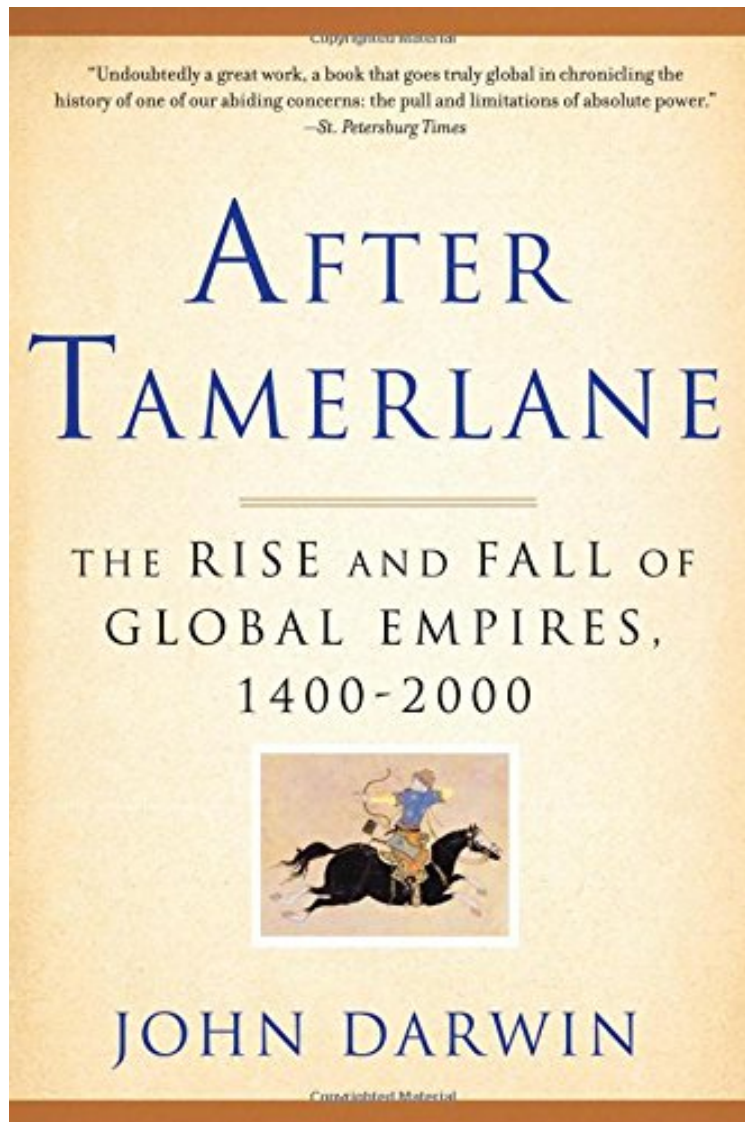


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After Tamerlane: The Rise and Fall of Global Empires, 1400-2000

John Darwin

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John Darwin : After Tamerlane: The Rise and Fall of Global Empires, 1400-2000 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised After Tamerlane: The Rise and Fall of Global Empires, 1400-2000:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Forming dispassionate trans-national viewsBy Patrick YeungAfter Tamerlane posed the fortunes of the West in terms of `conjunctures, periods of time when certain general conditions in different parts of the world coincided to encourage (or check) the enlargement of trade, the expansion of empires, the

exchange of ideas or the movement of people.' Ming's strategic concentration and its concomitant seclusion and 'the timing of Manchu consolidation between 1682 and 1750' contradicted determinism and lend credence to the chanciness of events. Second, the narrative rejected the traditional European definition of modernity, which had obscured the assessment and study of extra-European societies. Darwin's worldwide survey did not support the primacy of the European model. In pre-industrial revolution, both the Ottomans and Chinese held superior ability to mobilize resources and people for a given task. One example was the sultan's vaunted devshirme, who inspired fear in much of continental Europe. Consequently, the swift rise and collapse of European imperialism in Near and Far East exposed a local identity and culture with an inner strength that made European control far from redoubtable. After Tamerlane posed the question: 'Is there one modernity, or are there 'many modernities'?' In the conclusion, Darwin challenged readers to see the future without the distortion of conceptual lenses and held a conservative outlook on globalization: 'if there is one continuity that to glean from a long view of the past, it is Eurasia's resistance to a uniform system, a single great ruler, or one set of rules.' This Foucaultian analysis defied the craze over the ineluctability of globalization. Those extra-European modernities remain to be plumbed and understood. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. but had lots of good new insights By J. Richard Forester It was a bit breezy, but had lots of good new insights, enough to suspect that the current stasis is very transitory and that changes in the world order may be unexpected. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Bianca Campos Perfect condition, as if it had just been printed. Thank you!

Tamerlane, the Ottomans, the Mughals, the Manchus, the British, the Japanese, the Nazis, and the Soviets: All built empires meant to last forever; all were to fail. But, as John Darwin shows in this magisterial book, their empire-building created the world we know today. From the death of Tamerlane in 1405, to America's rise to world "hyperpower," to the resurgence of China and India as global economic powers, *After Tamerlane* is a grand historical narrative that offers a new perspective on the past, present, and future of empires.

From Publishers Weekly Was Europe's domination of the modern international order the inevitable rise of a superior civilization or the piratical hijacking of an evolving world system? A little of both, and a lot of neither, this ambitious comparative study argues because world history's real center of gravity sits in Eurasia. Historian Darwin (*The End of the British Empire*) contends that an ascendant Western imperialism was a sideshow to vast, wealthy and dynamic Asian empires in China, Mughal India, the Ottoman Middle East and Safavid Iran which proved resistant to Western encroachment and shaped the world into the 21st century. Europe's overseas colonial empires as well as the expansions of the United States across North America and Russia across Siberia was not inevitable, but rather a slow, fitful and often marginal enterprise that didn't accelerate until the mid-19th century. Darwin analyzes the technological, organizational and economic advantages Europeans accrued over time, but shows how dependent their success was on the vagaries of world trade (the driving force of modern imperialism, in his account) and the internal politics of the countries they tried to control. Nicely balanced between sweeping overview and illuminating detail, this lucid survey complicates and deepens our understanding of modern world history. Photos. (Feb) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Marvellously illuminating Darwin sustains an intricate thesis with enormous panache. Independent (UK) Elegant and brilliant. wonderful and imaginative a deeply significant book. Sunday Times (UK) Undoubtedly a great work, a book that goes truly global in chronicling the history of one of our abiding concerns: the pull and limitations of absolute power. St. Petersburg Times About the Author John Darwin is a University Lecturer and a Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford. His books include *Britain and Decolonization* and *The End of the British Empire*.