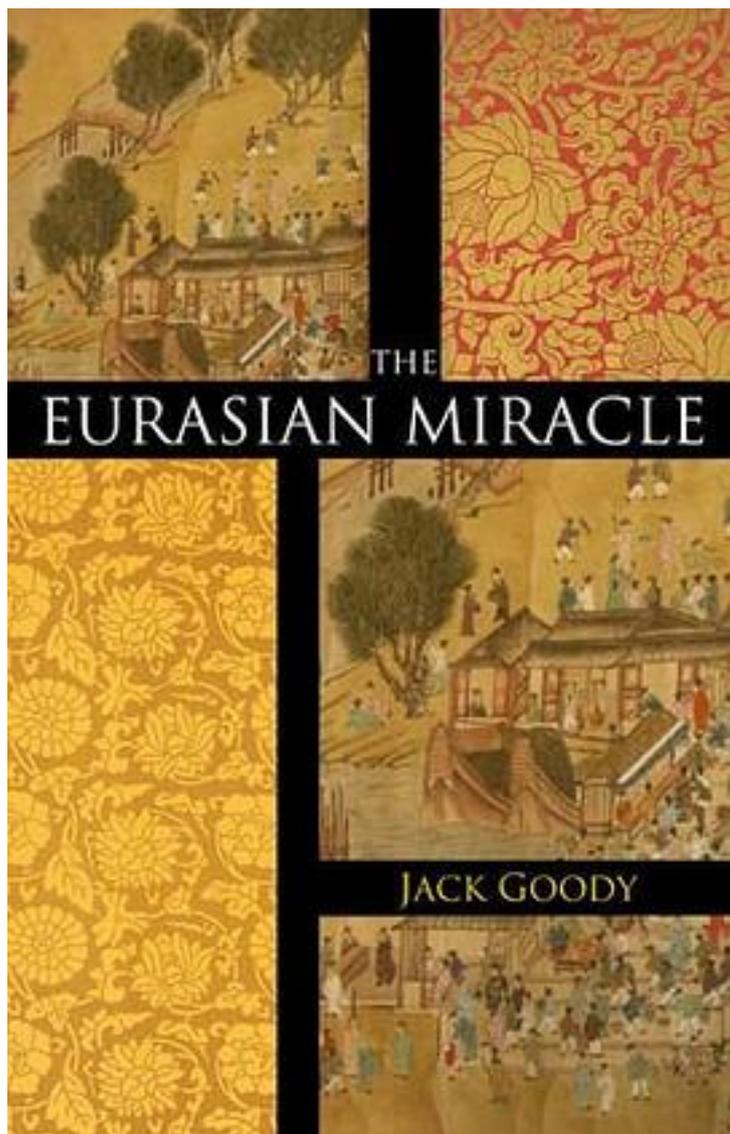


# The Eurasian Miracle



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出版者:Polity

出版时间:2009-12-21

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780745647944

The idea of long-term European dominance is characteristic of most evolutionary theories of human culture and society in the nineteenth century. It was commonly believed that there was a natural progression from Antiquity through Feudalism to Capitalism which could not have taken place elsewhere. Today there are many who still believe that this progression was part of a European miracle that underlay the rise to global supremacy of the West. In this short book Jack Goody systematically dismantles this Eurocentric view of the world. He argues that we need to look, not for a European miracle, but rather for a Eurasian miracle that went back to the Urban Revolution of the Bronze Age, that affected the Near East, India and China well before Europe and that was much advanced by the adoption of writing. Under these conditions we find a long-term exchange of information between East and West, and the dominance of one followed by the dominance of the other - in other words, alternation rather than dominance. There were measures during the Renaissance in Europe that made for continuous growth, especially the secularization of learning, but it appears that the period of Western supremacy is now coming to an end and that we are about to experience a further alternation in favour of the East.

作者介绍:

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书评

剑桥大学人类学教授 Jack Goody 的 The Eurasian Miracle 是薄薄的一本书：全书连正文带附录参考文献和索引不过159页。不过这份书的份量可不轻，我读起来稍感吃力，觉得自己这方面的背景知识还是太少。这本书的主题相当有意思，作者的中心论点，是试图反驳“欧洲奇迹论” (The...

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