

America, Empire of Liberty: A New History of the United States

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A magisterial history of the United States by a prize-winning historian

"The best one-volume history of the United States ever written."--Joseph J. Ellis, author of *Founding Brothers* and *The Quartet*

Thomas Jefferson envisioned the United States as a great "empire of liberty." In his riveting single-volume history of the United States, award-winning historian David Reynolds takes Jefferson's phrase as a key to the American saga. He examines how the anti-empire of 1776 became the greatest superpower the world has seen--and how the country that offered liberty and opportunity on a scale unmatched in Europe nevertheless founded its prosperity on the labor of black slaves and the dispossession of Native Americans.

Reynolds also reveals how these tensions between empire and liberty have often been resolved by faith--both the evangelical Protestantism that has energized US politics since the founding of the nation and the larger faith in American righteousness that has impelled the country's expansion.

Written with verve, insight, and humor, *America, Empire of Liberty* is a magisterial depiction of America in all its grandeur and contradictions.

David Reynolds is a Professor of International History at Cambridge University and the author of numerous books, including *The Long Shadow*, winner of the PEN Hessell-Tiltman Prize for the Best Work of History, and *In Command of History*, which was awarded the Wolfson Prize, and selected as a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. He lives in Cambridge, England. "Let us not mince words...this is the best one-volume history of the United States ever written....[A] remarkable tour of the American past."-Joseph Ellis, *The National Interest*

"[T]he best single-volume account of the world's greatest society for many years. Even those of us who think we know America well are reminded anew what an awesome place it is."-Max Hastings, *Sunday Times* (London)

"An entertaining and fair-minded introduction to American history."-Economist

"Tracing the long dialectic between America's virtuous self-image and its sometimes rapacious actions is a mammoth task but one Reynolds carries off well."-Edward Luce, *Financial Times*

"An evenhanded distillation of America's story from a singular outside observer."-Kirkus
Other Books

The American Experiment, The Pulitzer Prize-winning author's stunning trilogy of American history, spanning the birth of the Constitution to the final days of the Cold War. In these three volumes, Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winner James MacGregor Burns chronicles with depth and narrative panache the most significant cultural, economic, and political events of American history. In *The Vineyard of Liberty*, he combines the color and texture of early American life with meticulous scholarship. Focusing on the tensions leading up to the Civil War, Burns brilliantly shows how Americans became divided over the meaning of Liberty. In *The Workshop of Democracy*, Burns explores more than a half-century of dramatic growth and transformation of the American landscape, through the addition of dozens of new states, the shattering tragedy of the First World War, the explosion of industry, and, in the end, the emergence of the United States as a new global

power. And in *The Crosswinds of Freedom*, Burns offers an articulate and incisive examination of the US during its rise to become the world's sole superpower—through the Great Depression, the Second World War, the Cold War, and the rapid pace of technological change that gave rise to the "American Century."

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