

Great Powers and the Quest for Hegemony

The World Order since 1500

Series: War, History & Politics

Jeremy Black, University of Exeter, UK



Jeremy Black

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Jeremy Black has written a forceful argument for seeing military history in global and complex terms. The book combines an impressive grasp of details with a sweeping analysis of the comparative rise and decline of empires. Readers will especially gain insight from his analyses of developments in the world in our own times.

Dr Michael Neiberg, University of Southern Mississippi, USA

Jeremy Black here skilfully analyses one of the most important themes of modern history, the rise and fall of great powers. His world perspective is a successful and provocative challenge to the narrow European outlook of so many modern scholars. The drama of the subject is vivid because Jeremy Black understands the precarious nature of imperial domination. This is a book for our times, explaining that sense of unease and danger so characteristic of the world in which we live.

Professor John France, University of Wales Swansea

This timely book provides a general overview of Great Power politics and world order from 1500 to the present. Jeremy Black provides several historical case-studies, each of which throws light on both the power in question and the international system of the period, and how it had developed from the preceding period.

The point of departure for this book is Paul Kennedy's 1988 masterpiece, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. That iconic book, with its enviable mastery of the sources and its skilful integration of political, military and economic history, was a great success when it appeared and has justifiably remained important since. Written during the Cold War, however, Kennedy's study was very much of its time in its consideration of the great powers in 'Western' terms, and its emphasis on economics. This book brings together strategic studies, international relations, military history and geopolitics to answer some of the contemporary questions left open by Professor Kennedy's great work, and also looks to the future of great power relations and of US hegemony.

Great Powers and the Quest for Hegemony will be of great interest to students of international relations, strategic studies and international history.

Selected Contents: 1. Introduction: The Kennedy Thesis Considered 2. Bids for Mastery, 1500-1590 3. Seventeenth-Century Crises, 1590-1680 4. The Rise of the Great Powers, 1680-1774 5. A Reshaped World, 1775-1860 6. Accelerated Change, 1860-1913 7. Bids for Power, 1914-1943 8. The Fall of Empires, 1944-1991 9. American Hegemony, 1991-2007? 10. Into the Future 11. Conclusions

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