

Oriental Despotism



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著者:Karl A. Wittfogel

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Starting from a Marxist analysis of the ideas of Max Weber on China and India's "hydraulic-bureaucratic official-state" and building on Marx's sceptical view of the Asiatic Mode of Production, Wittfogel came up with an analysis of Oriental despotism which emphasized the role of irrigation works, the bureaucratic structures needed to maintain them and the impact that these had on society, coining the term "hydraulic

empire" to describe the system. In his view, many societies, mainly in Asia, relied heavily on the building of large-scale irrigation works. To do this, the state had to organize forced labor from the population at large. As only a centralized administration could organize the building and maintenance of large-scale systems of irrigation, the need for such systems made bureaucratic despotism inevitable in Oriental lands. This structure was uniquely placed to also crush civil society and any other force capable of mobilizing against the state. Such a state would inevitably be despotic, powerful, stable and wealthy. Wittfogel's anticommunism led in "Oriental Despotism" to extend the hydraulic hypothesis to Russia, where it hardly is applicable.

作者介绍:

Karl August Wittfogel (6 September 1896, in Woltersdorf, Germany – 25 May 1988, in New York, USA) was a German-American playwright, historian, and sinologist. Originally a Marxist and an active member of the Communist Party of Germany, after the Second World War Wittfogel was an equally fierce Anticommunist.

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标签

魏特夫

治水社会

历史

政治学

近代史

英文

东亚

sociology

评论

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书评

单是目录里的观点，就已经够一针见血了~ 01、治水专制主义，国家比社会强有力
02、治水国家国家权力贪得无厌
03、治水国家，私人财产是软弱的财产，被国家通过财政、司法、法律和政治措施进行了限制。 04、治水政权使国家中占优势地位的宗教附属于它。 05、专制权力——极...

比较中西历史时会发现，欧罗巴绵延千年，却偏偏没有东方国家普遍存在的宦官制度，这是一个很好玩的事情。我记得传统观念对此的解释是，宦官的诞生仰仗于两个条件：人类学意义上的一夫多妻制，以及发达的牲畜养殖/阉割技术。前者酝酿诞生宦官的需求，即王室后裔血统的纯洁和...

最近写论文需要，看了这本书。水治社会的说法虽然站不住脚，但分析的角度还是很独特的，不失为比较东西方政治制度起源的一个因素~

这本书中译本出来后就遭到了学者的批评，在当时80年代末的环境，成为了禁书，现在旧书摊高价出售，要么就是大学图书馆了。

在任不寐的 灾变论中的 绪论有关于魏特夫治水社会的评论 各位可以参考下。
历史决定论是一种很简单粗暴的理论 书中各种低级的错误显示出那个时代的背景
这本书没有再版的必要了

普利策奖得主、《世界是平的》作者托马斯·弗莱德曼在一次学术研讨会上曾就中国不同于中东北非以及前苏联特殊的集权模式问题展开探究，其中一个重要的问题是，之所以中国的集权模式如此的与众不同，其原因到底在哪里。通过《东方专制主义》可以找到部分答案。

由一个有社会主义运动背景的学者构建亚洲生产模式的专制发生理论，会让马列主义老太太们睡不着觉吧。
治水说是地缘决定论的一种，它对于说明古代中国早熟的组织体系是很有说服力的。维特夫引用的例证仍显不足。例如，南北朝后人口日益集中在稻米区（需要更多的人力、资源、工程...

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