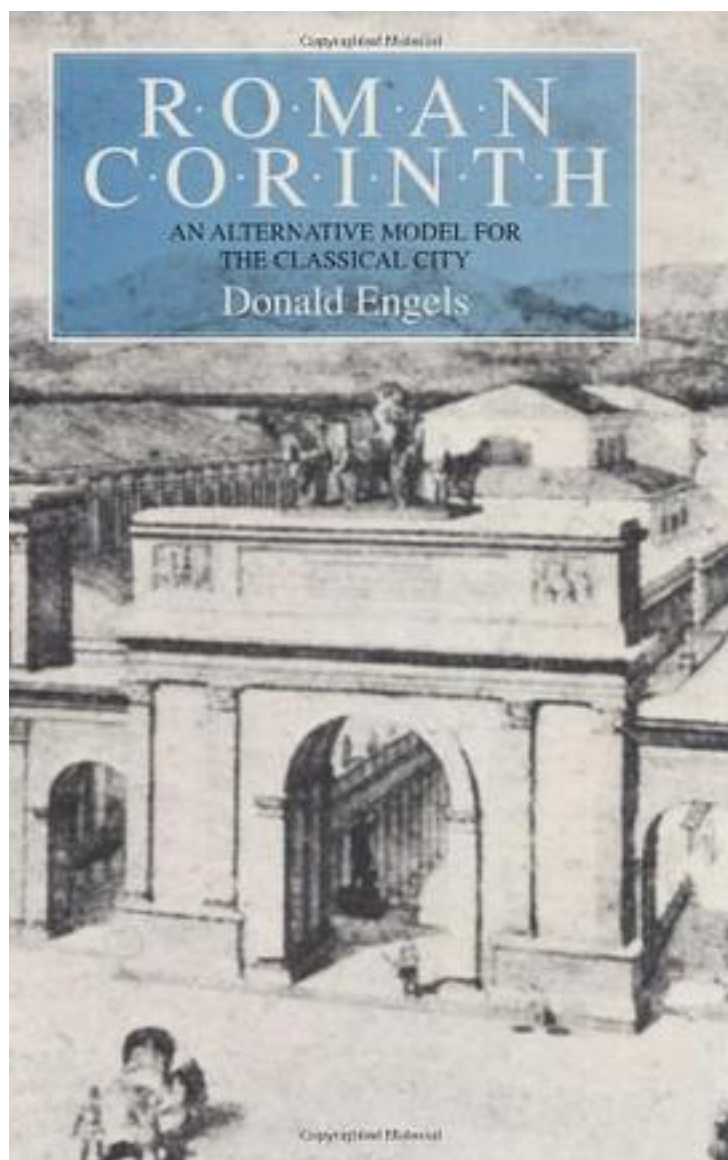


Roman Corinth



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著者:Engels, Donald W.

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In the second century A.D., Corinth was the largest city in Roman Greece. A center of learning, culture, and commerce, it served as the capital of the senatorial province of Achaëa and was the focus of apostle Paul's missionary activity. Donald Engels's important revisionist study of this ancient urban area is at once a detailed history of the Roman colony and a provocative socioeconomic analysis. With Corinth as an exemplar, Engels challenges the widely held view that large classical cities were consumer cities, innocent of the market forces that shape modern economies. Instead, he presents an alternative model--the "service city."

Examining a wealth of archaeological and literary evidence in light of central place theory, and using sound statistical techniques, Engels reconstructs the human geography of the Corinthia, including an estimate of the population. He shows that--given the amount of cultivatable land--rents and taxes levied on the countryside could not have supported a highly populated city like Corinth. Neither could its inhabitants have supported themselves directly by farming.

Rather, the city constituted a thriving market for domestic, regional, and overseas raw materials, agricultural products, and manufactured goods, at the same time satisfying the needs of those who plied the various land and sea routes that converged there. Corinth provided key governmental and judicial services to the province of Achaëa, and its religious festivals, temples, and monuments attracted numerous visitors from all corners of the Roman world. In accounting for the large portion of residents who participated in these various areas outside of the traditional consumer model, Engels reveals the depth and sophistication of the economics of ancient cities.

"Roman Corinth" is a much-needed critique of the currently dominant approach of ancient urbanism. It will be of crucial interest to scholars and students in classics, ancient history, and urban studies.

作者介绍:

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评论

先用了附录，薄薄的一本还有些参考价值～基础读物，每一章逻辑都非常清晰，从导论、农业、经济、社会、宗教几个角度切入。经济史的部分看得头晕，反对农业消费型社会的说法，提出服务型社会的模型，柯林斯提供两种类型的服务，前一种将乡村的人们吸引到城里来，后一种为短暂停留的旅人提供便捷。图表很分散，翻来翻去有点累。作者是个美国人，非常喜欢加入现代情况。

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书评

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