

<<世界简史>>

图书基本信息

书名：<<世界简史>>

13位ISBN编号：9787511707536

10位ISBN编号：751170753X

出版时间：2011-5

出版时间：中央编译出版社

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页数：434

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### 内容概要

《世界简史(英文版)》的作者H.G.威尔斯精力过人，一生创作的作品逾百部，早年曾以《时间机器》、《隐身人》等一批现代科幻小说名噪文坛。

1920年，威尔斯又写出近100万言、里程碑式的历史巨著《世界史纲》，旨在“向具有一般智力的人展示，如果文明要想延续下去，政治、社会和经济组织发展成为世界性联盟是小可避免的”。

《世界简史》便是这部煌煌人作的简明读本。

威尔斯比同时代的许多著作更早地摆脱了民族主义乃至欧洲中心论的褊狭，他关注的是整个人类文明的遗产，包括文化、思想、宗教、艺术等，这是人类历史进程中真正有价值的东西。

威尔斯文采飞扬，他还将达尔文进化论的观念引入历史研究领域，形成融通东西、纵观古今的宏大构思，因而，《世界简史(英文版)》自问世以来一直是青年人学习英语、增益历史知识的典范读本。

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### 作者简介

H.G.威尔斯 (Herbert George Wells

1866-1946)，英国著名作家、奇人，一生著作等身，经历奇绝，尤以科幻小说和通俗历史读物的创作获得世界性声誉和影响。

1895年，威尔斯出版《时间机器》，一举而成名，此后接连推出《莫洛博士岛》、《隐身人》、《星际战争》等书，为20世纪科幻小说的创作立一高标。

据说，二战期间，爱因斯坦等科学家提醒罗斯福总统启动生产原子弹的曼哈顿计划，当初也是源自威尔斯的一部叫做《获得自由的世界》的科幻小说。

威尔斯的另一重要成就便是通过《世界史纲》、《世界简史》等历史读物的创作冲破长久以来史学界以西方文明为中心的狭隘观念，通览世界各民族所创造的优秀文化遗产，为20世纪的学术界确立了大历史观。

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## 章节摘录

版权页：插图：THE LAND during this Age of Fishes was apparently quite lifeless. Crags and uplands of barren rock lay under the sun and rain. There was no real soft——for as yet there were no earthworms which help to make soil, and no plants to break up the rock particles into mould; there was no trace of moss or lichen. Life was still only in the sea. Over this world of barren rock played great changes of climate. The causes of these changes of climate were very complex and they have still to be properly estimated. The changing shape of the earth's orbit, the gradual shifting of the poles of rotation, changes in the shapes of the continents, probably even fluctuations in the warmth of the sun, now conspired to plunge great areas of the earth's surface into long periods of cold and ice and now again for millions of years spread a warm or equable climate over this planet. There seem to have been phases of great internal activity in the world's history, when in the course of a few million years accumulated upthrusts would break out in lines of volcanic eruption and upheaval and rearrange the mountain and continental outlines of the globe, increasing the depth of the sea and the height of the mountains and exaggerating the extremes of climate. And these would be followed by vast ages of comparative quiescence, when frost, rain and river would wear down the mountain heights and carry great masses of silt to fill and raise the seabottoms and spread the seas, ever shallower and wider, over more and more of the land. There have been "high and deep" ages in the world's history and "low and level" ages. The reader must dismiss from his mind any idea that the surface of the earth has been growing steadily cooler since its crust grew solid.

## 编辑推荐

《世界简史(英文版)》：THIS SHORT HISTORY OF THE WORLD is meant to be read straightforwardly almost as a novel is read. It gives in the most general way an account of our present knowledge of history, shorn of elaborations and complications. It has been amply illustrated and everything has been done to make it vivid and clear. From it the reader should be able to get that general view of history which is so necessary a framework for the study of a particular period or the history of a particular country. It may be found useful as a preparatory excursion before the reading of the author's much fuller and more explicit Outline of History, is undertaken. But its especial end is to meet the needs of the busy general reader, too driven to study the maps and time charts of that Outline in detail, who wishes to refresh and repair his faded or fragmentary conceptions of the great adventure of mankind. It is not an abstract or condensation of that former work. Within its aim the Outline admits of no further condensation. This is a much more generalized History, planned and written afresh. WELLS'S two-volume Outline of History', published in 1920, was the first general history constructed on an evolutionary, sociological and anthropological basis. It was immensely popular and set the basis for this Short History, which Wells created to meet the needs of the busy general reader, too driven to study the maps and time charts of that Outline in detail, who wishes to refresh and repair his faded or fragmentary conceptions of the great adventure of mankind.

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