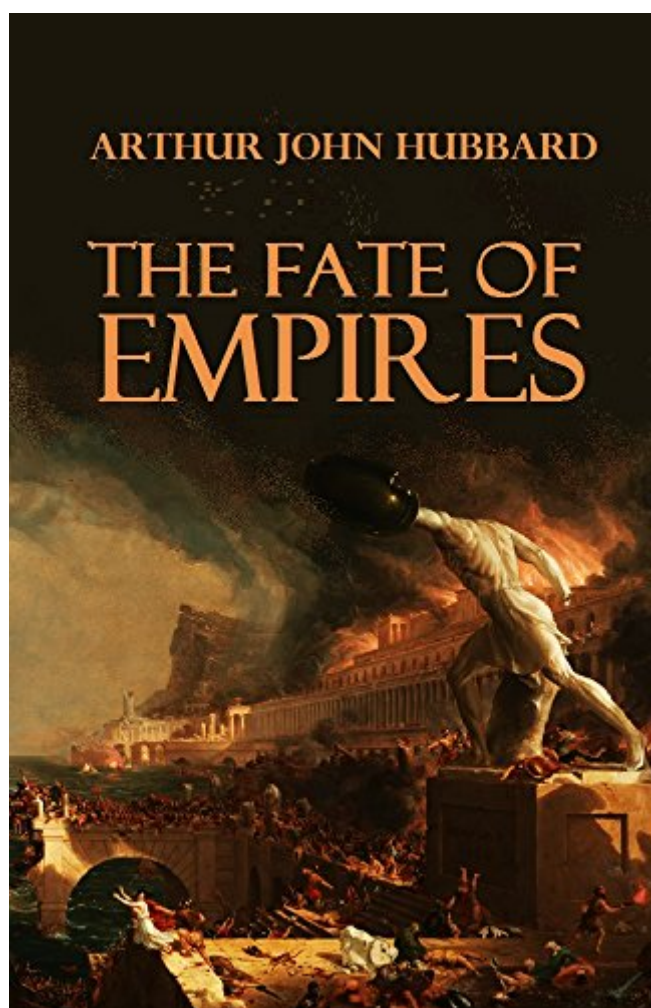


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The Fate Of Empires: Being An Inquiry Into The Stability Of Civilization (1913)



Synopsis

Arthur John HUBBARD MD (1856-1935) was a British author, doctor, and world traveler who pursued an interest in the study of the rise and fall of world civilizations. According to his own statement, Mr. Hubbard in his book "The Fate of Empires" is building on the foundation of Mr. Benjamin Kidd's "Social Evolution," altho he treats the whole subject from a different point of view. "Is a permanent civilization possible?" is the initial inquiry. That depends on the forces which are operative in a society. But history takes account only of the results of these forces, since they can be discovered only when the whole of organic evolution is reviewed. In doing this, two forces are found to be operative—instinct and reason; the former operating in a race, tending toward propagation; the latter in society, tending toward competition with contemporaries. Instinct sacrifices the individual ruthlessly for the race, while society tries to subdue him to its own ends. We have, consequently, an antagonism between the part and the whole in each case. How is it to be removed? Neither reason nor instinct is able to do so; since reason demands the abolition of competition, and that would land us in the bogs of socialism with its mediocrity and consequent death of society; while instinct sacrifices the individual to the race, and thus keeps development on a low plane. We must find, therefore, a new suprarational sanction in the religious motive. This motive raises propagation and competition to a higher level; since it makes the individual a member of a family which extends backward as well as forward and gives him thus an interest in the future of the race, it furnishes at the same time an interest in society, since the family can exist only under its sanction. The individual will, consequently, continue to compete with his fellow men, but not to the extent of destroying society whose sanction is necessary for the family. In other words, the individual will be interested in the propagation of the race through his family bonds, and thus act as a free man, while competition will be regulated by law so as to vouchsafe to each man room for the development of his powers. This is, briefly, the reasoning of Mr. Hubbard. In part two he tries to illustrate his principles in history, chiefly in Rome and China. The family under the older republic was agnatic, i.e., it took pride in descendants as well as ancestors, and Rome was strong as long as that interest continued. When in the later republic and the empire, the individual considered himself in opposition to the race, and adoption or childlessness took the place of propagation in many cases, Rome was doomed, because a ruthless competition for lust and pleasure wore out the individual or brought him in opposition to society, and the dissolution of the Roman state became only a question of time. In China the family has always maintained its virility owing to religious sanction. The race is thus continued, but China has been unprogressive owing to the overemphasis of the family and its partial opposition to the State, which led to a neglect

of science and of social duty in the larger sense. In other words, competition between families was not regulated by law. The perfect religious sanction will remove these shortcomings by raising the family and the individual to the higher level of a world-purpose, i.e., by showing us that we are intended for eternity rather than for a short life on earth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Received book as stated. Can't wait to read it.

great

A little hard to read until you get use to it

Archaic language - Interesting.

The book arrived on time and in excellent condition. This book was written 103 years ago but speaks

to our time as a nation now. It is absolutely worthwhile and hives great insight into societies across the ages. The first part of the book is somewhat difficult to read based both on writing style (author was British) and subject. It does, however, lay the perfect groundwork for understanding the second half of the book's points regarding Rome and China. It would be a great study book for a group of dedicated readers who are interested in history and ideas concerning our society today.

Great little book that was featured in the documentary "The Four Horsemen" about contemporary issues of economic and geo-political nature in the world and the US specifically

Interesting thoughts. The style is predictably archaic, but not so much so that a competent English speaker could not understand it.

I bought this because some talking head on the radio was recommending it. (Wonder if he gets a financial cut. Hmm.) This was written in 1913! The English is barely understandable. I'm actually wondering if the talking head really read it. The author is obviously of the Imperial superior white man bent. Serious waste of money.

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