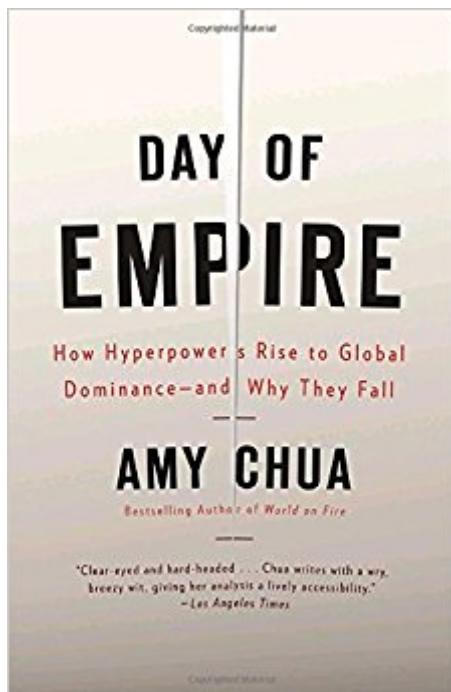


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# Day Of Empire: How Hyperpowers Rise To Global Dominance--and Why They Fall



## Synopsis

In this sweeping history, bestselling author Amy Chua explains how globally dominant empires— or hyperpowers— rise and why they fall. In a series of brilliant chapter-length studies, she examines the most powerful cultures in history—from the ancient empires of Persia and China to the recent global empires of England and the United States—and reveals the reasons behind their success, as well as the roots of their ultimate demise. Chua's analysis uncovers a fascinating historical pattern: while policies of tolerance and assimilation toward conquered peoples are essential for an empire to succeed, the multicultural society that results introduces new tensions and instabilities, threatening to pull the empire apart from within. What this means for the United States' uncertain future is the subject of Chua's provocative and surprising conclusion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Chua (World on Fire), a Yale law professor and daughter of immigrants, examines a number of world-dominant powers—a none too rigorously defined group that lumps together the Persian, Roman, Mongol and British empires with the contemporary United States—and argues that tolerance and multiculturalism are indispensable features of global economic and military success. Such hyperpowers rise, Chua argues, because their tolerance of minority cultures and religions, their receptivity to foreign ideas and their willingness to absorb and empower talented provincials and immigrants lets them harness the world's human capital. Conversely, hyperpowers

decline when their assimilative capacities falter and they lapse into intolerance and exclusion. The sexy concept of a world-dominant hyperpower, in addition to being somewhat erratic—*the smallish Dutch Republic makes the cut, while the far-flung (but inconveniently intolerant) Spanish empire doesn't*—is doubtful when examining an America that can hardly dominate Baghdad and not much more convincing when applied to earlier hegemons. Chua does offer an illuminating survey of the benefits of tolerance and pluralism, often as a tacit brief for maintaining America's generous immigration policies. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Clear-eyed and hard-headed. . . . Chua writes with a wry, breezy wit, giving her analysis a lively accessibility.” The Los Angeles Times “Extraordinary. . . . An incredibly ambitious book, but Chua is up to the task.” Times Literary Supplement “Convincing [and] timely. . . . Chua’s lively writing makes her case studies interesting in themselves.” The Washington Post “Takes up the challenge of ‘Big History’ [with] an almost Toynbeeian sweep. . . . [Day of Empire] has a chance of becoming a classic.” Paul Kennedy, Foreign Affairs

Amy Chua's book "Day of Empire: How Hyperpowers Rise to Global Dominance--and Why They Fall" does a great service = reminding us that throughout human history, the legitimate strength, wealth, influence (and social 'health') of countries /regions/ empires have been tethered to/ energized by/ with their ultimate long-term success directly contingent upon how well those societies were able to manage, utilize, harness (and even appreciate) the most powerful human capital/concept relating to tolerance and acceptance of diversity (in terms of culture, ethnicity, ideas, beliefs, etc.). Chua utilizes the term 'strategic tolerance' emphasizing the idea that throughout history, the more successful regional/ and or global powers exhibited a relatively high-degree of tolerance and even pluralistic outlook in terms of cultural/religious/ethnic diversity (relative to their specific times, of course). And that this heightened level of tolerance served as an engine of economic dynamism in many examples. Amy Chua's book surveys historical 'empires' = searching for those examples of relative successes (e.g. certain periods in Rome, China's Tang Dynasty, Classical era Persia, Dutch Republic, and of course Great Britain and the United States). On to the failures, that unfortunately came to perceive cultural/and ethnic 'diversity' as a mortal threat and actually attempted to extinguish it at the very source (Nazi Germany, Imperial Spain,

etc.) Unfortunately, not many historical 'empires' possessed the foresight to maintain, or adequately manage, and foster this 'diversity' over the Long-haul. But must it always turn out that way? I think Amy Chua's insightful book at least leads us to seriously reflect on this vital question, and is highly relevant to our time & place in history! minor critique: this book is actually a bit too short = this topic warranted even more in-depth discussion (although Amy Chua's earlier book "World on Fire" covers some related ground, and is also very relevant and thought-provoking!)

Overall a great book. Her broad sweep of history and present state of the world makes it an irresistible read and gives politicians clues on what direction the policies of their countries should take to stay ahead of the competition. The book is loaded with a lot of historical facts, It gives you a great perspective on today's issues as well - That great powers rise and fall in direct relation to their tolerance or intolerance, i.e. the most tolerant power attracts the best and brightest from other cultures, religions, nations etc enabling them to join and contribute to the rise of the great power. Will China, the EU or India could be the next contestant for world hegemony, or if the US can alter itself enough to stay a superpower? On the downside, the author at times seem to be exaggerating the point. The book at times presents itself like a good undergrad senior thesis, and I fear at times she malleates history to fit nicely into her thesis.

Very good book on topics most people will avoid. The author expressed deep opinions our decision makers should at least take a look at if they care about America's future. We need more people like the author with eyes that can see the future, not just current politics. America has been leading the world in the past century. With clear thinking and correct policies it will thrive and keep leading the world. That goal can be achieved by learning the lessons from the past, avoiding making mistakes, and seeing into the future. Read this book and you will get some ideas.

I bought to help my grandson with his summer assignment for his high school sophomore class. This book gave me great hope for our children and the future of our country. It's interesting, and thank God she uses the Bible as a historical reference. And this means that the Bible is not rejected immediately only because it is the current religion out of favor. The ignorance of this great book (The Bible) is astounding to me. It is one of the most well written book with great depth and good advice on how to live a successful life. I do believe the Asian portion was a bit lengthy and boring....as did my grandson.

I am not a historian. I am not sure history can be analyzed using the single parameter of "tolerance". Nevertheless, I enjoy reading this book immensely. It is a fascinating narrative history of great empires. For each empire, the author provides both an outline as well as fascinating details, as if whatever happened at one time make sense to us now. The style is simple yet captivating. I am sure any lovers of history will enjoy this book.

Amy Chua's books are always very good. I wish Amy Chua had had space to include some other empires. There are so many. But I certainly agree with her points, and she certainly does her research and makes those points well.

This is a great summer read for AP World History students. The first few chapters introduce them to many of the empires they will study in Period 2.

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