

<<英国启蒙运动中的乌托邦思想>>

图书基本信息

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内容概要

This is the first major collection of eighteenth-century British utopias. Seven tracts, spanning the century, show how the image of the ideal society was used as a form of social criticism, and particularly as a means of focussing on ideas of progress and commercial development. Radical and republican thinking about property ownership, social equality, and commerce and luxury - of particular relevance to the critique of corruption in this period - coexists with nostalgic and conservative notions of the ideal hierarchical community. The introduction, which sets these tracts in a wider context of similar texts, examines their relationship to the political thought of the period, and shows how issues and developments of key importance, from the debate surrounding the French revolution to the origins of Romanticism and early socialism, are illuminated by an understanding of the utopian tradition.

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章节摘录

The first Business that we were set about, was to learn their Language; to the obtaining a Mastery in which, my little Skill in the Greek was no small Help; for tho their Tongue be very much alterd from the ancient Greek, yet it retains not only the Character, but many of the Radical Words of the Attick Dialect. The Care of my Instructor, with my own Diligence and Application, made me such a Proficient, that I could, in two Months time, talk it almost as well as a Native; and in two Months more, was able to translate any thing out of English into it. But I have forgot to tell you, that as soon as I had Instructors ordered me by the King, I was removd from the Hospital of the Strangers, into a very pleasant Apartment in the Col-lege of the Muses, where I enjoyd all things that were any ways neces-sary to make my Life easy and pleasant; and as I grew a greater Master of their Language, my Pleasure was heightend by the Con-versation of the most Polite, as well as the most Humane of all Man-kind; and which confirmd me in a Mastery of their Tongue sooner than I could else have accomplishd it: They omitted no Means of rendring their Instructions agreeable, as well as useful, watching my Inclinations and Humour with that Care and Nicety, that they would be sure never to make my Lessons tedious or burthensome. But now I was to give some Proof of my Study, by translating some of our English Poets into their Language: I chose the Samson Agonistes of Milton to begin with, as finding his Way of Writing in that, more like their Tragedies than any other of our English Poets. They were so pleasd with this Performance, that it was shewd to the King, who was a Prince of an admirable Genius himself, and ordered me, upon it, to be admitted into the Number of the Athenian Poets, with a handsome Pension for my Maintenance; and Directions were given for the transcribing and acting the Tragedy of Samson Agonistes, as soon as the Choruss could be set to Musick

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