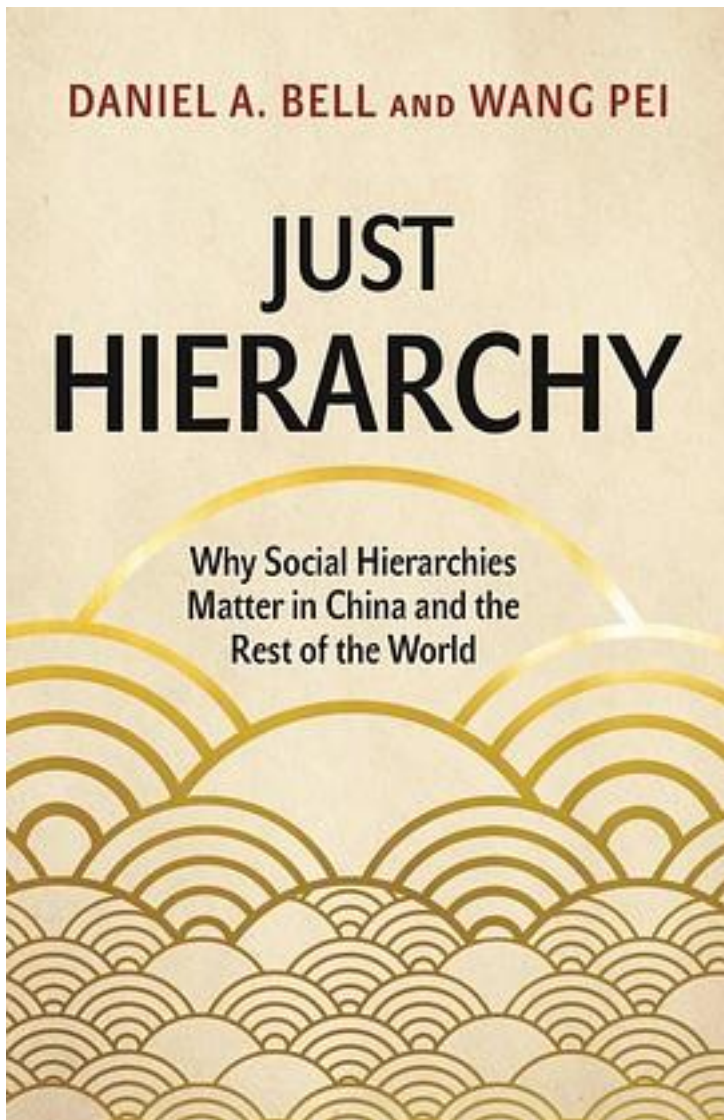


Just Hierarchy



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著者:Daniel A. Bell

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All complex and large-scale societies are organized along certain hierarchies, but the concept of hierarchy has become almost taboo in the modern world. Just Hierarchy contends that this stigma is a mistake. In fact, as Daniel Bell and Wang Pei show, it is neither possible nor advisable to do away with social hierarchies. Drawing their arguments from Chinese thought and culture as well as other philosophies and traditions, Bell and Wang ask which forms of hierarchy are justified and how these can serve morally desirable goals. They look at ways of promoting just forms of hierarchy while minimizing the influence of unjust ones, such as those based on race, sex, or caste.

Which hierarchical relations are morally justified and why? Bell and Wang argue that it depends on the nature of the social relation and context. Different hierarchical principles ought to govern different kinds of social relations: what justifies hierarchy among intimates is different from what justifies hierarchy among citizens, countries, humans and animals, and humans and intelligent machines. Morally justified hierarchies can and should govern different spheres of our social lives, though these will be very different from the unjust hierarchies that have governed us in the past.

A vigorous, systematic defense of hierarchy in the modern world, Just Hierarchy examines how hierarchical social relations can have a useful purpose, not only in personal domains but also in larger political realms.

作者介绍:

Daniel A. Bell is dean of the School of Political Science and Public Administration at Shandong University in Qingdao and professor at Tsinghua University in Beijing. His previous books include The China Model (Princeton).

Wang Pei is assistant professor at the China Institute at Fudan University in Shanghai.

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标签

社会学

礼

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评论

所有复杂和大规模的社会都是按照一定的等级组织的，但是等级的概念在现代世界几乎是禁忌。两位作者认为，任何现代社会都需要等级制度，废除社会等级制度既不可能也不可取。问题的关键所在是哪种形式的等级制度是合理的，哪种是不合理的，以及这些制度如何服务于道德上可取的目标，同时尽量减少不公正的影响。

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