

# The Rise and Fall of European High Imperialism

*The Origins of the Industrial Revolution and of the First World War*

G. Philip Crean IV

The University of Chicago, Class of 2016

I first began my collection in earnest during the junior year in high school. I had long loved books, but I had always made my selections haphazardly, wandering through Barnes & Noble in search only of that which would strike my immediate fancy. I might select Descartes' *Discourse on Method* one week only to find myself buying the latest *Game of Thrones* novel the next. However, late in my third year at Choate, I was faced with the task of constructing a preliminary bibliography for the thesis I would have to write the following year. I had selected the ideological origins of the First World War as my topic, so I began to explore the vast literature on the causes of World War I in addition to the political and military philosophy of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

As I conducted my research, I often found myself drawn to other works listed in the footnotes. The problem with which I had to contend was access. I knew exactly which authors I wanted, but by the nature of works from the academy, the local Barnes & Noble was not going to cut it. Lacking a nearby academic bookstore, I turned to the internet. Many out of date works were easy enough to find on Amazon. For certain more obscure texts, I had to get a bit more creative. In some cases, I handled things the old fashioned way as when I found a university library in the United Kingdom selling a James Joll that I wanted. Sometimes, modern technology saved the day: in the age of on-demand publishing, I was able to find publishers who simply produced digital recreations of old texts like the Fichte I had to have. Obviously, I had come a long way from ambling about the bookshelves of the local bookstore.

I successfully completed my senior thesis (which, incidentally, I subsequently published and added to my collection), and along the way I found myself fascinated more by the European imperial rivalries of the late-nineteenth century than about the First World War itself. I wanted to know more about the origins and nature of European high imperialism. It was at this point in my book collecting that I arrived in Hyde Park as a first year at the University of Chicago. I will admit that like many a college first year, books were not the first thing on my mind during the first weeks of that autumn season, but after my quality of life priorities had been satisfied, I started to take note of the great wealth of written knowledge that the University and Hyde Park have to offer. I was drawn in by the meandering corridors of the Seminary Coop Bookstore (back when it was actually in the Seminary) packed with every major work of scholarship I could want. As I started to wander a bit farther afield, I came across O'Gara & Wilson, a gem that I was sad to see leave Hyde Park. Many times, I entered the store and passed an hour perusing without making any addition to my collection, but the few times I made a purchase, I struck gold. I never understood how a first edition Kipling found its way to O'Gara & Wilson or how no one else snatched it up, but like any good student of European imperial history, I made sure it came home with me.

At the University, my program of study largely centered on the economic history of empire and the Industrial Revolution as catalyst, and my collection grew in tandem with my academic progress. While my collection had previously been built around the classics of imperial study, I was proud to see an increasing number of works of cutting edge scholarship. Similarly, whereas my collection had previously privileged intellectual history, it diversified to include many works of economic history.

And so we come to today. Throughout my collecting, high imperialism has been an overarching theme, but as a category, it is too broad to do justice to the depth of my collection. Two central questions of study guided by selection and are the pillars of my collection: the origins of the Industrial Revolution and the origins of the First World War. Here, we get at what I view as the rise and the fall of my favorite age of global history. The Industrial Revolution provided a key economic catalyst for high imperialism, and the First World War ultimately sealed its doom.

Moving forward, I hope to be able to continue to build my collection. I have loved my short time collecting and plan to maintain it as a life-long endeavour. At this point, I have a reasonably strong collection of authors serving as the bookends to the age of European high imperialism. With the Industrial Revolution on one side and the First World War on the other, it seems the natural choice to start filling in the middle. My current plan is to examine the literature on the subject of metropolitan political culture in the context of late-nineteenth century European imperialism. While this is the immediate plan, the reality is that my collection will never be complete, and my task will never be done. So long as I see an heretofore unknown work listed in a footnote, I know I will still have books to search for and enjoy.

- Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso, 2006. [Paperback, good condition].
- Barbier, Edward B. *Scarcity and Frontiers: How Economies Have Developed Through Natural Resource Exploitation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011. [Paperback, good condition].
- Bourne, Randolph S. *War and the Intellectuals: Collected Essays, 1915–1919*. Edited by Carl Resek. New York: Hackett, 1999. [Paperback, good condition].
- Burbank, Jane and Frederick Cooper. *Empires in World History: Power and the Politics of Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010. [Paperback, good condition].
- von Clausewitz, Carl. *On War*. Edited and translated by Michael Howard and Peter Paret. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993. [Clothbound, good condition].
- Cooper, Frederick and Laura Stoler, editors. *Tensions of Empire: Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997. [Paperback, good condition].
- Crean, G.P. IV. *Political Philosophy and the Great War: An Intellectual Interpretation of the Origins of the First World War*. Lulu, 2011. [Hardcover, good condition, signed by author].
- Dewey, John. *The Middle Works, 1899–1924*. Volume XI. Edited by Jo Ann Boydston. Carbondale, Illinois: Southern Illinois University Press, 1982. [Hardcover, good condition].
- Ferguson, Niall. *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power*. New York: Basic Books, 2004. [Paperback, good condition].
- Fichte, Johann Gottlieb. *Addresses to the German Nation*. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Company, 1922. Reproduced by Nabu Public Domain Reprints in 2010. [Paperback, digital reproduction of original, good condition].
- Fischer, Fritz. *Germany's Aims in the First World War*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1967. Digitally reproduced in 2010. [Paperback, digital reproduction of original, good condition].
- Fletcher, C.R.L. and Rudyard Kipling. *A History of England*. First Edition. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1911. [Clothbound, first edition, fair condition].
- Gay, Peter. *The Cultivation of Hatred*. Volume III in *The Bourgeois Experience: Victoria to Freud*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1993. [Clothbound, good condition, signed by author].

- Gilbert, Martin. *The European Powers, 1900–1945*. London: Widenfeld and Nicolson, 1965. [Clothbound, fair condition, signed by author].
- Gilbert, Martin. *The First World War: A Complete History*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1994. [Hardcover, good condition].
- Gilbert, Martin. *The Routledge Atlas of the First World War*. Second Edition. New York: Routledge, 2002. [Hardcover, good condition].
- Griffin, Emma. *A Short History of the British Industrial Revolution*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. [Paperback, good condition].
- Herder, J.G. *Herder on Social and Political Culture*. Translated and edited by F.M. Barnard. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1969. Digitally reprinted in 2010. [Paperback, good condition].
- Ikenberry, G. John. *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order After Major Wars*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001. [Paperback, good condition].
- Inikori, Joseph E. *Africans and the Industrial Revolution in England: A Study in International Trade and Economic Development*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002. [Paperback, good condition].
- Joll, James and Gordon Martell. *The Origins of the First World War*. Third Edition. Harlow, England: Pearson Longman, 2007. [Paperback, good condition].
- Joll, James. *1914: The Unspoken Assumptions*. London: Camelot Press, 1968. [Hardcover, first edition, poor condition]
- Keegan, John. *A History of Warfare*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993. [Hardcover, good condition, signed by author].
- Keegan, John. *The First World War*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1999. [Hardcover, fair condition, signed by author].
- Lafore, Laurence. *The Long Fuse: An Interpretation of the Origins of World War I*. Second Edition. Long Grove, Illinois: Waveland Press, 1997. [Paperback, good condition].
- Lee, Dwight E. *Europe's Crucial Years: The Diplomatic Background of World War I, 1902–1914*. Hanover, New Hampshire: University Press of New England, 1974. [Hardcover, fair condition, first edition, signed by author].
- Mahan, Alfred Thayer. *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660–1783*. New York: Barnes & Noble, 2004. [Paperback, good condition].

- McNeill, William H. *The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1982. [Hardcover, good condition].
- Mearsheimer, John J. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2001. [Paperback, good condition].
- Mitchell, Timothy. *Carbon Democracy: Political Power in the Age of Oil*. New York: Verso, 2011. [Hardcover, good condition].
- Nietzsche, Friedrich Wilhelm. *A Genealogy of Morals*. General Books, 2009. [Paperback, good condition].
- Nietzsche, Friedrich. *The Will to Power: An Attempted Transvaluation of All of Values*. Edited by Oscar Levy. Translated by Anthony M. Ludovici. Digireads.com Publishing, 2010. [Paperback, good condition].
- Parry, J.H. *The Age of Reconnaissance: Discovery, Exploration and Settlement 1450 to 1650*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1981. [Paperback, good condition].
- Pomeranz, Kenneth. *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000. [Paperback, good condition].
- Reinhard, Wolfgang. *A Short History of Colonialism. A Short History of Colonialism*. Translated by Kate Sturge. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2011. [Paperback, good condition].
- Riello, Giorgio. *Cotton: The Fabric that Made the Modern World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013. [Hardcover, good condition].
- Stone, Norman. *World War One*. New York: Basic Books, 2009. [Hardcover, good condition].
- Taylor, A.J.P. *The Struggle for Mastery in Europe 1848–1918*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2001. Digitally reproduced in 2010. [Hardcover, good condition].
- Todorov: Tzvetan. *The Conquest of America: The Question of the Other*. Translated by Richard Howard. University of Oklahoma Press, 1999. [Paperback, good condition].
- de Vries, Jan. *The Industrious Revolution: Consumer Behavior and the Household Economy, 1650 to the Present*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008. [Paperback, good condition].
- Wallerstein, Immanuel. *Capitalist Agriculture and the Origins of the European World-Economy in the Sixteenth Century*. Volume I from the Modern World-System. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011. [Paperback, good condition].

Zahedieh, Nuala. *The Capital and the Colonies: London and the Atlantic Economy, 1660–1700*.  
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. [Paperback, good condition].