



The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers

By Paul Kennedy

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About national and international power in the "modern" or Post Renaissance period. Explains how the various powers have risen and fallen over the 5 centuries since the formation of the "new monarchies" in W. Europe.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"Kennedy, a history professor at Yale, here assesses the interaction between economics and strategy over the past five centuries," reported PW, concluding that "the book is a vigorous entry in the debate over the extent to which national wealth should be used for military purposes."

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From Library Journal

Yale historian Kennedy surveys the ebb and flow of power among the major states of Europe from the 16th century when Europe's preeminence first took shape through and beyond the present era when great power status is devolving again upon the extra-European states. Stressing the interrelationships among economic wealth, technological innovation, and the ability of states efficiently to tap their resources for prolonged military preparedness and warmaking, he notes that those states with the relatively greater ability to maintain a balance of military and economic strength assumed the lead. Kennedy never reduces the analysis to crude materialism or empty tautology. Stimulating, erudite, carefully crafted, and readable; for public and academic libraries. James B. Street, Santa Cruz P.L., Cal.

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Review

'A brilliantly original book...It is intended for the intelligent layman as well as the academic historian, combining in Toynbee-esque manner the sweeping conception with careful attention to historical detail.' Financial Times 'This book is falling out of briefcases all over Washington DC, both because it looks and sounds erudite and because it purports to answer an increasingly common question: Has the United States already embarked on its journey into the sunset of empire? It is administering a lot of frissons to trend-watchers.' Christopher Hitchens, Guardian 'Outstanding...He ranges across five centuries and around the whole world. He seems to have read every relevant book in every possible language. And he has produced a general argument so deceptively simple that no politician, however busy, should ignore or misunderstand it.' Observer 'One of the masterpieces of modern historical writing.' Daily Telegraph 'A masterpiece of exposition. It is erudite and elegantly written.' New Society 'A remarkable book...long, clever, often funny, and crammed with remarkable insights; it is tinged with the genius that unravels complexity.' Evening Standard 'Shows a master historian's ability to use evidence like a boxing champion's uppercut.' TES 'One of those rare (and irresistible) books which successfully combine the scope and sweep of "popular" history with the discriminating rigour of professional historiography, making it both a bloody good read and a thought-provoking one.' Listener

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