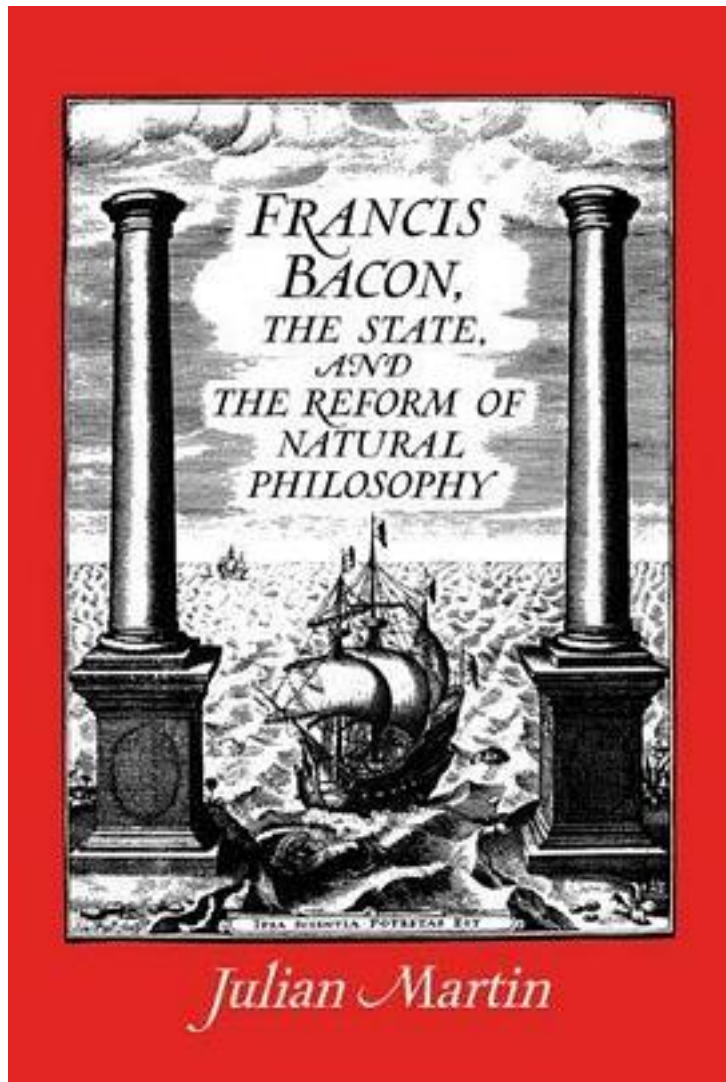


Francis Bacon, the State and the Reform of Natural Philosophy



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Why was it that Francis Bacon, trained for high political office, devoted himself to proposing a celebrated and sweeping reform of the natural sciences? Julian Martin's investigative study looks at Bacon's family context, his employment in Queen Elizabeth's security service and his radical critique of the relationship between the Common Law and the monarchy, to find the key to this important question. Deeply conservative and elitist in his political views, Bacon adapted Tudor strategies of State management and bureaucracy, the social anxieties and prejudices of the late Elizabethan governing elite, and a principal intellectual resource of the English governing classes - the Common Law - into a novel vision and method for the sciences. Bacon's axiom that 'Knowledge is Power' takes on far-reaching implications in Martin's challenging argument that the reform of natural philosophy was a central part of an audacious plan to strengthen the powers of the Crown in the State.

作者介绍:

目录: Review

'This is an excellent piece of work - subtle, original, highly innovatory, and distinctly readable. Its main theses are really facinating and very well maintained, and it seems to me that this book will signal a new start for early modern science and philosophy.'

G. R. Elton

Product Description

Why was it that Francis Bacon, trained for high political office, devoted himself to proposing a celebrated and sweeping reform of the natural sciences? Julian Martin's investigative study looks at Bacon's family context, his employment in Queen Elizabeth's security service and his radical critique of the relationship between the Common Law and the monarchy, to find the key to this important question. Deeply conservative and elitist in his political views, Bacon adapted Tudor strategies of State management and bureaucracy, the social anxieties and prejudices of the late Elizabethan governing elite, and a principal intellectual resource of the English governing classes - the Common Law - into a novel vision and method for the sciences. Bacon's axiom that 'Knowledge is Power' takes on far-reaching implications in Martin's challenging argument that the reform of natural philosophy was a central part of an audacious plan to strengthen the powers of the Crown in the State.

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标签

培根

评论

从都铎晚期的政治形式理解培根的自然哲学改革。首先提出了培根早期教育/家庭背景和青年时期与清教徒群体的紧密关系，把培根的改革解释为都铎早期以Thomas Smith为代表的联邦改革的延续。指出了应该始终把培根作为一个政治人物来考量他的著作。总结中主要著出早期皇家学会在意识形态上与培根的不同，不应笼统地叫做Baconian Institution。培根的新方法为不同读者预留了解释的自由，但是其中心思想仍然是通过科学的研究来加强王权的集中和秩序的保持。某种程度上和Hobbes有类似的初衷。

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书评

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