

# Creating The Great Divergence: How Historical Factors Molded Our World Today

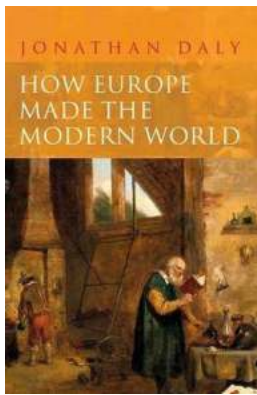
Throughout history, there have been significant events and factors that shaped the course of human development. These influences have played a vital role in creating the diverse world we live in today. One such phenomenon is what scholars refer to as "The Great Divergence." In this article, we will explore the historical roots and consequences of this great divergence and delve into the factors that contributed to its creation.

## Understanding The Great Divergence

The Great Divergence refers to the period in history when Western societies, particularly Western Europe, experienced rapid economic growth, technological advancements, and scientific discoveries that propelled them ahead of the rest of the world. This divergence occurred around the 18th century and has persisted to this day, resulting in the stark disparities we witness between different regions of the globe.

## The Role of Colonialism

Colonialism played a pivotal role in creating the conditions for the great divergence. European powers, driven by the pursuit of resources, began colonizing vast territories across the globe. The exploitation of natural resources, labor, and wealth from these colonies fueled the growth of Western economies. The influx of riches from colonies also facilitated the development of advanced infrastructure, education systems, and institutions, which further bolstered Western dominance.



## How Europe Made the Modern World: Creating the Great Divergence

by Bernal Díaz del Castillo (1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3768 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 215 pages



### The Scientific and Industrial Revolution

The Scientific and Industrial Revolution served as the catalyst for the great divergence. Western Europe witnessed the rise of scientific inquiry, leading to critical discoveries and advancements in various fields. This scientific prowess, combined with technological innovations, propelled Western economies to new heights. The invention of machinery, such as the steam engine, revolutionized manufacturing and transportation, giving the Western powers a significant advantage over the rest of the world.

### Geographical Factors

Geographical factors also played a crucial role in shaping the great divergence. Western Europe's geographic location provided accessible trade routes and natural resources. The proximity to the Atlantic Ocean facilitated exploration and trade with other continents, allowing Western powers to expand their reach and establish prosperous colonies. Additionally, Europe's diverse climate zones and fertile lands created favorable conditions for agriculture and economic growth.

## **Education and Intellectual Freedom**

An often overlooked but critical factor in the creation of the great divergence is the emphasis on education and intellectual freedom in Western societies. During this period, Europe witnessed a blossoming of universities and institutions dedicated to higher learning. The promotion of critical thinking, scientific inquiry, and independent thought fostered an environment conducive to innovation and progress. This emphasis on education gave Western nations a significant advantage over regions that lacked similar educational opportunities.

## **Consequences of The Great Divergence**

The great divergence has had far-reaching consequences, both positive and negative, for different parts of the world. The regions that were left behind experienced a prolonged period of stagnation and economic underdevelopment. This disparity in wealth and technological advancement has persisted to this day, contributing to social and economic inequalities globally.

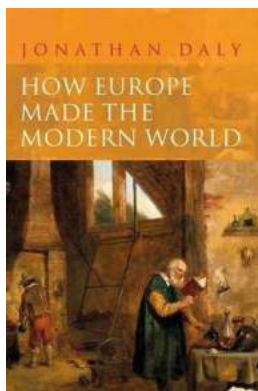
## **Addressing The Great Divergence**

In recent years, there have been increased efforts to address the consequences of the great divergence. International organizations, governments, and NGOs are working towards bridging the gap by promoting global cooperation, reducing trade barriers, and providing aid to developing nations. Technological advancements and the spread of knowledge have also played a role in narrowing the gap by enabling innovation and progress in previously disadvantaged regions.

The great divergence is a complex phenomenon with deep roots in history. Factors such as colonialism, scientific advancements, geographical advantages, and education have contributed to the creation of this divergence. While it has led to disparities and inequalities, efforts are being made to address and bridge the gap. Understanding the historical factors behind the great divergence allows us to

analyze and evaluate the present state of the world, enabling us to work towards a more equitable and inclusive future.

## **Long Descriptive Keyword: The Great Divergence - Historical Factors, Colonialism, Scientific Revolution, Geographical Advantages, Education, Consequences, Addressing Inequalities**



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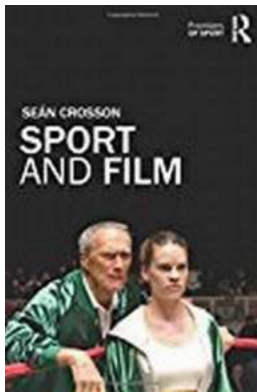


One thousand years ago, a traveler to Baghdad or the Chinese capital Kaifeng would have discovered a vast and flourishing city of broad streets, spacious gardens, and sophisticated urban amenities; meanwhile, Paris, Rome, and London were cramped and unhygienic collections of villages, and Europe was a backwater. How, then, did it rise to world preeminence over the next several centuries? This is the central historical conundrum of modern times.

How Europe Made the Modern World draws upon the latest scholarship dealing with the various aspects of the West's divergence, including geography, demography, technology, culture, institutions, science and economics. It avoids the twin dangers of Eurocentrism and anti-Westernism, strongly emphasizing the

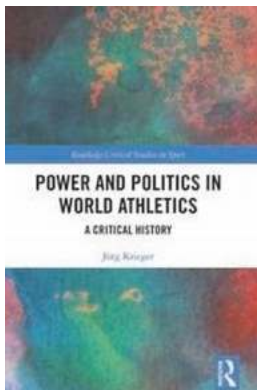
contributions of other cultures of the world to the West's rise while rejecting the claim that there was nothing distinctive about Europe in the premodern period. Daly provides a concise summary of the debate from both sides, whilst also presenting his own provocative arguments.

Drawing on a wide range of primary and secondary sources, and including maps and images to illuminate key evidence, this book will inspire students to think critically and engage in debates rather than accepting a single narrative of the rise of the West. It is an ideal primer for students studying Western Civilization and World History courses.



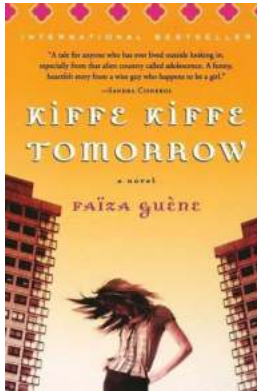
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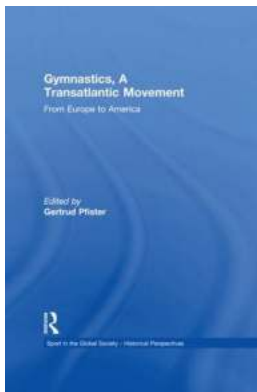
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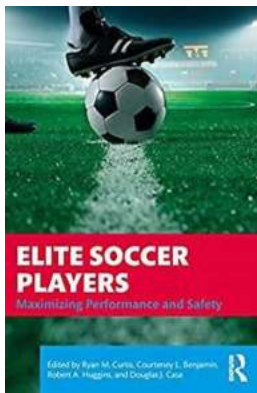
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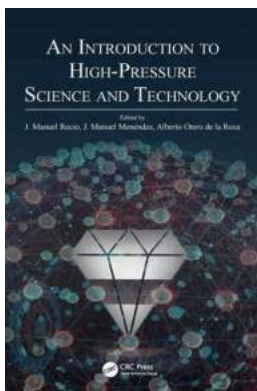
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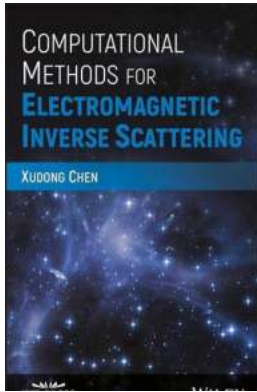
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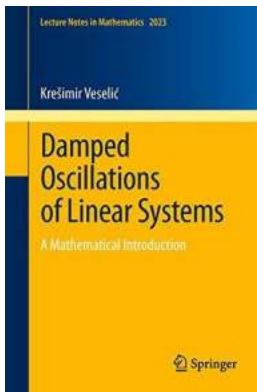
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