

Caligula



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The infamous emperor Caligula ruled Rome from A.D. 37 to 41 as a tyrant who ultimately became a monster. An exceptionally smart and cruelly witty man, Caligula made his contemporaries worship him as a god. He drank pearls dissolved in vinegar and ate food covered in gold leaf. He forced men and women of high rank to have sex with him, turned part of his palace into a brothel, and committed incest with his sisters. He wanted to make his horse a consul. Torture and executions were the order of the day. Both modern and ancient interpretations have concluded from this alleged evidence that Caligula was insane. But was he? This biography tells a different story of the well-known emperor. In a deft account written for a general audience, Aloys Winterling opens a new perspective on the man and his times. Basing Caligula on a thorough new assessment of the ancient sources, he sets the emperor's story into the context of the political system and the changing relations between the senate and the emperor during Caligula's time and finds a new rationality explaining his notorious brutality.

作者介绍:

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标签

罗马史

皇帝

政治史

传记

评论

一个纠缠不清的政治结构：双头制；三场阴谋；四年短暂统治，有这几个噱头，早就足够这部宫斗大剧崭露头角了。Winterling对早期元首制时期的理论建构（英文论文集2009），在这部以叙述为主的皇帝传记里，得到了生动的展现。因为文本材料的敌对立场过于鲜明，作者几乎是凭借其眼力将字字句句过了一遍筛，然后把事件放到它应该所在的位置上去（在还原Suetonius的片段史料时体现得极为明显）。当然既然提到历史文本的扑朔迷离，就不得不提学者们的各种争议，这一点这本书只有很少的体现（作者在后序中提到）；在这一方面A. Barrett那本老的传记（15年又有新版）则在英语世界仍然不可或缺。

非常之有趣

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书评

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