

The Age of Empire: 1875-1914

By *Eric Hobsbawm*


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Eric Hobsbawm discusses the evolution of European economics, politics, arts, sciences, and cultural life from the height of the industrial revolution to the First World War. Hobsbawm combines vast erudition with a graceful prose style to re-create the epoch that laid the basis for the twentieth century.

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The Age of Empire: 1875-1914 By Eric Hobsbawm Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #52180 in Books
- Brand: Hobsbawm, E. J.
- Published on: 1989-04-23
- Released on: 1989-04-23
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.70" h x .90" w x 5.20" l, 1.00 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 404 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this sequel to *The Age of Capital*, the author "probes the contradictions of a largely tranquil age that stood on the brink of global slaughter. Hobsbawm's delvings possess a breadth and depth that few historians have equaled, and this wide-ranging chronicle is essential to our understanding of a modern world divided into hostile camps," praised PW.

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From Library Journal

Preceded by *The Age of Revolution, 1789-1848* (1962) and *The Age of Capital, 1848-1875* (1975), this completes Hobsbawm's probing analysis of the forces that shaped and defined the 19th century. His approach continues to be thematic rather than chronological; geographical scope is global but with decided emphasis on European and American developments. Hobsbawm moves skillfully through a variety of topics, e.g., the roots of feminism, scientific change, the rise of the working class, and the race for overseas acquisitions. Hobsbawm's Marxist orientation is never dominant or obtrusive. Though not easy to read, *The Age of Empire*, like its companions, will stand the test of time. Mark R. Yerburgh, Trinity Coll. Lib., Burlington, Vt.

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Review

"Its sheer power and eloquence will make this book a classic." —Neal, Ascherson, *Sunday Observer* (London)

"It is Mr. Hobsbawm's achievement both to have captured the exuberance of an age, and to have shown how and why that world was coming to an end. . . . He not only captures the age of empire he also illuminates the course of the twentieth century." —Kennedy, *The Economist* (London)

"A virtuoso performance. . . . Few, if any, present practitioners of the historian's craft can equal the astonishing range and dazzling erudition of Mr. Hobsbawm's scholarship." —David M. Kennedy, *The New York Times Book Review*

"A splendid answer to those critics who complain that academic historians no longer write readable prose. . . . The great strength of this book is the way in which what seems in so many ways a wholly vanished epoch is related to our situation today." —James Joll, *The New York Review of Books*

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