



Great Empires: An Illustrated Atlas

By National Geographic

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Great Empires: An Illustrated Atlas By National Geographic

Experience what life was like when pharaohs erected the majestic pyramids; when Hannibal commanded Carthage's 40,000 troops; when Charlemagne was crowned Holy Roman Emperor; and when the drive to conquer defined the destiny of leaders and the lives of ordinary people. Much of human history is destined to be forgotten--but thousands of years have not erased the epic stories of the great empires of the world. *Great Empires* sweeps through the ages, uncovering the secrets of dynasties from the dawn of human civilization to the 20th century and tracing the path of power around the globe and across the centuries. Each chapter delves into the times, places, and historical forces that gave rise to legendary warriors, charismatic kings, and lasting dynasties. Throughout these epic tales of the great empires we see extraordinary ambition, shrewd calculation, heroic bravery, and surprising foresight--all captured in one complete volume. Organized in chronological order from 2600 B.C. to the 20th century, this comprehensive history weaves together a compelling portrait of more than 30 epic empires using dramatic images, intriguing sidebars, and easy-to-follow time lines. New, meticulously drawn National Geographic maps show the extent of territory held by each empire, major trade routes, paths of military campaigns, locations of principal traded commodities, significant roads, walls and buildings, and sites of pivotal battles. Selected maps also show the changes in physical geography between ancient and modern coastlines. Sidebars, images, and text showcase the historic leaders such as Hammurabi, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, and Genghis Khan, who had grandiose visions for their world.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

A Sample from *Great Empires*



Camels cross the sandy plain at Giza as the sun rises over the Great Pyramid of Khufu and the nearby pyramid of his successor, Khafre.
Photo by Richard Nowitz, p. 54

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The setting sun casts into relief the ruins of Machu Picchu, the magnificent abandoned Inca city high in the Peruvian Andes.
Photo by Mike Theiss, p. 252

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An exterior view of the throne room at the Imperial Palace in Shenyang, China. In front of the stairs is a jade chime with a golden frame, made in 1761.

Photo by Todd Gipstein, p. 323

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From [Booklist](#)

This volume presents readers with a brief tour of some of world history's most dynamic empires. Coverage is divided along a chronological time line, with sections encompassing "The Ancient World," "The Middle Ages," and "Modern Empires." The work combines measured, clear prose and a copious amount of vivid maps, photographs, and illustrations with engaging contextual information into a format that both informs and entertains. A wealth of sidebars spotlight a wide variety of conflicts, concepts, and characters, including Nefertiti, Hagia Sophia, the Mongol army, and Hannibal's elephants. Whether exploring ancient Mesopotamia, classical Asia, the Crusades, or conquistadors, Great Empires will draw in reluctant readers, is easily integrated into history curricula, and is great for general browsing. --Brian Odom

Review

"Although this is a fine reference work crammed with facts on each page, it can also easily be read cover to cover. An accomplished and sensible resource for students in need of illustrations for reports and patrons looking for a general but informative historic overview of world empires."

—**Rob Tench, Old Dominion Univ. Lib., Norfolk, Va.**

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