



War and Peace and War: The Rise and Fall of Empires

Peter Turchin

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Like Jared Diamond in *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, Peter Turchin in *War and Peace and War* uses his expertise in evolutionary biology to make a highly original argument about the rise and fall of empires.

Turchin argues that the key to the formation of an empire is a society's capacity for collective action. He demonstrates that high levels of cooperation are found where people have to band together to fight off a common enemy, and that this kind of cooperation led to the formation of the Roman and Russian empires, and the United States. But as empires grow, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, conflict replaces cooperation, and dissolution inevitably follows. Eloquently argued and rich with historical examples, *War and Peace and War* offers a bold new theory about the course of world history.

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