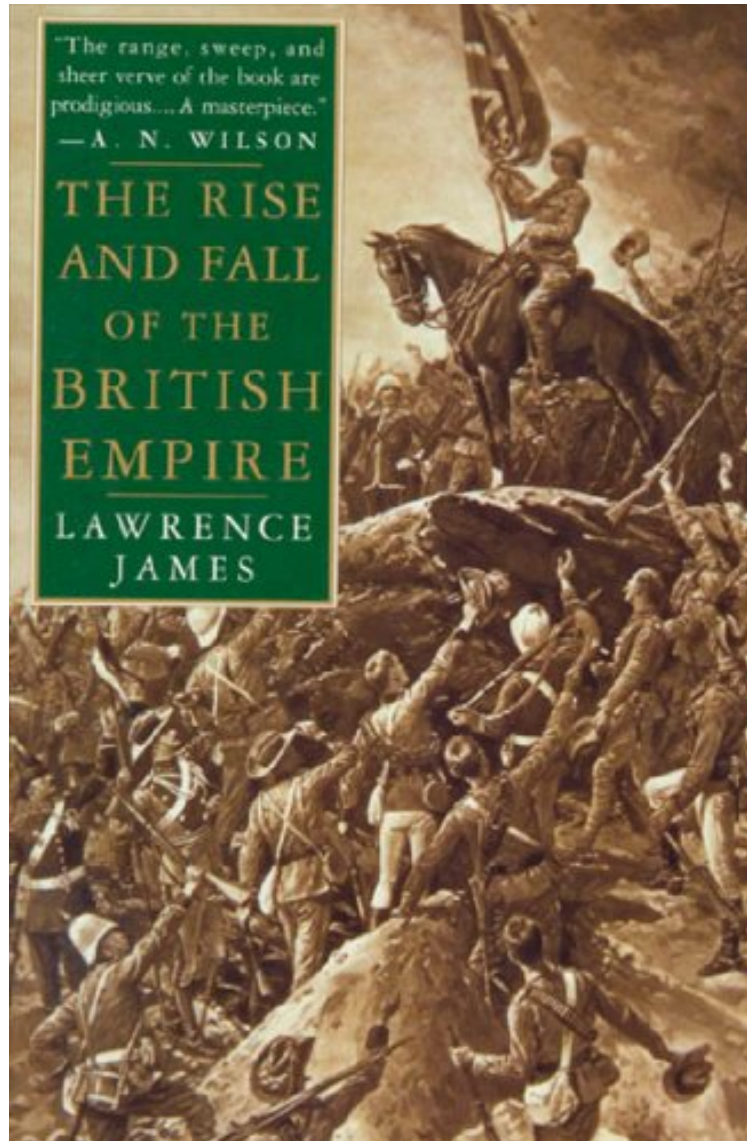


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# The Rise and Fall of the British Empire

Von Lawrence James

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**Von Lawrence James : The Rise and Fall of the British Empire** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rise and Fall of the British Empire:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Captivating Chronicle of the World's Greatest EmpireVon Simon RowellAlthough Lawrence James's opinions leak out a little as he deals with recent decades, this book covers the 400 years of British pre-eminence in the world with great discipline. It concentrates on what the British did (and why) without confusing the reader with unnecessary histories of

other countries. Emerging from the 650 pages of this book is the truth of how the Empire came about, and why it was inevitable and necessary that it should be dissolved. The legacy of the British Empire to the world in terms of culture, government and social structure are patiently chronicled. The insights into British public opinion throughout the period of Empire by the analysis of newspapers, novels (and childrens' books) and movies were very interesting. This is the sort of book that can be read selectively and as such would be an ideal text book for education in schools around the world, or at least in the countries that were directly effected by the subject matter. The book has the capacity to make one want to talk at length about the rich topic of the Empire. Consequently I must stop (!), but I would encourage anyone who wants to know how the world arrived at its current form, to read this book. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Rule Britannia! Von Ein Kunde I just knocked off "Rise and Fall of the British Empire" and was impressed. James tackles a big subject - this was the empire on which the sun never set - and gives as good a one-volume narrative as can probably be given. It was interesting to see the Revolution from the other side of the pond. One can get a good grasp of the Imperial mindset, which makes you think that Britain was the most reluctant imperial power in history. There were two things that I wish he would have addressed more. The first would be more about Guyana. The second would be why did the British never seriously consider closer political ties with the white dominions - especially at an early stage - with an eye on eventual integration with Great Britain, something like how territories in the United States eventually could become full states? I inferred that the British were just happy to get excess population off the islands, and that by the time they desired closer political bonds, the dominions had already started to carve out their own identities. But other than that, I think that this was a great book, I couldn't put it down. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Too much dominion history Von Ein Kunde This book is amazing. As one of the commentators put it: "James can't write a dull sentence". Even though I admire the way he writes, I dislike some of his views on certain issues: 1. He pays too much attention to the 'dominions'. From page 300 or so, the book shifts from the history of Britain and its colonies to simply the history of Britain and dominion politics. 2. This book offers very accurate historical descriptions and data, however I can't understand why James presents such a distorted view on the Munich crisis; he simply justifies Chamberlain's policy towards Germany, and the whole issue is reduced to tactical differences between Britain and the dominions. That is far from convincing, and seems more of a pretext to an irresponsible foreign policy.

Kurzbeschreibung Great Britain's geopolitical role has undergone many changes over the last four centuries. Once a maritime superpower and ruler of half the world, Britain now occupies an isolated position as an economically fragile island often at odds with her European neighbors. In *The Rise and Fall of the British Empire*, Lawrence James has written a comprehensive, perceptive, and insightful history of the British Empire. Spanning the years from 1600 to the present day, this critically acclaimed book combines detailed scholarship with readable popular history. This is a stylish, intelligent and readable book. The New York Times Book Pressestimmen A masterpiece (A N Wilson)... with this superb history of a mammoth subject his writing career has reached its apogee. (Andrew Roberts, THE TIMES) James never loses sight of his grand design, yet he still finds room for the telling detail which illuminates and enriches a narrative" Philip Ziegler, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH ('A stimulating book intelligent and making no concessions to current clich.) IRISH TIMES ('With dispassion and erudition James restores it to us mixing a pacy, lucid narrative with enlivening detail taken from political, cultural and populist sources.) His feeling for historical detail cannot be faulted and is made more engaging by his scholarship and infectious enthusiasm for the subject ... A thumping good read (Scotland on Sunday) James' epic is not only a first-rate narrative, but also a penetrating portrait of the British ... Having largely, if often inadvertently, selfishly or ham-fistedly, engineered the world we live in, we need the courage now to face up to our record as coolly and intelligently as Lawrence James has done (John Spurling, TLS) Outstanding ... An intelligible introduction to a grand subject (M.R.D. Foot, THE SPECTATOR'S BOOK OF THE YEAR) Werbetext\* Uniquely complete account of the British Empire - Jan Morris' great Penguin trilogy PAX BRITANNICA only starts from 1837, rather than the 16th Century.\* A modern classic of narrative history, updated to include the 1997 handover of Hong Kong.