



Britain's Imperial Century 1815-1914: A Study of Empire and Expansion

By R. Hyam

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The undisputed best introduction to the history of the world-wide pattern of British activity in the nineteenth century, embracing its expansive spirit as well as its formal territorial empire. The dynamics of this extraordinary enterprise are considered broadly: the high-political concerns of strategy and international geopolitics are analyzed, as well as the economic dimension, missionary activity, and racial attitudes, together with a wide range of cultural aspects, including sport and the pursuit of sexual opportunity. Nor is the personal contribution of some of the leading Victorian figures neglected.

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Review

Hyam's efforts have strengthened an already brilliant interpretation of the forces and factors making for British imperial expansion in the nineteenth century. The book reads well, the arguments are compelling, and the scholarship is impressive.>>>> (Paul Kennedy *Albion*)

Hyam has written much more than a textbook of empire....The freshness which distinguishes, to a high degree, the first part of the book shows why he is the most interesting and provocative scholar writing on the empire from the centre....It is impeccable scholarship which draws from intellectual daring and original thinking.>>> (Paul Kennedy *Historical Studies*)

It is a pleasure to stress the lasting interest and originality of many of its ideas and its presentation... this book deserves a large readership.>>>> (Paul Kennedy *Andrew Porter*)

[The book] remains the best overview of the period, and will be required reading for anyone interested in the British empire....Hyam strikes the delicate balance between faithful representation of the imperial experience and fair but anachronistic analysis....balanced, clever, and elegant...>>> (powell, john)

Rich in detail and bibliographical notes, rewarding in intellectual content, and a first-class synthesis: at once it will go onto the 'basic reading' list of British imperial history.>>>> (Paul Kennedy)

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About the Author

RONALD HYAM is a Fellow and former President of Magdalene College, and Emeritus Reader in British Imperial History at the University of Cambridge. He is the author of numerous studies on the British Empire, including *Empire and Sexuality* and he has edited two volumes for the British Documents on the End of Empire Project. He was awarded the LittD degree in 1993.

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