

FROM THE AUTHOR

The Rise of Western Power is intended as a stand-alone historical interpretation of the emergence of the modern world and the preponderant role of Western nations within it. In order to facilitate reader comprehension of important aspects of these developments and to enhance the learning experience, however, a wealth of resources is supplied on this website.

The extensive collection of textual primary sources includes many of the seminal texts of Western and world history, which are typically both powerful and enriching to read. Historical images—another type of primary source—add a visual dimension to the story. Numerous historical maps (see Permissions list below) provide spatial context for understanding *The Rise of Western Power*. More sources, maps, and images will be added on an ongoing basis. The [author](#) welcomes suggestions from readers.

Primary Sources to Accompany *The Rise of Western Power*

Without primary sources—texts and artifacts by witnesses from the past—no history could be written. Primary sources are raw material for historical scholarship. They give researchers views and interpretations of past developments from people who beheld or participated in them.

Primary sources include autobiographies, government documents, maps, interviews, letters, diaries, newspapers, philosophical treatises, speeches, interviews, scientific essays, photographs, paintings, audio or video recordings, and any kind of material object. Written accounts may be recorded at the time of the events described or later.

The Rise of Western Power draws mostly upon secondary sources—scholarly books and articles written on the basis of primary sources. Yet it uses select primary sources to illuminate key ideas and themes. Excerpts from these and many other sources are available on this website to give readers an opportunity to get closer to the events, to delve deeper into important topics, and to gain a better sense of the historian’s craft.

The appended collection of primary sources includes excerpts from many of the “great books” of world history all keyed to the story developed in *The Rise of Western Power*—at least one per subchapter. More sources will be added going forward, and suggestions from readers will be much appreciated.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the students who helped me to compile and format the collection of primary sources: Zane Elward, Wasif Ahmad, Sachin Patel, Nathan Schmidt, Mauricio Peralto, and Dustin Cohan.

Historical Images to Accompany *The Rise of Western Power*

Images from the past are invaluable primary sources for historical understanding. Yet unlike today, when nearly every aspect of life (if not every aspect) is constantly being recorded in pictures and videos by millions (if not billions) of people, our pictorial record from the past is fairly limited. Preserving visual records was expensive in time and money, so only what were considered the most important people, things, and events ended up depict-

ed on stone, canvas, or other media. Moreover, the ravages of time effaced or otherwise destroyed countless precious representations. A few remnants, all keyed to individual subchapters, have been selected to illuminate diverse aspects of the story presented in *The Rise of Western Power*. The images may seem fairly straightforward, but they will repay detailed and painstaking analysis.

Many thanks to Zane Elward and Wasif Ahmad for assistance with selecting and formatting the historical maps.

Historical Maps to Accompany *The Rise of Western Power*

The first maps were probably simple diagrams that our ancestors traced in sand or dirt to show relative position tens of thousands of years ago. More recently, around 14,000 B.C., prehistoric humans may have traced configurations of stars on the walls of caves in southern France and northern Spain. Clearly recognizable geographical representations, produced in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, date to a few thousand years ago. Thereafter, by fits and starts, map making grew in sophistication—now in one culture, now in another. Ptolemy's *Geographia* (c. 150 A.D.) presented the first detailed geographical understanding of the Old World. Most important was the Ptolemaic practice of overlaying grid lines (depicting longitude and latitude). Muslim and then European cartographers built upon Ptolemy's breakthroughs and century by century from the medieval era, maps grew more and more accurate until modern cartography took off during the Renaissance.

The appended maps, which are keyed to individual subchapters, illustrate developments narrated in *The Rise of Western Power*. The maps are highly detailed and, just like complicated texts, require careful study. It is worth making the effort, because a thorough understanding of spatial relationships can deepen one's comprehension of historical events by adding an important visual dimension.

My earnest thanks goes to Zane Elward and Wasif Ahmad for assistance with selecting and formatting the historical maps.

Map Permissions

The author is grateful to Christopher Lascelles and his cartographer Martin Lubikowski from ML Design for kind permission to use maps 1.1, 1.2a, 1.3a, 1.3c, 1.5, 1.6c, 2.0, 2.2a, 5.1b, 5.7b, 6.1a, 9.1, 10.4a, and 10.4c from Lascelles's book *A Short History of the World* (Crux Publishing, 2012). Many thanks also to Max Fisher of the *Washington Post* for his generosity in allowing me to deploy a large number of the excellent maps he has amassed or commissioned for the web-collections [40 maps that explain the world](#) and [40 more maps that explain the world](#): 1.1b, 1.2c, 1.2d, 1.3, 1.6a, 1.6b, 2.2a, 3.6, 4.2b, 5.6c, 5.7a, 6.1b, 12.5, 13.1b, 13.1d, 13.1g, 13.4c, 13.5d, 13.5e, 14.4a, 14.4b, 14.4c, 14.4d, 15.0e, 15.0f, 15.0g, 15.0h. Thanks to the Florida Center for Instructional Technology for permission to use Maps 0.1, 11.5a, 11.5b, and 12.4b and to The Probert Encyclopaedia (a division of [nsdk.org.uk](#)) for permission to reproduce Maps 1.3e, 3.2b, 4.2a, 5.3a, 5.4a, 5.6a, 7.4, 7.6, 10.4b, 10.5a, 10.5b, 12.4a, 12.4c, 13.1a, 13.1c, 13.1e, 13.1f, 13.4a, and 13.5b. Maps 1.5a, 2.2c,

and 5.1d were reproduced from H. G. Wells, *The Outline of History: Being a Plain History of Life and Mankind* (New York: Macmillan, 1920; images digitalized and placed in the public domain <<http://outline-of-history.mindvessel.net>>). My gratitude also to Wikimedia Commons for permission to use maps 1.2b, 1.3b, 1.3d, 1.5b, 1.5d, 1.6e, 2.3a, 2.4a, 2.4b, 3.1, 3.2a, 3.4, 3.9, 4.3a, 4.3b, 4.3c, 4.5a, 4.5b, 5.0, 5.1a, 5.1c, 5.3b, 5.3c, 5.4b, 5.4c, 5.4d, 5.4e, 5.5a, 5.5b, 5.5c, 5.5d, 5.6b, 10.1, 10.2a, 10.2c, 13.4b, 13.5b, 15.0b, 15.0c, and 15.0d; to Mapsof.net for the use of maps 2.2b, 2.3b, 7.5, 10.2c; to the Free Information Society for the use of map 1.6d; and to World War One and Wars Involving the United States (accessible [here](#)) for the use of maps 13.1h and 13.2b.