

The Immobile Empire

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in 1793 lord george macartney and an enormous delegation including diplomats doctors scholars painters musicians soldiers and aristocrats entered beijing on a mission to open china to british trade but macartney s famous refusal to perform the traditional kowtow before the chinese emperor was just one sign that the two empires would not see eye to eye and the trade talks failed the inability to develop a trade relation would have enormous consequences for future relations between china and the west peyrefitte s vivid narrative of this fascinating encounter is based on extraordinary source materials from each side including the charming and candid diary of thomas staunton the son of one of macartney s aides an example of history at its finest the immobile empire recaptures the extraordinary experience of two great empires in collision sizing each other up for the first time

enter america the ambitious upstart power that represents the next generation of imperialism also seeking to gain control over the ever elusive prize china book jacket

is it america s historic destiny to be the last of the hegemons hegemonic states are very special countries that have simultaneously dominated the world both economically and politically and it seems increasingly likely that no country can follow the usa in this role in this intellectual and creative tour de force peter taylor famous as the creator of world systems political geography examines hegemony as a concept in social practices and by using the experience of the three classic hegemonies 17th century holland 19th century britain and 20th century america to provide a breathtaking new perspective on world history political ideas and the nature of modernity professor taylor weaves a rich tapestry of historical insight with arresting detail and innovative synthesis to show how for each hegemon political and economic dominance led to cultural power which shaped the entire world system but in a fin de siecle world with little prospect of a new hegemonic order are we perhaps facing the end of the world as we know it in this constantly challenging intriguing and original book the reader will find a compelling disturbing yet exhilarating distillation of history politics economics culture and ideology of the last four centuries it will be the key book for students of politics geography and history and for the general reader who wants to understand where today s world

has come from and where it is going

three men and three women a plant collector a merchant and his novelist wife a military officer and two famous women travelers went to china between the opium war and the formal end of the opium trade 1842 1907 their range of perspectives their acquaintance with one another and their similar scope of travel to hong kong the treaty ports and sichuan lend intensity to their picture of china and the western presence there what the travelers record reveals is a continuity in the response of the west and china to each other susan schoenbauer thurin s study of these writings presents a rich tapestry of impressions biases and cultural perspectives that inform our own understanding of the victorians and their views of the world outside their own the strange mix of opium and missionaries the aura of fabled cathay and its valuable trade items the attraction and repulsion of the exotic otherness the travelers experience reflect the political religious and racial views of their era and explain the allure of the orient that in part characterized their age victorian travelers and the opening of china 1842 1907 is a remarkable look into the cultural past

captures the essence of china past and present in one volume

the film here examined is chen kaige s temptress moon the art a book from the sky by xu bing and the essay zheng min s retrospect at the end of the century chinese language reform and modern chinese poetry

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