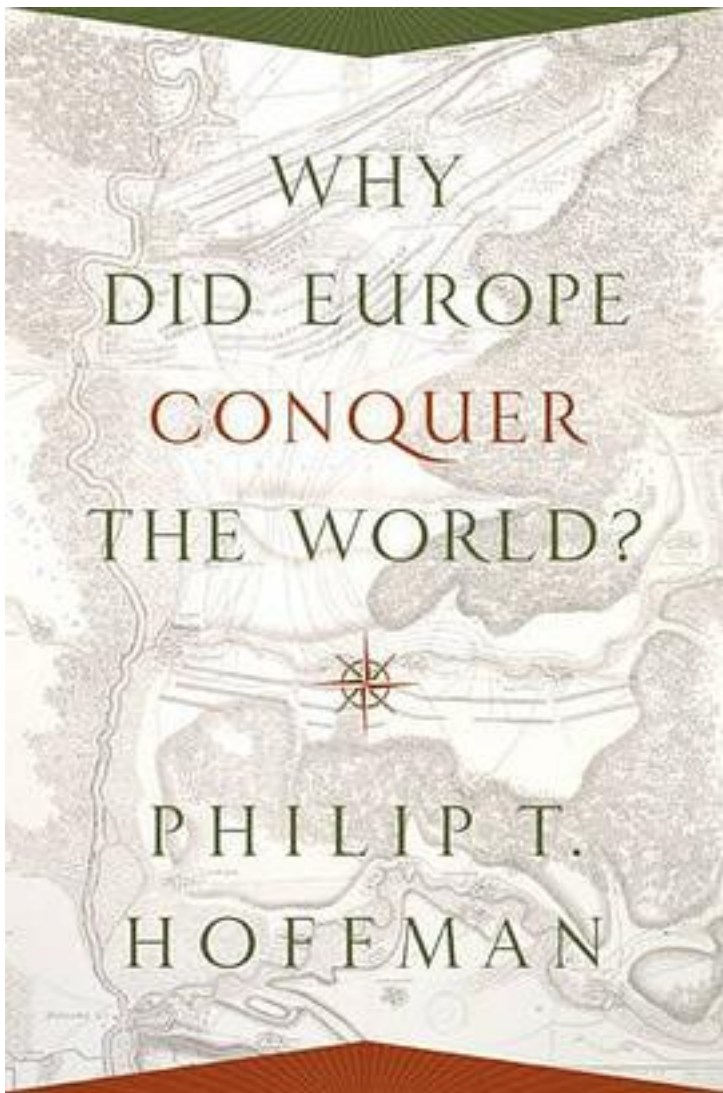


Why Did Europe Conquer the World?



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Between 1492 and 1914, Europeans conquered 84 percent of the globe. But why did Europe rise to the top, when for centuries the Chinese, Japanese, Ottomans, and South Asians were far more advanced? Why didn't these powers establish global dominance? In *Why Did Europe Conquer the World?*, distinguished economic historian Philip Hoffman demonstrates that conventional responses--such as geography, epidemic disease, and the Industrial Revolution--fail to provide answers. Arguing instead for the pivotal role of economic and political history, Hoffman shows that if variables had been at all different, Europe would not have achieved critical military innovations, and another power could have become master of the world.

In vivid detail, Hoffman sheds light on the two millennia of economic, political, and historical changes that set European states on a distinctive path of development and military rivalry. Compared to their counterparts in China, Japan, South Asia, and the Middle East, European leaders--whether chiefs, lords, kings, emperors, or prime ministers--had radically different incentives, which drove them to make war. These incentives, which Hoffman explores using an economic model of political costs and financial resources, resulted in astonishingly rapid growth in Europe's military sector from the Middle Ages on, and produced an insurmountable lead in gunpowder technology. The consequences determined which states established colonial empires or ran the slave trade, and even which economies were the first to industrialize.

Debunking traditional arguments, *Why Did Europe Conquer the World?* reveals the startling reasons behind Europe's historic global supremacy.

作者介绍:

Philip T. Hoffman is the Rea A. and Lela G. Axline Professor of Business Economics and professor of history at the California Institute of Technology. His books include "Growth in a Traditional Society" (Princeton), "Surviving Large Losses", and "Priceless Markets".

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3.5

Private property is the incentive from private adventure---lower middle class e.g., merchants, to upper middle class e.g., knights, elites, missionaries (gain financial benefit, climb social ladder, spread religion), to state conquest (monarchies for financial benefits&honor). To win, they have to use violence, esp gunpowder technology to defeat

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书评

买这本书是被题目吸引，一直以来我们看到世界中心从伊斯兰到欧洲然后到了美洲。到底是什么造成了欧洲能够征服世界是本书回答的问题。对于该问题，历史、社会、生物

等多学科都作出了解释，主要的假说有：第一，疾病论。第二，工业革命论。对此，作者指出：1800年之前，工业革命...

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