## Oblivion



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出版者:University of Minnesota Press

出版时间:2004-11-07

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780816635672

A renowned social thinker considers the nature and necessity of forgetting.

"Remembering or forgetting is doing gardener's work, selecting, pruning. Memories are like plants: there are those that need to be quickly eliminated in order to help the others burgeon, transform, flower."

For the health of the psyche and the culture, for the individual and the whole society, oblivion is as necessary as memory. One must know how to forget, Marc Augé suggests, not just to live fully in the present but also to comprehend the past.

Renowned as an anthropologist and an innovative social thinker, Augé's meditation moves from how forgetting the present or recent past enables us to return to earlier pasts, to how forgetting propels us into the present, and finally to how forgetting becomes a necessary part of survival. Oblivion moves with authority and ease among a wide variety of sources—literature, common experience, psychoanalysis, philosophy, ethnography—to illustrate the interplay of memory and forgetting in the stories of life and death told across many cultures and many times. Memory and oblivion, he concludes, cannot be separated: "Memories are crafted by oblivion as the outlines of the shore are created by the sea."

"A brief but engaging essay on the connection between memory and forgetting. Augé's mastery of ethnological, cultural and historical detail is particularly illuminating. Augé's investigations here throw up many interesting insights and insoluble questions that are ripe for further meditation and exploration." —Canadian Journal of Sociology

"Breaks new ground by introducing the theme of Oblivion—a challenging reflection on memory and forgetting. The essay is far-reaching, advancing the concept of oblivion through brief but suggestive explorations. Augé turns the tables on scholarship. Oblivion is simulating and revives a way of thinking about memory forgotten by many contemporary theorists." —Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology

"This beautifully written book provides an extremely valuable addition to the literature on memory." —The Year's Work in Critical and Cultural Theory

作者介绍:

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社会学
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英语
评论
最好的是第二章以及对基督山伯爵的讨论;核心观点基本从Fabian "coevalness"而出。二章末,写到任何体裁的个体叙事都是对宏大叙事和集体性迷思的 违抗与抽离,忍不住又想起昨天罗新老师说到的对每一个个体的尊重和聚焦。遗忘和记 忆都是为了更好地活在当下。
<b>书评</b>
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