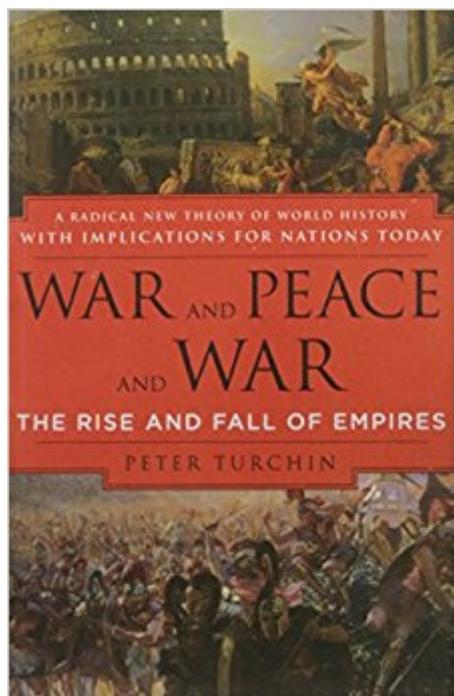


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War And Peace And War: The Rise And Fall Of Empires



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Turchin's view of [history] from the perspective of an evolutionary biologist . . . promises a great deal. (The Times Higher Education Supplement)

Peter Turchin is an evolutionary anthropologist and one of the founders of the new field of historical social science, Cliodynamics (peterturchin.com/cliodynamics/). His research interests lie at the intersection of social and cultural evolution, historical macrosociology, economic history and cliometrics, mathematical modeling of long-term social processes, and the construction and analysis of historical databases. Peter Turchin is a professor of evolutionary biology at the University of Connecticut, a research associate in the School of Anthropology at the University of Oxford, and the

vice president of the Evolution Institute. More information is available at peterturchin.com.

A lot of great reviews are already submitted for this item, so I will not make this one longer than it has to be. It's definitely sort of a "mind-switching" book, like "Selfish gene" by R. Dawkins, "Guns, Germs and Steel" by J. Diamond, and some else. Here we are presented with a fascinating, "brave new" approach towards UNDERSTANDING history - not just "digging in dirty pants" of kings and barons, not just analyzing combat operations and revolutionary slogans, but rather looking THROUGH all of these to see the real-world "hardware" of history - it's hidden forces, acting from behind the curtains but still with a cruel and overwhelming inevitable effect. Shockingly sobering reading. Definitely must-read for all (both global and local) decision-makers. And I agree with one of the reviewers - Turchin has totally deserved Nobel Prize in economics.

I read Peter Turchin's *Historical Dynamics* around five years ago. This book is billed (at least informally) as the "non-math" version. I wasn't sure if I would like this version as much since I am the rare reader that finds math arguments easier to parse than word arguments (at least in domains which I'm comfortable). However, I enjoyed the richness of detail that Turchin weaves into his story (already cognizant of the mathematical argument working hard backstage). Whether his model of historical dynamics is more useful than others is an empirical question and not thoroughly explored. However, Turchin clearly hopes to inspire others to join the fray with competing models. I am eager to revisit his earlier book with a better understanding of the details behind the equations.

evolutionary biology meets history. This is a significant work in our understanding of civilization. It's on the order of Jared Diamond's *Guns Germs and Steel*. Fair warning: he wonders a bit in his writing, but sometimes wondering with Mr Turkin makes for a fun walk around.

I am in love with Mr. Turchin. Literally.

Good book but this copy has a flaw in its printing...the footnote numbers are omitted in the text and in the footnotes, so the footnotes are not collated with the text.

Not what I expected, but very interesting. Empires arise at the intersections of groups. They become unbalanced, with the rich getting richer and the poor getting children. When it gets out of hand, the empire falls.

This is a must read for every literateÃ¢Â€Âœadult person on the planet. Should be made mandatory reading material at the college entrance level.

A MUST READ!

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