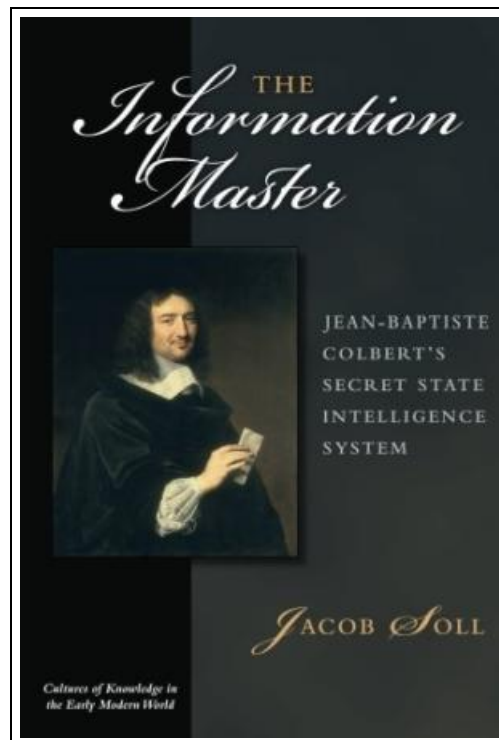


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The University of Michigan Press, United States, 2011. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . This book usually ship within 10-15 business days and we will endeavor to dispatch orders quicker than this where possible. Brand New Book. Jean-Baptiste Colbert saw governance of the state not as the inherent ability of the king, but as a form of mechanical mastery of subjects such as medieval legal history, physics, navigation, and the price lists of nails, sails, and gunpowder. In *The Information Master*, Jacob Soll shows how the legacy of Colbert s encyclopedic tradition lies at the very center of the rise of the modern state. This innovative book argues that Colbert s practice of collecting knowledge originated in Renaissance Italy, where merchants recognized the power to be gained from merging scholarship and trade. By connecting historical literatures-archives, libraries, merchant techniques, and humanist pedagogy-that have usually remained separate, Soll has created an imaginative and refreshing work. Soll tells this story in wonderfully lucid prose, and with a great gift for concision. Colbert emerges from his pages not only as the patron saint of modern bureaucrats, but as a forceful-if somewhat repellent-personality, and as another of the great early modern figures who sought to gain unprecedented knowledge of, and mastery over, the material world. -New Republic *The Information Master* makes a major contribution to our understanding of the uses of knowledge and the mechanisms by which knowledge was harnessed by the early modern state. -Paul Nelles, Carleton University Jacob Soll is Associate Professor of History at Rutgers University and the author of *Publishing The Prince: History, Reading, and the Birth of Political Criticism*. He is a 2009 winner of a Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. Keywords: Information, State, Secrecy, Colbert, library science, archives, coup d etat, Louis XIV, Accounting, Finance.



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