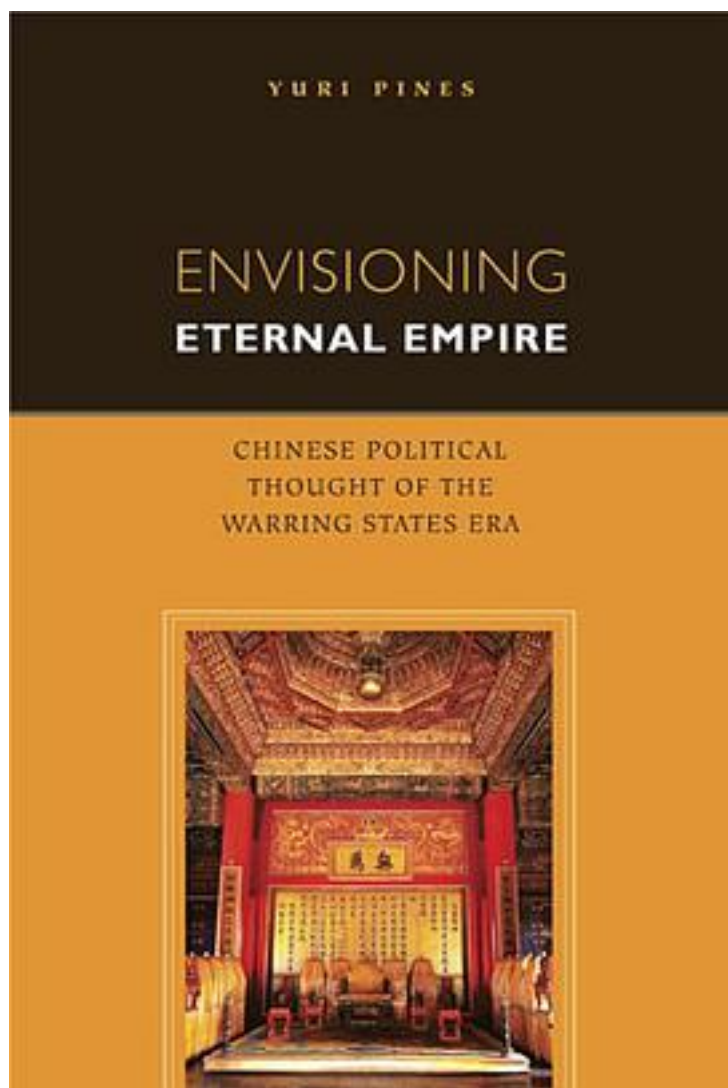


Envisioning Eternal Empire



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著者:Yuri Pines

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This ambitious book looks into the reasons for the exceptional durability of the Chinese empire, which lasted for more than two millennia (221 B.C.E. - 1911 C.E.). Yuri Pines identifies the roots of the empire's longevity in the activities of thinkers of the Warring States period (453-221 B.C.E.), who, in their search for solutions to an ongoing political crisis, developed ideals, values, and perceptions that would become essential for the future imperial polity. In marked distinction to similar empires worldwide, the Chinese empire was envisioned and to a certain extent 'preplanned' long before it came into being. As a result, it was not only a military and administrative construct, but also an intellectual one. Pines makes the argument that it was precisely its ideological appeal that allowed the survival and regeneration of the empire after repeated periods of turmoil. "Envisioning Eternal Empire" presents a panoptic survey of philosophical and social conflicts in Warring States political culture. By examining the extant corpus of preimperial literature, including transmitted texts and manuscripts uncovered at archaeological sites, Pines locates the common ideas of competing thinkers that underlie their ideological controversies. This bold approach allows him to transcend the once fashionable perspective of competing 'schools of thought' and show that beneath the immense pluralism of Warring States thought one may identify common ideological choices that eventually shaped traditional Chinese political culture. The result is a refreshingly novel look at the foundational period in Chinese intellectual history.

作者介绍:

Yuri Pines is Michael W. Lipson Professor of Chinese Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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评论

对政治和思想的关系有不切实际的设想。全书暗含的立意就是某些观念在战国一旦形成，就必然地影响整个帝制时代（所以才有作者的下一本书）。结语中说统一的帝国和知识精英与国家的合作都是“思想家”们自觉的选择。他们选择得了吗？

方法上就错误，分析不到位，文化的层次没有搞清楚，反正就是很差

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书评

展望永恒帝国
个人认为作者写最好的是在君主一章，与阎步克不同，作者认为秦汉之际的政治更替，是因为秦始皇太过“贤明”（作者在万能的橡皮图章一章中有说，荀子和韩非子都是希望最好的情况是君王事事包办并且平天下）但是后来秦始皇的实践中发现纯粹依赖君主不可行，而权柄于...

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