

English Cosmopolitans In An Age Of Expansion 1560-1660: Discover the Global Influence and Cultural Exchanges of the English Empire

The Journey Begins: English Exploration and Expansion

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dominant board block-holdings remained ubiquitous before 1914. Since our samples considerably overlap, it would be extremely fishy if his results differed as markedly from mine as his presentation implies. In fact, they do not. By my reckoning, the cases he presents reveal a median board shareholding of 33 percent of corporate equity. This figure, and my own self-confessed “guesstimate” for 1,900 listed industrials of 33 percent, do not present a gap that I would call wide! The difference between us on industrials, it turns out, is mainly in presentational rhetoric: is 33 percent large or small? My cross-section focus led me to observe that board ownership in 1,900 British industrials was “modestly below” that in equivalent U.S. and German firms (where the available data for the largest firms suggest board block-holdings of around 50 percent). On the other hand, given his central theme, he understandably emphasizes the point that board block-holdings in British industrials were much larger before 1914 than in later decades (when they fell to 10 percent and below). Whether our views are correct must be left to others to judge, but they are perfectly mutually consistent.

In his last chapter, Cheffins discusses whether recent developments, such as the growth of private equity, will reverse the trend toward increased separation, concluding that they will not. This fine survey is a definitive contribution to British business and legal history, but it can also be enthusiastically recommended to anyone trying to understand long-run developments in financial markets and corporate governance elsewhere.

Leslie Hannah is visiting professor at the London School of Economics. His latest article, “Logistics, Market Size and Giant Plants in the Early Twentieth Century: A Global View,” was published in the Journal of Economic History (March 2008).

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The Web of Empire: English Cosmopolitans in an Age of Expansion, 1560–1660. *By Alison Games.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2008. ix + 381 pp. Illustrations, maps, tables, notes, index. Cloth, \$35.00. ISBN: 978-0-195-33554-5.

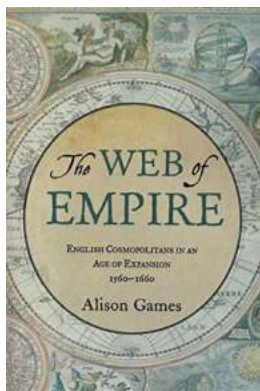
Reviewed by Michelle Craig McDonald

Alison Games’s recent study examines the activities of British itinerants around the globe between 1560 and 1660. Thoroughly researched and engagingly written, *The Web of Empire* describes both the extent of early European travel in the Mediterranean and the Far East and the degree to which it influenced later developments in the Atlantic. Games

The period between 1560 and 1660 witnessed a significant transformation in the English Empire. It was an era of great exploration and expansion, when the English set sail to discover new lands and establish colonies around the world. This article dives deep into the lives of English cosmopolitans during this age of expansion, exploring their global influence and the cultural exchanges that occurred.

Exploring New Horizons: English Colonies and Trade

English cosmopolitans played a crucial role in the establishment and administration of English colonies. The English Empire expanded its territories to North America, the Caribbean, and parts of Africa and Asia. English settlements such as Jamestown (1607) and Plymouth (1620) became important centers for trade and cultural interactions, bringing together people from different parts of the world.



The Web of Empire: English Cosmopolitans in an Age of Expansion, 1560-1660

by Alison Games (Illustrated Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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File size : 3496 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

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The English entered into trade relationships with various regions, importing spices, silks, and other luxury goods from Asia and Africa. These products were then circulated within the English Empire and Europe. The English trade also introduced new crops and commodities to different parts of the world, forever changing global economies and diets.

Language and Cultural Exchanges: English as a Global Tongue

The English language played a crucial role in facilitating cultural exchanges during this age of expansion. English became the lingua franca among traders, seafarers, and administrators, enabling communication and understanding between people from diverse cultural backgrounds. This linguistic bridge fostered an environment of cultural exchange, where ideas, knowledge, and beliefs flowed freely.

English cosmopolitans, through their interactions with local communities in various colonies, also embraced and incorporated elements from different cultures into their own lives. They adopted local styles of clothing, culinary practices, and religious traditions, creating a unique hybrid culture that reflected the diversity of the English Empire.

Intellectual Awakening: English Cosmopolitans and Knowledge Exchange

The era of expansion also witnessed an intellectual awakening among English cosmopolitans. As they ventured into new lands, they encountered unfamiliar landscapes, animals, and cultures, sparking a curiosity to understand and document these discoveries. This led to the emergence of various scientific, philosophical, and historical works.

English cosmopolitans, such as Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Francis Drake, documented their travels and experiences in journals and books, which enabled knowledge to be shared and disseminated throughout the empire. The discoveries made by English explorers contributed to the growth of disciplines such as botany, zoology, and geography.

Art and Architecture: English Renaissance and Global Influences

The English Renaissance, a period of cultural and artistic flourishing, coincided with the age of expansion. English cosmopolitans were exposed to diverse artistic styles and architectural designs from different parts of the world. This led to a fusion of indigenous styles and foreign influences, resulting in a unique English Renaissance art and architecture.

English cosmopolitans, inspired by their encounters in the colonies, incorporated elements of Asian, African, and Native American art into their own creations. This cultural borrowing enriched the artistic landscape of England, with new forms of painting, sculpture, and architecture emerging.

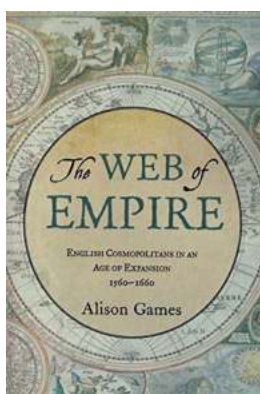
Legacy of English Cosmopolitans: The Modern World

The influence of English cosmopolitans in the age of expansion cannot be overstated. Their explorations, trade networks, cultural exchanges, and intellectual pursuits laid the foundation for the modern world as we know it today.

The English language, which became a global tongue during this period, continues to be one of the most widely spoken languages worldwide. The English Empire's trade networks revolutionized global commerce and shaped economies across continents. The scientific discoveries made by English cosmopolitans formed the basis of modern scientific disciplines, while the artistic exchanges enriched cultural expression.

English cosmopolitans in an age of expansion left an indelible mark on the world, and their legacies continue to resonate in our globalized society.

So next time you hear the phrase "English Cosmopolitans In An Age Of Expansion 1560-1660," remember the vast influence and cultural exchanges that occurred during this transformative era. The English Empire's explorations and trade activities, along with the intellectual and artistic pursuits of English cosmopolitans, created a globalized world that we still inhabit today.



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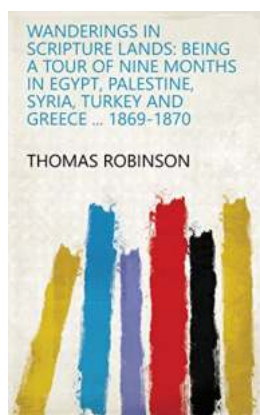
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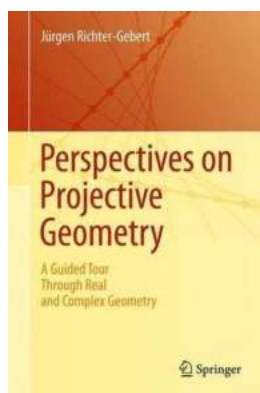
How did England go from a position of inferiority to the powerful Spanish empire to achieve global pre-eminence? In this important second book, Alison Games, a colonial American historian, explores the period from 1560 to 1660, when England challenged dominion over the American continents, established new long-distance trade routes in the eastern Mediterranean and the East Indies, and emerged in the 17th century as an empire to reckon with. Games discusses such topics as the men and women who built the colonial enterprise, the political and

fiscal factors that made such growth possible, and domestic politics that fueled commercial expansion. Her cast of characters includes soldiers and diplomats, merchants and mariners, ministers and colonists, governors and tourists, revealing the surprising breadth of foreign experiences ordinary English people had in this period. This book is also unusual in stretching outside Europe to include Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. A comparative imperial study and expansive world history, this book makes a lasting argument about the formative years of the English empire.



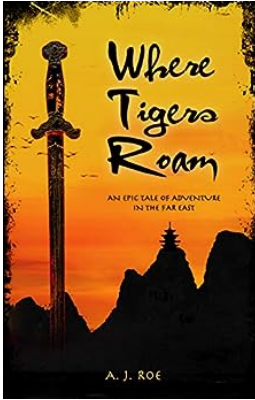
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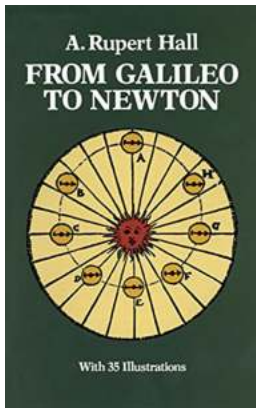
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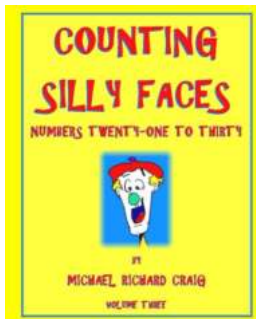
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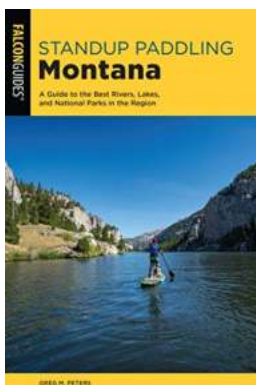
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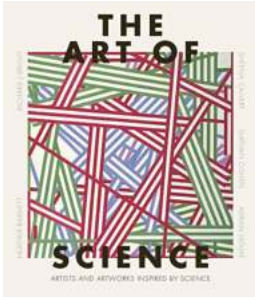
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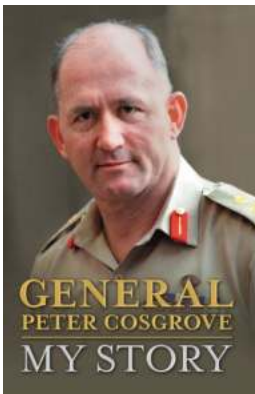
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