

《Turning Back the Clock (ISBN=9780156034210) 》

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内容简介

The time: 2000 to 2005, the years of neoconservatism, terrorism, the twenty-four-hour news cycle, the ascension of Bush, Blair, and Berlusconi, and the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. In this series of provocative, passionate, and witty essays, Umberto Eco examines a wide range of phenomena, from Harry Potter, the Tower of Babel, talk shows, and the Enlightenment to The Da Vinci Code. What led us, he asks, into this age of hot wars and media populism, and how was it sold to us as progress? In *Turning Back the Clock*, the bestselling author and respected scholar turns his famous intellect toward events both local and global to look at where our troubled world is headed.

作者简介

~Umberto Eco (born 5 January 1932) is an Italian medievalist, semiotician, philosopher, literary critic and novelist, best known for his novel *The Name of the Rose*, an intellectual mystery combining semiotics in fiction, biblical analysis, medieval studies and literary theory. His 1988 novel *Foucault's Pendulum* has been described as a "thinking person's Da Vinci Code". Eco is President of the *Scuola Superiore di Studi Umanistici*, University of Bologna. He has also written academic texts, children's books and many essays. Eco was born in the city of Alessandria in the region of Piedmont. His father, Giulio, was an accountant before the government called upon him to serve in three wars. During World War II, Umberto and his mother, Giovanna, moved to a small village in the Piedmontese mountainside. Eco received a Salesian education, and he has made references to the order and its founder in his works and interviews. His family name is supposedly an acronym of *ex caelis oblatus* (Latin: a gift from the heavens), which was given to his grandfather (a founding) by a city official. His father was the son of a family with thirteen children, and urged Umberto to become a lawyer, but he entered the University of Turin in order to take up medieval philosophy and literature, writing his thesis on Thomas Aquinas and earning his BA in philosophy in 1954. During this time, Eco left the Roman Catholic Church after a crisis of faith. After this, Eco worked as a cultural editor for the state broadcasting station *Radiotelevisione Italiana* (RAI) and also lectured at the University of Turin (1956 – 64). A group of avant-garde artists—painters, musicians, writers—whom he had befriended at RAI (*Gruppo 63*) became an important and influential component in Eco's future writing career. This was especially true after the publication of his first book in 1956, *Il problema estetico di San Tommaso*, which was an extension of his doctoral thesis. This also marked the beginning of his lecturing career at his alma mater. In September 1962, he married Renate Ranke, a German art teacher with whom he has a son and a daughter. He divides his time between an apartment in Milan and a vacation house near Rimini. Alastair McEwan was born in Dunfermline, Scotland, in July 1950. As a young man he did just about every kind of job imaginable: factory hand, fisherman, pipeline labourer,

farmhand, quarryman, and so on. In 1976 he came to Italy hitchhiking with a friend. He left, he stayed. In 1977 he went home and finished his degree, and he was back in Milan by the following year. The next almost ten years were spent teaching English literature and history in a private school, which is also where he met my future wife, but that's her story. At the ripe old age of 36 he discovered translation and quit teaching. To date, he has published over 60 book-length translations (novels and non-fiction), umpteen essays, articles, and poems, plus several feature film scripts and operatic librettos. He has worked with some of Italy's finest living writers: Baricco, Busi, Eco, Jaeggy, Tabucchi, and Veronesi, just to name a few. Not a bad score for a chap whose headmaster said, on expelling the miscreant, "You, boy, have not spent three consecutive days at school in four years. You will never get anywhere in life." He was probably right, in a way, but at least he got as far as Italy. Alastair also writes (very occasional) newspaper and magazine articles and, as tradition demands, he has a novel gathering dust somewhere or other. Meglio così. ~

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