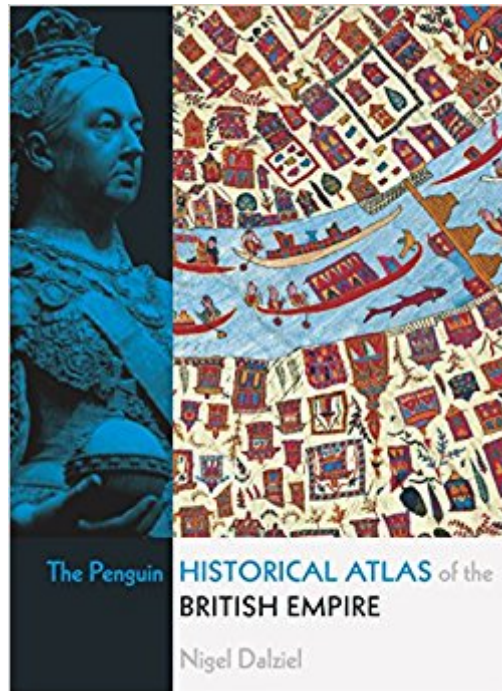




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The Penguin Historical Atlas Of The British Empire



Synopsis

The Penguin Historical Atlas of the British Empire traces the emergence of the world's greatest empire from its earliest beginnings in the British Isles, through its ascendancy in Victorian times, to its ultimate collapse in the mid-20th century. It examines the impact of British dominance in America, India and Africa, and the enormous changes brought by Britain's settlement of Australasia. Coverage of major events - the colonization of Ireland, the American Revolution, the South African wars - is complemented by discussion of themes such as Imperial exploitation and trade, hunting for plants and animals, the Imperial exhibitions and the importance of British naval power. Also assessed are the impact of the Empire on different areas of the world and the legacy it has bestowed. Richly illustrated with photographs and full-colour maps, this is an illuminating and multi-faceted one-volume introduction to the rise and fall of the British Empire.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dr Nigel Dalziel is the curator of the Lancaster Maritime Museum and the editor of numerous collections of Victorian photographs.

This short atlas makes an excellent reading on travel for example. All the essentials are there, plus a very interesting analysis on the British Empire's submarine cables since 1860's. Combined with the seven fleets located in different corners of the Empire this creates a fascinating parallel to today's USA.

Great book

The maps are very helpful. The writing is the just the self-loathing that the British Ministry of Truth seems to require about the Bad Old Empire: full of distortion and omission. Buy it for the maps; ignore the rest.

good condition

I'm a big map junkie so I really enjoyed peering through this book. There's plenty of background information on the various stages of the British Empire, but if you're familiar with this history already, then you can live without reading most of the text and just focus on the maps. Much of the text has no relation to the maps, which is confusing as it doesn't give the maps proper context. Some of the maps are a little confusing to work out the keys, but as I said it was an enjoyable afternoon sitting down to read this book. Excellent addition to my British Empire reference library. I particularly enjoyed the sections on British expansion in America and Australia.

This review can be applied as well to all the atlases in this series. The title is spot on. Anything you might need to satisfy a lingering curiosity about the Romans, the Celts, the Anglo Saxons and various other peoples arriving or departing from Britain while roaming the world get a highly condensed introduction. All subjects "animal, mineral, and vegetable", to quote Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan, can be found herein, plus economical, sociological, and anthropological. How the inhabitants of the British Isles, a thinly populated group on the edge of the world and how they ended up controlling over half the world is here with more detail on the era since the Renaissance, the period of the the Empire's beginnings. The Dominions and Australia are covered also. The book is typical of the publisher, well thought, well designed and clear. Each major topic is covered by at least two pages arranged side by side. Each chapter consists of text and one or more cartographic gems compiled at a scale which facilitates the reader's comprehension of the narrative. This volume is part of a series of similarly designed volumes, covering matters which are best understood in geospatial terms. As a professional cartographer and geographer I thoroughly appreciate the thought of which this is the result. My only quibble is the size of the books in this series. It would be much more useful in the magazine size rather than the trade paperback size it is in. The recommended size is still holdable when seated in your arm chair, and you would not need a stand

or table as for full size atlases.. Unfortunately most historical books lack adequate maps or any at all. I once read one in which the major city that was at the center of the narrative was missing from the sorry sketch that was passed off as a map! A great virtue is its usefulness as a companion to more detailed works on the multitude of subjects merely touched on here.

It's a textbook...

This book is more politically correct dogma than history. Much basic information is left out to leave room for yammering on with PC dogma. A historian is supposed to tell history as the people of the time understood it -- not judge people by today's standards.

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