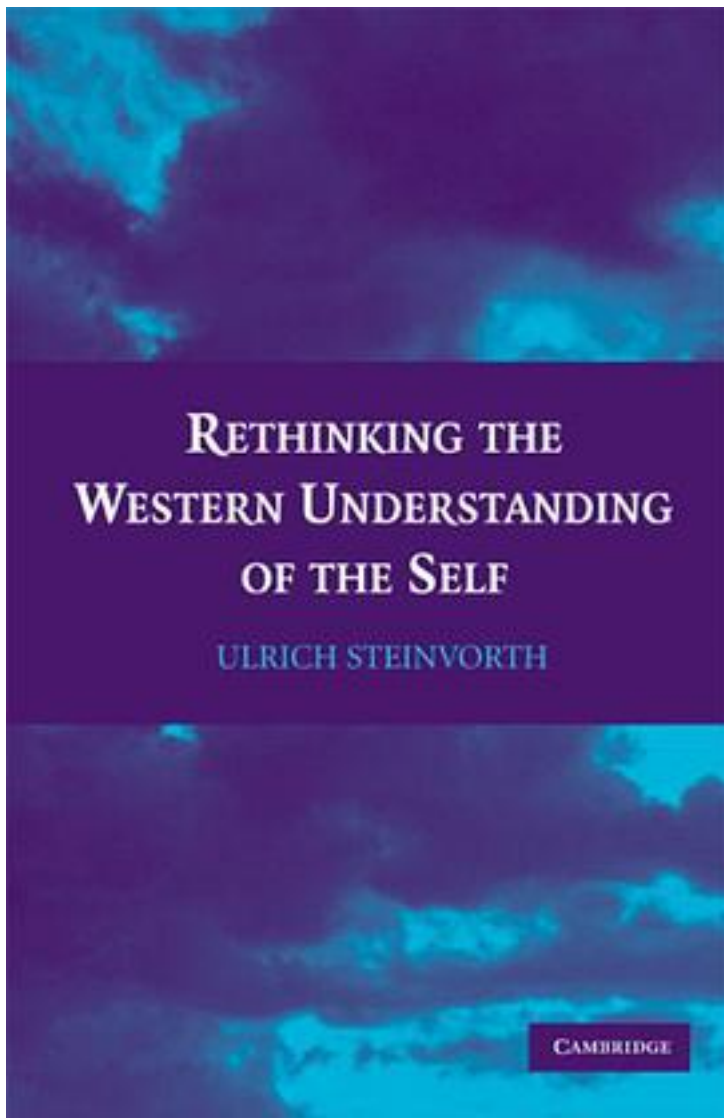


# Rethinking the Western Understanding of the Self



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出版者:

出版时间:2009-7

装帧:

isbn:9780521762748

Ulrich Steinvorth offers a fresh analysis and critique of rationality as a defining element in Western thinking. Steinvorth argues that Descartes' understanding of the self offers a more plausible and realistic alternative to the prevailing understanding of the self formed by the Lockean conception and utilitarianism. When freed from Cartesian dualism, such a conceptualization enables us to distinguish between self and subject. Moreover, it enables us to understand why individualism - one of the hallmarks of modernity in the West - became a universal ideal to be granted to every member of society; how acceptance of this notion could peak in the seventeenth century; and why it is now in decline, though not irreversibly so. Most importantly, the Cartesian concept of the self presents a way of saving modernity from the dangers that it now encounters.

作者介绍:

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# 书评

西方的起源在古希腊、罗马、基督教，但它受到启蒙运动观念的引导。启蒙运动对个人价值、个人的理性能力以及个人具有的不可剥夺的权利的强调，对科学、技术、生产和贸易的信任，取代了传统的宗教或者说丰富了传统的宗教。启蒙带来的这些观念构成了现代性，一种西方的现代性。它...

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