
John Steele Gordon

Empire of Wealth, An: The Epic History of American Economic Power



AN EMPIRE | The Epic History
OF WEALTH | of American
| Economic Power
JOHN STEELE GORDON

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Description

Throughout time, from ancient Rome to modern Britain, the great empires built and maintained their dominion through force of arms and political power over alien peoples. In this illuminating work of history, **John Steele Gordon** tells the extraordinary story of how the United States, a global power without precedent, became the first country to dominate the world through the creation of wealth.

The American economy is by far the world's largest, but it is also the most dynamic and innovative. The nation used its English political inheritance, as well as its diverse, ambitious population and seemingly bottomless imagination, to create an unrivaled economy capable of developing more wealth for more and more people as it grows.

But America has also been extremely lucky. Far from a guaranteed success, our resilient economy continually suffered through adversity and catastrophes. It survived a profound recession after the Revolution, an unwise decision by Andrew Jackson that left the country without a central bank for nearly eighty years, and the disastrous Great Depression of the 1930s, which threatened to destroy the Republic itself. Having weathered those trials, the economy became vital enough to Americanize the world in recent decades. Virtually every major development in technology in the twentieth century originated in the United States, and as the products of those technologies traveled around the globe, the result was a subtle, peaceful, and pervasive spread of American culture and perspective.

Insightful reviews

Patrick: Slowly rereading this one. It's interesting since I have read a lot more US history since I first read this, and I enjoy reading the reviews below of people who have very different takes on this one than me. This does rush sometimes, but the overall thesis of innovation and the spread of economic prosperity is very persuasive. I read Gordon's other book, [Hamilton's Blessing](#) to get further info on his opinions on taxes, debt, the central bank, and economics in general. These two books have shaped a lot fo my financial views and political views. And made me look very unfavorably on Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson.

The amazing facts, trivia, and characters in this book just make it fascinating and a fun read.

Pang: I really enjoyed the book. It was an easy read, though it took me a long time to finish it because of my school obligations. The book gave good general overview of how the U.S. came to be the hegemon that it had, starting from the colonial time. I found it quite gripping... the boom and bust periods resonated our current financial situation. This included people who had visions and great ideas that pushed the market forward.

It wasn't terribly complex, which I didn't think it could be considering the book covered a lengthy period. But that was also the one thing I didn't like about the book - the fact that it covered too

much. I wished that it had more of the author's opinions and insights. I enjoyed his opinions as they were now, and I could use a lot more. Because of his writing style, he made me feel like I could have conversations with him, which I wished I could.

I would read this book again.

Torbjørn: While doing a good job explaining the development of the American economy up until the mid 19th century, he gets sloppy after that. From the second world war it gets just irritating. Spending lots of time explaining things like how the computer has developed during the last 50 years is nothing but sidetracking when you write as good as nothing about how and why the Asians have influenced the economy among other things.

bruinmark: Proves monetary background could be stress-free to learn within the fingers of a skilled writer. packed with attention-grabbing proof and asides, and insightful approximately particular industries (e.g., whale oil and steel). The publication has a happy boosterism in regards to the united states financial system that's a little infectious, whether its mostly uncritical aid for American exceptionalism is slightly troubling. In addition, the author's conservatism comes annoyingly to the leading edge because the publication progresses. web page 395, at the late-70s GOP: "...the Republican get together was once commencing to crackle with new principles to deal with the hot monetary realities." That appears like it belongs in a GOP promo brochure. And web page 415 has this zinger: "...socialism in all its many kinds have been proven to be universally a failure." Gotcha. Still, a brisk and profitable learn for its nimble retelling of yank fiscal history.

Bev: super good written informative book. It tells why america has turn into the wealthiest kingdom within the world, what inventions, executive guidelines labored and did not work. Freedom is what allowed so much rules to turn into economically feasible, even principles born in overseas nations had to hatch and develop in America. The publication us choked with attention-grabbing proof and anecdotes.

Erik: nonetheless engaged on it. it is a fascinating read. were you aware that the note "dollar" comes from the German notice "Thaler" this means that "From the valley?" that is reason behind the silver deposits present in the valleys of what's now the Czech Republic. turns out to have a moderate little bit of these "rah-rah, i've got a boner for Abe Lincoln" historian romantics. except the Freemasons are in control of it all...this turns out to fill within the blanks that we have been too dumb in highschool for them to educate us.

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