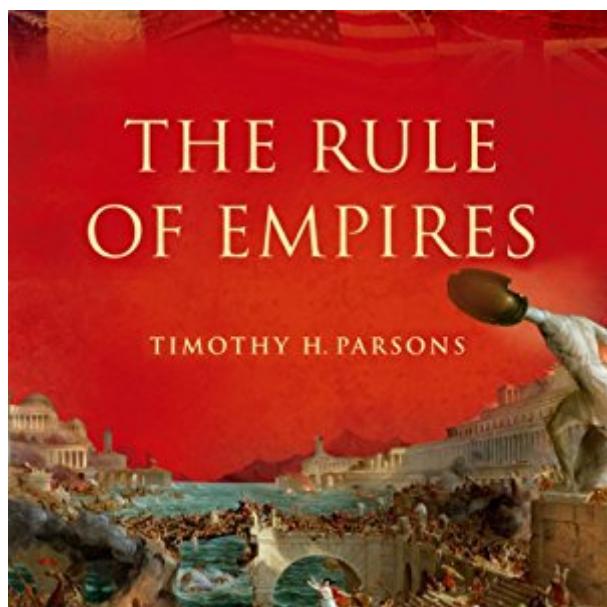


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The Rule Of Empires: Those Who Built Them Those Who Endured Them And Why They Always Fall



Synopsis

In *The Rule of Empires*, Timothy Parsons gives a sweeping account of the evolution of empire from its origins in ancient Rome to its most recent twentieth-century embodiment. He explains what constitutes an empire and offers suggestions about what empires of the past can tell us about our own historical moment. Parsons uses imperial examples that stretch from ancient Rome, to Britain's "new" imperialism in Kenya, to the Third Reich to parse the features common to all empires, their evolutions and self-justifying myths, and the reasons for their inevitable decline. Parsons argues that far from confirming some sort of Darwinian hierarchy of advanced and primitive societies, conquests were simply the products of a temporary advantage in military technology, wealth, and political will. Beneath the self-justifying rhetoric of benevolent paternalism and cultural superiority lay economic exploitation and the desire for power. Yet imperial ambitions still appear viable in the twenty-first century, Parsons shows, because their defenders and detractors alike employ abstract and romanticized perspectives that fail to grasp the historical reality of subjugation. Writing from the perspective of the common subject rather than that of the imperial conquerors, Parsons offers a historically grounded cautionary tale rich with accounts of subjugated peoples throwing off the yoke of empire time and time again. In providing an accurate picture of what it is like to live as a subject, *The Rule of Empires* lays bare the rationalizations of imperial conquerors and their apologists and exposes the true limits of hard power.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Timothy Parsons' fabulously revealing book, "The Rule of Empires; Those Who Built Them, Those Who Endured Them, and Why They Always Fall" is the most insightful and educational resource to truly understand both the history and evolution of the methods, metastasis, and deceitful disguises of empires. Reading Parsons' masterpiece with an eye toward the type of 'analogy-thinking' that George Lakoff recommends, essentially shows all of human history is the history of empire, and the evolution of empire that Parsons work demonstrates the progress (sic) of empire's continuing success in ruling 'subjects' without arousing revolution. The current state of the post-nation-state world's 21st century DGE (Disguised Global Empire), which uses empire's perfected predatory trick of employing disguises to hide its true nature, is extant on a wider basis than ever before, but is nominally head-quartered, not surprisingly, in the most powerful and most deluded previous nation-state, the United States --- but clearly encompasses other previous nation-state/countries like; UK, France, Israel, et al. in the global empire's realm. Parsons' elucidation of empires' key factors of wealth and resource "extraction" and its skill in maintaining and playing upon distinctions between 'citizens' and 'subjects' can be clearly seen in empires over all ages --- and of even more value to a careful reader, shows analogies to the current 21st century's post-nation-state global empire. The author points out of all empires, "when stripped to its essence, empire is nothing more than the political embodiment of unchecked avarice" --- to which I would add only that stripping away this most modern disguise of the DGE requires an understanding of the corporate/financial/militarist (and media) Empire that has quietly captured and now fully "Occupies" our former country, by hiding behind the facade of a much more modernized and sophisticated two-party "Vichy" sham of faux-democratic and totally illegitimate government --- evolved from the earlier Nazi Empire attempt to employ a crude one party "Vichy" facade in captured and "Occupied" France c. 1940. A contemporary reader of Parsons' book could easily recognize that comparing the fraud of the current 1% elite 'extracting' wealth from fading nation-states in America and Europe, is not best understood as "going back 500 years to the age of feudalism or oligarchy", but is rather analogous to all of history --- that is, of the history of Empires that Parsons describes. Providing money, or any special means to 'extract' wealth generally, whether by the Roman Empire's early and overt spoils of war or the most modern and sophisticated 21st century ethereal looting through dumping the negative externality costs of financial 'debt bombs' on governments of the world, is something that has always been provided for the 1%, but it has a name which covers all of history --- and that name is Empire. Empire has always been the way the world has been operated "of, by, and for" the 1%. The very concept of the "1%", as Occupy has only most recently reminded us, is the concept and construct of Empire. The 1% have always extracted the wealth of the world from

the 99% by using Empire. The only thing that has evolved over the centuries is the way that Empire (like a parasitic pathology) has improved and particularly disguised the means for extracting wealth. Saying that the Occupy movement is for the 99% and against the 1% can be more simply described and understood after reading "The Rule of Empires", by saying that the Occupy movement is really an attempt to "Occupy the Empire", and ultimately excise empire from history. In fact, Parsons' book, when considered as essential to understanding of empire and the knowledge to excise empire, can be viewed as the type of book that Francis Fukuyama most recently had in mind to write, after his recanting of his 1992, "The End of History", and being what he seems to have had in mind in his Jan/Feb 2012 "Foreign Affairs" article "The Future of History" --- to redraw a more optimistic view of man's future history beyond empire. It is encouraging to see that is providing a volume textbook discount on Parsons' book. "The Rule of Empires" is quite accessible to any audience interesting in understanding history and political-economics, and could prove extremely valuable to the future of our society if it were to become required reading for all liberal arts college students. Alan

MacDonaldSanford, Maine

Got this as a gift for history buff friend and he loves it!

AS A WRITER MYSELF, I CAN TELL YOU, THIS IS A BOOK TO HAVE AND READ. I FIRST SAW THIS BOOK IN A LIBRARY IN THE 5TH AVENUE, NYC. IT ATTRACTED ME AND I WAS STANDING IN THE SHOP, READING IT FOR MORE THAN 2 HOURS.... I WANT IT TO BUY IT ON THE SPOT. THE PRICE WAS 4 TIMES HIGHER THAN .COM. I ORDER IT AND READ IT. THE AUTHOR OFFERS A NEW POINT-OF-VIEW OF THE EMIPRES, THEIR MASTER, CRONIES, ASSOCIATES AND COLLABORATORS: THESE ANGLES AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ARE MODERN, INTELLIGENT, DIFFERENT, ELOQUANT, ACCURATE, FRESH AND ELEGANT. THIS IS A NICE AND INTELLIGENT BOOK TO READ AND CITE FROM IT.

Awesome

Keep reading - it gets better and better - the first sections may be more common knowledge - the later sections give us less known information and illuminate patterns.

Good book and very factual about our world history.

GOOD READ!

Tim Parsons is a fine historian, and this book shows it. His thesis is not Spenglerian in its scope. It does not tell us that history repeats itself or that we learn from history lessons for what to do today. Rather, this being the work of a careful historian, it simply shows that there is good reason to consider carefully and skeptically the kind of imperial reach that this book describes. Every good theoretical work should be falsifiable. That is, it should open itself to argument and encourage further work by others in the field. A scholarly work is not an answer, but a contribution to a conversation about how to search historical material for understanding of what happened and perhaps why. It is judged by how substantial a contribution it has made to the furtherance of the task, here, the task of historians. The contestability of good historical work might raise the question, what good is it? Compare economics. But the old German saying, Geschichte ist unmittelbar an Gott, remains true. History is valuable in itself. It needs no point other than the search for meaning in what happened.

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