



The Illustrated Rise and Fall of the British Empire

By Lawrence James

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Great Britain's geopolitical role has undergone many radical 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. Spanning the years from 1600 to the present day, this critically acclaimed book combines detailed scholarship with readable popular history.

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The Illustrated Rise and Fall of the British Empire By Lawrence James Bibliography

- Rank: #1090749 in Books
- Published on: 2000-09-12
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.90" h x 1.04" w x 9.16" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 352 pages

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Review

"The range, sweep and sheer verve of the book are prodigious . . . a masterpiece."--A. N. Wilson

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"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, *Times Literary Supplement*

About the Author

Lawrence James studied History and English at York University and subsequently undertook a research degree at Merton College, Oxford. Following a career as a teacher, he became a full-time writer in 1985, and is the author of *The Golden Warrior: The Life and Legend of Lawrence of Arabia*, *Imperial Warrior: The Life and Times of Field Marshal Viscount Allenby*, and the acclaimed *Raj: The Making and Unmaking of British India*. He now lives in St. Andrews.

Helen Lownie read History at Exeter University and later studied law in Oxford. She has worked in publishing, education, and human rights, and lived abroad for several years. She is now based in Oxford.

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