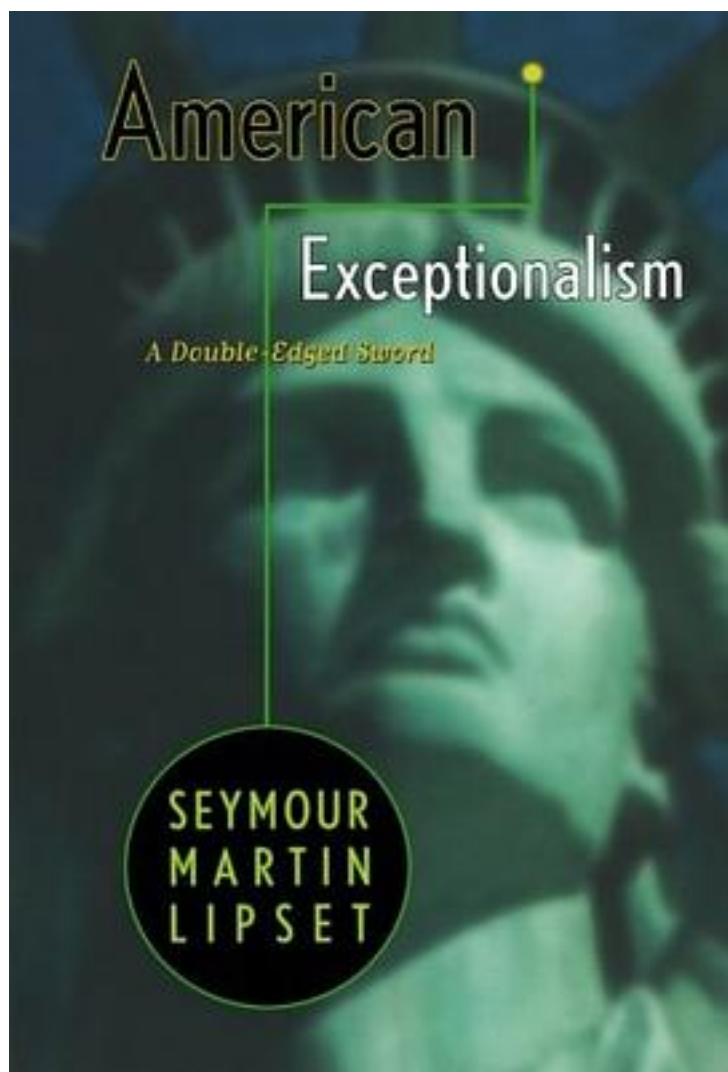


American Exceptionalism



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著者:Lipset, Seymour Martin

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Is America unique? One of our major political analysts explores the deeply held but often inarticulated beliefs that shape the American creed.

"American values are quite complex," writes Seymour Martin Lipset, "particularly because of paradoxes within our culture that permit pernicious and beneficial social phenomena to arise simultaneously from the same basic beliefs."

Born out of revolution, the United States has always considered itself an exceptional country of citizens unified by an allegiance to a common set of ideals, individualism, anti-statism, populism, and egalitarianism. This ideology, Professor Lipset observes, defines the limits of political debate in the United States and shapes our society.

American Exceptionalism explains why socialism has never taken hold in the United States, why Americans are resistant to absolute quotas as a way to integrate blacks and other minorities, and why American religion and foreign policy have a moralistic, crusading streak.

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作者介绍:

Seymour Martin Lipset (March 18, 1922–December 31, 2006) was an American political sociologist, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, and the Hazel Professor of Public Policy at George Mason University. His major work was in the fields of political sociology, trade union organization, social stratification, public opinion, and the sociology of intellectual life. He also wrote extensively about the conditions for democracy in comparative perspective.

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标签

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评论

美国例外论集大成之作，欲了解美国政治传统和文化直到1990年代中期的面貌，此书必不可少。作者本人也可算是美国例外论的提倡和发扬光大者之一，其提出的美国政治五大原则：自由（liberty），平等主义（egalitarianism），个人主义，自由放任和民粹主义，虽然略显粗糙，也算是很好地涵盖了美国政治思维中相互矛盾却又共生共荣的各个方面，合流成为美国例外论。其对美国为何没有社会主义的政治和社会因素列举，也算比较圆熟的回答。这些经典论述除外，对我来说最精彩的是美国学界被左派占据、政治正确大行其道的政治文化原因：道德至上的追求、对权威和现状的怀疑、政治运动的兴起；及学科分布原因：冷战对抗和苏式共产主义面貌逐渐浮现使得社科法商均容不下左派理论，后现代理论使哲学文学等人文学科成为左派避难所。

a double sword!!

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