

Secret History



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著者:Procopius

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The most famous woman of late antiquity, the empress Theodora, is portrayed with a very sharp pen in Procopius' Secret History. The 6th century historian here sets out to tell "what manner of persons Justinian and Theodora were and the method by which they ruined the Roman Empire"--in an account that he apparently meant to publish after their deaths. He tells of Theodora's early years as a stage performer and prostitute; the duplicitous means and intrigue she employed to achieve her goals when in power; her cruelty and spite, vanity and pride. Not a fair and balanced picture perhaps, but a striking and vivid one.

作者介绍:

Procopius, born at Caesarea in Palestine late in the 5th century, became a lawyer. In 527 CE he was made legal adviser and secretary of Belisarius, commander against the Persians, and went with Belisarius again in 533 against the Vandals and in 535 against the Ostrogoths. Sometime after 540 he returned to Constantinople. He may have been

that Procopius who was prefect of Constantinople in 562, but the date of his death (after 558) is unknown.

Procopius' s History of the Wars in 8 books recounts the Persian Wars of emperors Justinus and Justinian down to 550 (2 books); the Vandalic War and after-events in Africa 532–546 (2 books); the Gothic War against the Ostrogoths in Sicily and Italy 536–552 (3 books); and a sketch of events to 554 (1 book). The whole consists largely of military history, with much information about peoples and places as well, and about special events. He was a diligent, careful, judicious narrator of facts and developments and shows good powers of description. He is just to the empire' s enemies and boldly criticises emperor Justinian. Other works by Procopius are the Anecdota or Secret History—vehement attacks on Justinian, Theodora, and others; and The Buildings of Justinian (down to 558 CE) including roads and bridges as well as churches, forts, hospitals, and so on in various parts of the empire.

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标签

历史

评论

Procopius简直是历史上难得一见的宝藏级别的史学家，他的宝藏正在于他留下两部观点近乎完全对立的著作，让后人得以有先例来分析历史书写的问题（我理论脑又上头了）。For the men of today, who know best the truth of these matters, will be trustworthy witnesses to posterity of the accuracy of my evidence.

大概历史的真理也在遮蔽与无蔽间吧，黑材料是真，Hagia Sophia和民法大全也是真。

书评

抱歉，用了这么网虫的标题，说是标题党也不为过了。
国内的拜占庭学界，一再令我失望，《秘史》上海三联版也不能例外。在阅读中，发现一个令人忍俊不禁的bug。书中多处注释，只能用“脱裤子放屁”形容。举几个例子：
P121，正文：他任命其亲信，一个名叫阿德乌斯（Addeus）的...

我觉得普洛科皮比乌斯应该是最后一个传统意义上的古典历史学家了。古希腊文化传统到他那几个时代，早就没了前辈那样自由着墨的空间，人文环境更是没得比，他自己当然明白这些道理，“以前的史学家可以写伟大的征服和历史，而我呢？有机会写点歌功颂德的文章，填饱肚子就不错啦...

这本书看得很快，每一个帝王都是有两面性的，也许他有战略上的卓越功德，但是也很有可能对百姓横征暴敛，正是当然只能将正面的东西，但是你也不用专名出本书还神秘兮兮的讲皇帝的坏话吧，其实大家心里都明白的。