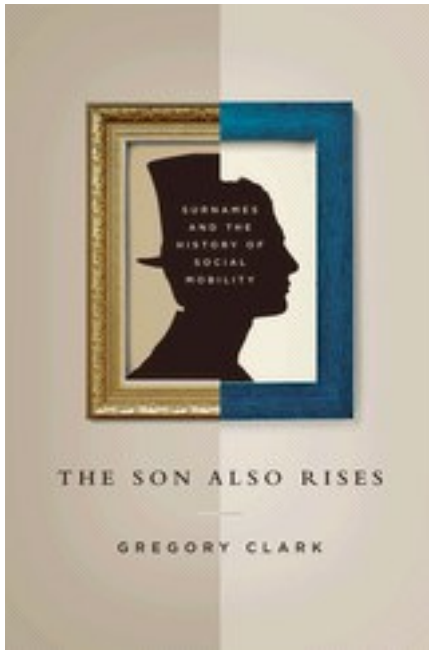


The Son Also Rises



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著者:Gregory Clark

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How much of our fate is tied to the status of our parents and grandparents? How much does this influence our children? More than we wish to believe. While it has been argued that rigid class structures have eroded in favor of greater social equality, *The Son Also Rises* proves that movement on the social ladder has changed little over eight centuries. Using a novel technique--tracking family names over generations to measure social mobility across countries and periods--renowned economic historian Gregory Clark reveals that mobility rates are lower than conventionally estimated, do not vary across societies, and are resistant to social policies. The good news is that these patterns are driven by strong inheritance of abilities and lineage does not beget unwarranted advantage. The bad news is that much of our fate is predictable from lineage. Clark argues that since a greater part of our place in the world is

predetermined, we must avoid creating winner-take-all societies.

Clark examines and compares surnames in such diverse cases as modern Sweden, fourteenth-century England, and Qing Dynasty China. He demonstrates how fate is determined by ancestry and that almost all societies--as different as the modern United States, Communist China, and modern Japan--have similarly low social mobility rates. These figures are impervious to institutions, and it takes hundreds of years for descendants to shake off the advantages and disadvantages of their ancestors. For these reasons, Clark contends that societies should act to limit the disparities in rewards between those of high and low social rank.

Challenging popular assumptions about mobility and revealing the deeply entrenched force of inherited advantage, *The Son Also Rises* is sure to prompt intense debate for years to come.

作者介绍:

Gregory Clark is professor of economics at the University of California, Davis. He is the author of *A Farewell to Alms: A Brief Economic History of the World* (Princeton).

目录: Preface ix

1 Introduction: Of Ruling Classes and Underclasses: The Laws of Social Mobility 1

PART I Social Mobility by Time and Place

2 Sweden: Mobility Achieved? 19

3 The United States: Land of Opportunity 45

4 Medieval England: Mobility in the Feudal Age 70

5 Modern England: The Deep Roots of the Present 88

6 A Law of Social Mobility 107

7 Nature versus Nurture 126

PART II Testing the Laws of Mobility

8 India: Caste, Endogamy, and Mobility 143

9 China and Taiwan: Mobility after Mao 167

10 Japan and Korea: Social Homogeneity and Mobility 182

11 Chile: Mobility among the Oligarchs 199

12 The Law of Social Mobility and Family Dynamics 212

13 Protestants, Jews, Gypsies, Muslims, and Copts: Exceptions to the Law of Mobility? 228

14 Mobility Anomalies 253

PART III The Good Society

15 Is Mobility Too Low? Mobility versus Inequality 261

16 Escaping Downward Social Mobility 279

Appendix 1: Measuring Social Mobility 287

Appendix 2: Deriving Mobility Rates from Surname Frequencies 296

Appendix 3: Discovering the Status of Your Surname Lineage 301

Data Sources for Figures and Tables 319

References 333

Index 349

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标签

经济史

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评论

社会流动

纺锤形的收入分配社会是比较自然的。但是对低收入人群的扶植还是十分必要的，这是对自然的必要干涉。

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书评

Clark这本书，我看了前面，把他的理论和方法论看完，就知道没有必要看下去了，因为剩下的案例，不管取自哪里，因为方法和理论的错误，就都没有意义了。
这本书的核心是什么？Clark说，传统测量社会流动的方法是：父母的外显性指标（比如收入、教育、资本等）和下一代的这些外显...

读此书的人一般会提到两点，第一是名字极度酷炫，第二是结论骇人听闻。对于看过Clark之前一本书的人来说，这应该很为眼熟，因为A Farewell to Alms也是借鉴海明威，而其“西方经济发展是因为富人生孩子多穷人都被饿死了”的结论也同样霸气。两者另外一个相似之处是内文同样枯燥...

《儿子照常崛起》描绘的状况更加残酷，本书的观点简单说就是：家庭决定命运。通过考察超过20个社会中不同家族社会经济状况的历史变迁，克拉克得出结论：所谓社会流动几乎不存在。一个家族地位的提升或衰落不是3至4代人的事情，二一班需要10到15代。因此，克拉克估计，你出...

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