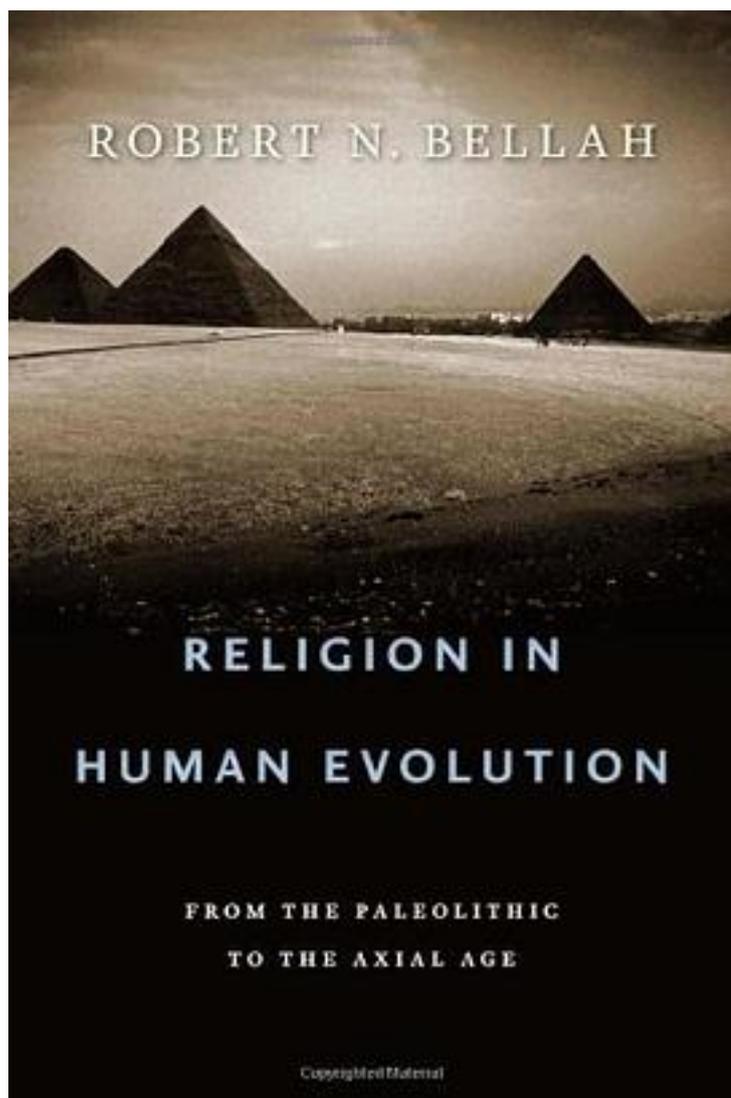


# Religion in Human Evolution



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著者:Robert N. Bellah

出版者:Belknap Press

出版时间:2011-9

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9780674061439

Religion in Human Evolution is a work of extraordinary ambition—a wide-ranging, nuanced probing of our biological past to discover the kinds of lives that human beings have most often imagined were worth living. It offers what is frequently seen as a forbidden theory of the origin of religion that goes deep into evolution, especially but not exclusively cultural evolution.

How did our early ancestors transcend the quotidian demands of everyday existence to embrace an alternative reality that called into question the very meaning of their daily struggle? Robert Bellah, one of the leading sociologists of our time, identifies a range of cultural capacities, such as communal dancing, storytelling, and theorizing, whose emergence made this religious development possible. Deploying the latest findings in biology, cognitive science, and evolutionary psychology, he traces the expansion of these cultural capacities from the Paleolithic to the Axial Age (roughly, the first millennium BCE), when individuals and groups in the Old World challenged the norms and beliefs of class societies ruled by kings and aristocracies. These religious prophets and renouncers never succeeded in founding their alternative utopias, but they left a heritage of criticism that would not be quenched.

Bellah's treatment of the four great civilizations of the Axial Age—in ancient Israel, Greece, China, and India—shows all existing religions, both prophetic and mystic, to be rooted in the evolutionary story he tells. Religion in Human Evolution answers the call for a critical history of religion grounded in the full range of human constraints and possibilities.

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标签

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## 评论

进化既是生物的，也是伦理的；既是事实，也是一种信念【这本书厚的啊！读了第一章（宗教表征的四种：统合的/unitive、能动的/enactive、象征的/symbolic、概念的/conceptual）和第八章，作者所有的样本选择都回到了古典轴心时期，可以窥见他对现代无限悲观以及对过去的极度沉湎、呼唤道德成为社会公共宗教的保守旨趣】

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I am so happy that I take this book on the road, where time and place lose their relativity and the feeling of drifting in and alongside the crowds grow crisply transparent. I am immensely captivated.

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晚期贝拉，想不到也和terry deacon一路

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课上读了点节选，太喜欢了，保完研必须读。

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书评

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