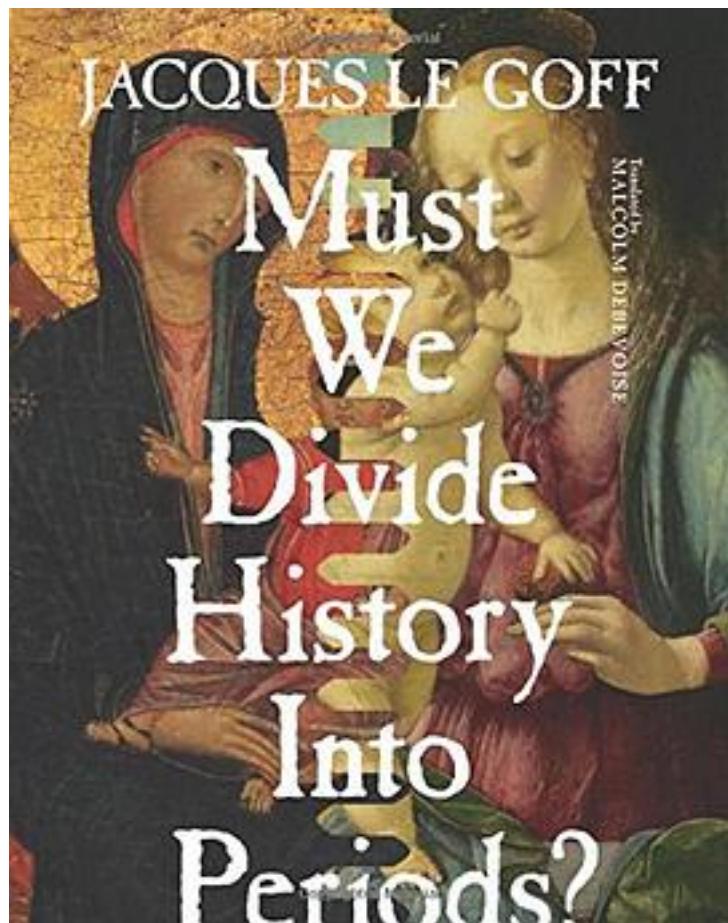


Must We Divide History Into Periods?



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著者:Jacques Le Goff

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We have long thought of the Renaissance as a luminous era that marked a decisive break with the past, but the idea of the Renaissance as a distinct period arose only during the nineteenth century. Though the view of the Middle Ages as a dark age of unreason has softened somewhat, we still locate the advent of modern rationality in

the Italian thought and culture of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Jacques Le Goff pleads for a strikingly different view. In this, his last book, he argues persuasively that many of the innovations we associate with the Renaissance have medieval roots, and that many of the most deplorable aspects of medieval society continued to flourish during the Renaissance. We should instead view Western civilization as undergoing several "renaissances" following the fall of Rome, over the course of a long Middle Ages that lasted until the mid-eighteenth century.

While it is indeed necessary to divide history into periods, Le Goff maintains, the meaningful continuities of human development only become clear when historians adopt a long perspective. Genuine revolutions—the shifts that signal the end of one period and the beginning of the next—are much rarer than we think.

作者介绍:

Jacques Le Goff (1924–2014), for many years director of studies at the École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris, was a highly influential member of the Annales School. Among his other works are *Time, Work, and Culture in the Middle Ages* and *Constructing the Past: Essays in Historical Methodology*.

M. B. DeBevoise translates from the French and Italian in every branch of scholarship.

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史学理论

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评论

马克思之历史论谬误千里，却化为我国教育之思想钢印，可叹

不算很长，作者文笔轻松简洁，相当有趣，开拓视野，打破了传统断代的界限。虽然对中国史断代的意义的参考价值不及对欧洲历史的意义那样大，但也可以给我们马克思主义断代的史观给出另一种声音。

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“滚滚长江东逝水，浪花淘尽英雄。是非成败转头空，青山依旧在，几度夕阳红。”明代文学家杨慎这首著名的《临江仙》道尽了历史沧桑，历来为人们吟诵，后来成了《三国演义》的卷首词...

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◇中国读者对历史分期问题不会感到陌生。共和国“十七年”史学的“五朵金花”中，分期问题居首。这不是偶然的。正如勒高夫所言：“新时期的一种观念总是反对前一时期的观念，后者总被认为是黑暗的阶段并理应让位于光明。” ◇
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