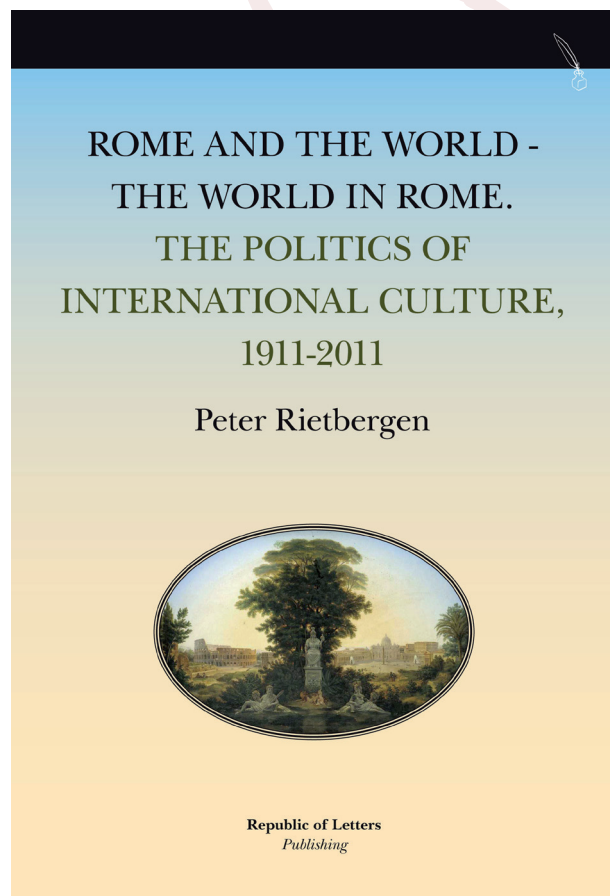


Rome and the World - The World in Rome

The Politics of International Culture, 1911-2011

Peter Rietbergen



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This book is the first study ever to explore the manifold ways in which – from the late 19th century to the present – the nations of Europe have represented themselves and their cultures within the millennial, legitimizing context of Rome that has always claimed to be the world’s ‘mother city’. Conversely, it also explores the national and international cultural policies of the various governments that have ruled Italy since its foundation in 1861. Stimulating nearly twenty foreign states to establish scholarly institutions as well as art academies there, Rome sought to present itself as worthy of its name, the capital of a state that might once again become an empire. To do so, it embedded the foreign cultural presences into a series of Italian cultural institutions, concentrating them into a single urban area, the Valle Giulia.

Analyzing such strategies as urban planning, scientific policies, the building of huge palaces of learning, the donation of dozens of stone and bronze statues of national cultural heroes and the rituals surrounding them, Rietbergen shows that Rome did succeed in continuing to be a ‘lieu de mémoire’ of global importance.

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Peter Rietbergen is professor of post-medieval cultural history at the Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. Amongst his major works are: *Europe: A Cultural History* (London 1998; 2006, and Chinese, Korean and Polish translations); *Japan Verwoord: Nihon door Nederlandse Ogen, 1600-1800* (Amsterdam 2003); *Europa’s India* (Nijmegen 2007).

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