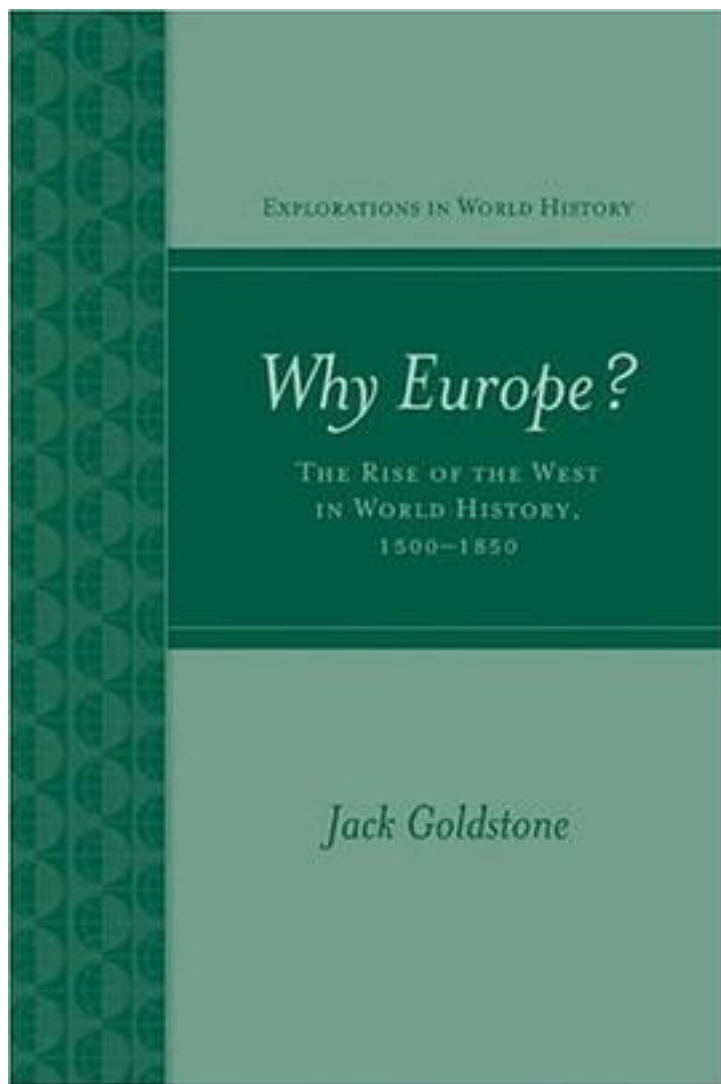


Why Europe?



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出版者:University Of Chicago Press

出版时间:2010-7-15

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9780226532530

Why did capitalism and colonialism arise in Europe and not elsewhere? Why were parliamentary and democratic forms of government founded there? What factors led to Europe's unique position in shaping the world? Thoroughly researched and persuasively argued, "Why Europe?" tackles these classic questions with illuminating results. Michael Mitterauer traces the roots of Europe's singularity to the medieval era, specifically to developments in agriculture. While most historians have located the beginning of Europe's special path in the rise of state power in the modern era, Mitterauer establishes its origins in rye and oats. These new crops played a decisive role in remaking the European family, he contends, spurring the rise of individualism and softening the constraints of patriarchy. Mitterauer reaches these conclusions by comparing Europe with other cultures, especially China and the Islamic world, while surveying the most important characteristics of European society as they took shape from the decline of the Roman empire to the invention of the printing press. Along the way, "Why Europe?" offers up a dazzling series of novel hypotheses to explain the unique evolution of European culture.

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评论

我不太明白为什么自己借了这本书，大概翻了一下，好像目前没有直接需要的内容。

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书评

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