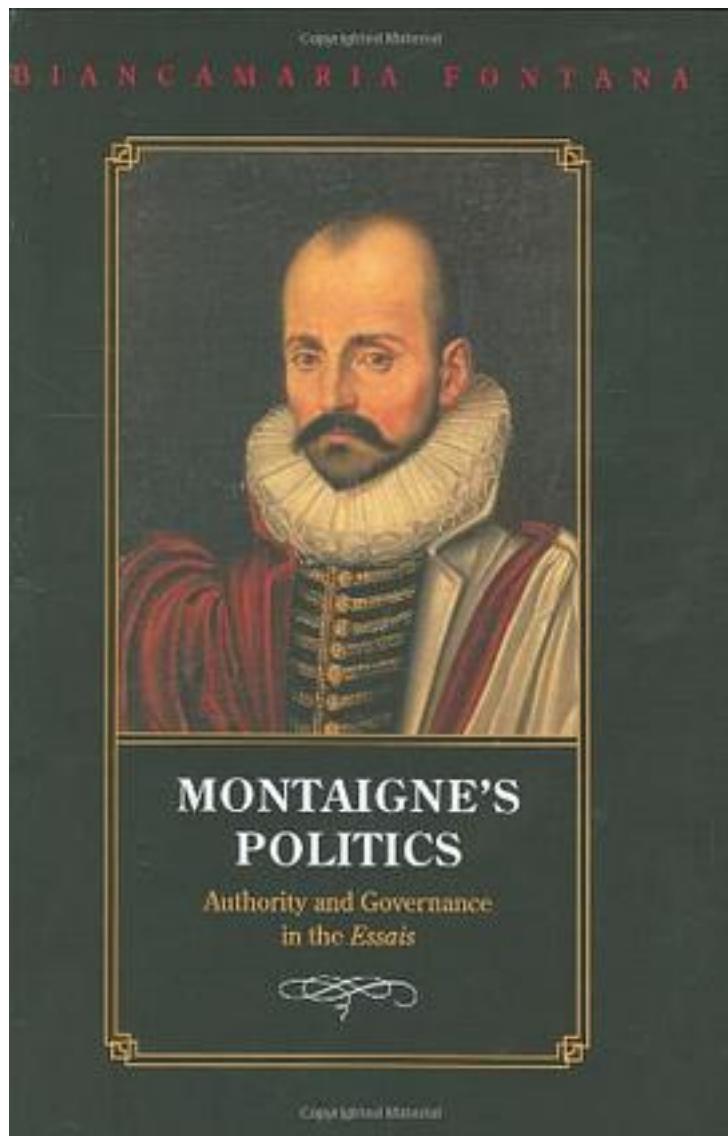


Montaigne's Politics



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Michel de Montaigne (1533-92) is principally known today as a literary figure--the inventor of the modern essay and the pioneer of autobiographical self-exploration who retired from politics in midlife to write his private, philosophical, and apolitical *Essais*. But, as Biancamaria Fontana argues in *Montaigne's Politics*, a novel, vivid account of the political meaning of the *Essais* in the context of Montaigne's life and times, his retirement from the Bordeaux parliament in 1570 "could be said to have marked the beginning, rather than the end, of his public career." He later served as mayor of Bordeaux and advisor to King Henry of Navarre, and, as Fontana argues, Montaigne's *Essais* very much reflect his ongoing involvement and preoccupation with contemporary politics--particularly the politics of France's civil wars between Catholics and Protestants. Fontana shows that the *Essais*, although written as a record of Montaigne's personal experiences, do nothing less than set forth the first major critique of France's ancien régime, anticipating the main themes of Enlightenment writers such as Voltaire and Diderot. Challenging the views that Montaigne was politically aloof or evasive, or that he was a conservative skeptic and supporter of absolute monarchy, Fontana explores many of the central political issues in Montaigne's work--the reform of legal institutions, the prospects of religious toleration, the role of public opinion, and the legitimacy of political regimes.

作者介绍:

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书评

当我听到自己的《蒙田的政治学》一书要在中国翻译出版时，脑海里蹦出的第一个念头是如果蒙田知道了这个消息，他该有多高兴。蒙田对其他文化与文明所具有的那种强烈的好奇心，是其作品最独特的地方之一。在那个时代众多卓越的法国作家当中——包括稍后的孟德斯鸠和伏尔泰——...

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