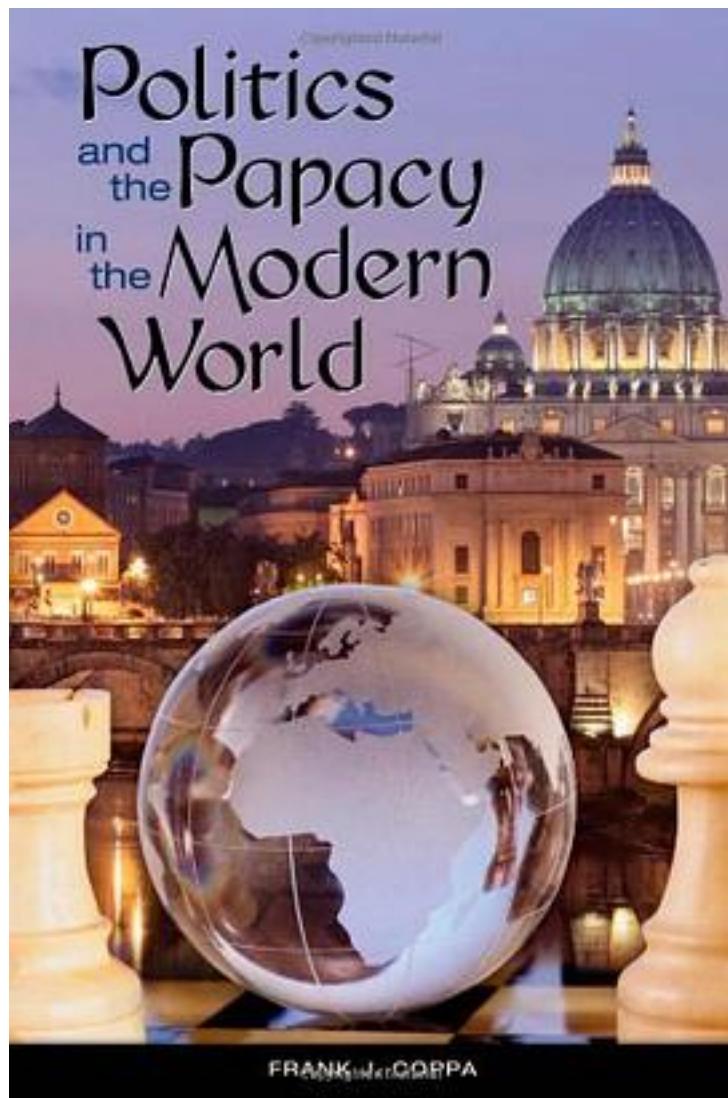


Politics and the Papacy in the Modern World



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著者:Coppa, Frank J.

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This title explores the Papacy's political and diplomatic role in world affairs during the last two centuries. The outbreak of the French Revolution and the Industrial Revolution at the turn of the century transformed the world and ushered in the modern age, which challenged the traditional political order and the prevailing religious establishment. The new secular framework presented a potential threat to the papal leadership of the Catholic community, which was profoundly affected by the rush towards modernisation. Here, the author focuses on Rome's response to the modern world, exploring the papacy's political and diplomatic role during the past two centuries. He examines the Vatican's impact upon the major development and ideologies over the years, including capitalism, nationalism, socialism, communism, modernism, racism, and anti-Semitism. At the same time, he traces the continuity and change in the papacy's attitude towards church-state relations and the relationship between religion and science. Unlike many earlier studies of the papacy, which examine this unique institution as a self contained unit and concentrate upon its role within the church, this study examines this key religious institution within the broader framework of national and international political, diplomatic, social, and economic events. It explores such questions as the limits to be placed on national sovereignty; its critique of capitalism and communism; the morality of warfare; and the need for an equitable international order.

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