

BREAKING THE CODE OF HISTORY by David Murrin

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAST

- 1 From Hunter-Gatherer to Industrialist
Overpopulation
 - The expansion of the human population over time
 - Old and new world populations
 - Key elements of population growth
 - The shadow of extinctionHuman social structures
 - The evolution of collective behaviour
 - The origins of civilisation

- 2 The Elements of Empire
 - 1 Human resources
 - 2 Natural resources
 - 3 Home, land, security
 - 4 Collective empowerment
 - 5 A military edge
 - 6 Longevity
 - 7 Vitality and innovation
 - 8 National energy
 - 9 Leaders, heroes and champions

- 3 The Five Stages of Empire
 - The expansive and contractive phases
 - Regionalisation: the first stage of empire
 - Ascension: the second stage of empire
 - Maturity: the third stage of empire
 - Overextension: the fourth stage of empire
 - Decline and legacy: the fifth stage of empire

- 4 Empires and Super-Empires
 - The Roman Empire
 - Regionalisation, eighth century - 202 BC
 - Ascension to empire, 202-45 BC
 - Maturity, 45 BC - AD 200
 - Overextension, AD 200-284
 - Decline and Legacy, AD 284-476
 - The British Empire
 - Regionalisation, 950-1652
 - Ascension to empire, 1652-1805
 - Maturity, 1805-1870
 - Overextension 1870-1945
 - Decline and Legacy, 1945-56
 - The cost of empire

The first super-empire: Rome West and East
Regionalisation, eighth century BC - AD 324
Ascension to empire, 324-565
Maturity, 565-602
Overextension, 602-49
Decline and Legacy, 634-1453

The WCSE
Regionalisation, 962-1500
Ascension to super-empire, 1500-1870
Maturity, 1870-1914
Overextension, 1914-45
Decline and Legacy, 1945-2001

PRESENT

Introduction

- The six themes
- 5 The Multi-Polar World
 - The emerging new world
 - Emerging powers: Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia
 - Africa: early regionalisation
 - The Middle East: late regionalisation
 - Latin America: late regionalisation
 - Asia: ascension to super-empire
 - Declining powers: the US, Russia and Europe
 - The US: decline
 - regionalisation, 1775-1898
 - ascension to empire, 1898-1945
 - maturity, 1945-90
 - overextension, 1990-2001
 - decline, 2001-present
 - Russia: legacy
 - regionalisation, 1700-1939
 - ascension to empire 1939-45
 - maturity 1945-75
 - overextension 1975-82
 - decline and collapse 1982-91
 - legacy and reformation 1991-present
 - Europe: legacy into new early regionalisation
- 6 Commodities: the Fuel of Modern Empires
 - The commodity cycle
 - The three phases of the current K wave
 - The China effect
 - Commodity supply and demand
 - The geopolitics of oil
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Canada

- Iran
- Iraq
- The Arab Gulf States
- Venezuela
- Russia
- Libya
- Nigeria
- Kazakhstan
- Offshore oil: the sleeper source
- The failure of foresight

Natural gas

Metals

Food security

- Population growth
- Industrialisation
- Availability of land
- Population capacity
- Climate change
- Water supply

7 Polarisation: the Road to War

The tie that binds

- The law of concentric competition
- The mechanics of polarisation
- Constituent factors and the polarisation cycle

Polarisation: the case of Germany 1862-1945

- National character
- The polarisation cycle of Nazi Germany

Religion: transcending the circle

- The power of inclusive religions
- The birth of Christianity and the rise of the Christian world
- The birth of Islam and the rise of the Islamic world

The new wave of polarisation

- Stage one: occupation 1918-45
 - the birth of Zionism
 - the collapse of the Ottoman empire
- Stage two: the rebirth of the Middle East, 1945-79
 - Israel
 - Iran
- Stage three: Islamic revolution 1979-89
 - the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
 - the Iran-Iraq war
 - other incidents
- Stage four: victories and defeats, 1990-2001
 - the first Gulf war
 - the Israel-Palestine conflict
 - bombings against US targets
 - the rise of George W Bush

Stage five: secondary polarisation, the US after 9/11

war in Afghanistan

the second Gulf war and its aftermath

Israel, Lebanon and Palestine

other incidents

Religion and the nascent ASE

Japan

India

China

China and Japan: the rise of Asian nationalism

8 Global Military Balance

The nature of war

Wars of expansion

Pilot wars

Civil wars

Wars of contraction

The economics and politics of warfare in the empire cycle

The wars of the WCSE

The wars of the expansion of the WCSE AD 1000-1900

The peak wars of the WCSE 1914-45

The wars of decline of the WCSE

The Asian challenge to the WCSE 1903-present

The Islamic challenge to the WCSE 1945-present

War by land, sea and air

The importance of sea power

Conventional land warfare

Air power

Space power

Asymmetric Warfare

Asymmetric wars of expansion

Asymmetric wars of contraction

The asymmetric wars of the British empire

The Boer War

Malaya

Northern Ireland

The asymmetric wars of the US

Vietnam

Afghanistan and Iraq

The age of atomic weapons

How have we avoided Armageddon so far?

The risk of nuclear proliferation

9 Disease and Empires

A short history of disease

Endemic and opportunistic diseases

Diseases of expansion of empire

Diseases of contraction of empire

- The plague of Justinian and the decline of the Byzantine empire
- Rodent epidemics
- Disease cycles of the WCSE
 - Endemic diseases of expansion of empire
 - malaria
 - typhus
 - Opportunistic diseases of expansion of empire
 - bubonic plague
 - smallpox
 - Diseases of maturity of empire
 - cholera
 - tuberculosis
 - Diseases of the contraction of empire
 - Opportunistic diseases of contraction of empire
 - viral influenzas
 - HIV and AIDS
 - Endemic diseases of contraction of empire
- Disease and the future

10 Climate Change

- Climate change in context
- Climate change and the earth's past
- Climate change and the cycles of empire
- Understanding the science
 - Greenhouse gases
 - The demise of ice
 - The disappearing Arctic
 - The Arctic and new opportunities
 - the Antarctic
 - Greenland
 - The world's glaciers
 - the Alps
 - the Andes
 - the Himalayas
 - The changing oceans
 - the ocean conveyor belt
 - temperature and salinity
 - the risks
 - acidity and the marine environment
 - Weather systems
- The changing landscape
 - deforestation
 - desertification
- The Kyoto and Copenhagen Protocols
- Recognition of climate change
- Our new climate
 - Europe
 - North America

Latin America
Africa
Asia
The Polar regions
Man's giant footprint

FUTURE

- 11 Our Brave New Multi-Polar World?
Sun Tzu and the art of war
The lessons thus far
Conflict management and the consciousness of empire cycle
The Eastern orientation of the new multi-polar world
 Russia: legacy
 The Middle East: late regionalisation
 Turkey
 Iran
 Afghanistan
 China: ascension to empire
 1 learn to respect Chinese history and culture
 2 stabilise the US financial crisis
 3 be prepared for a wave of Chinese innovation
 4 focus resources on containing China
 5 develop a commodity strategy
 6 counter China's push-back strategy
 7 pay closer attention to Africa
 8 form new alliances to counter direct Chinese military challenges
 9 expound a politically inclusive policy
Alliances old and new
 Alliances of the twentieth century
 New alliances of the twenty-first century
 the centralised powers
 the democracies
 the neutrals
 Declining alliances
 NATO
 South Korea
 Israel
Empires and Exogenous Quantum Shocks
 Geophysical risks
 The Slowing of aging
 New technology
- 12 Conflict, Disease and Climate Change
Resource Scarcity
 Commodity inflation: the nemesis of the US
 1 efficiency
 2 sustainability
 3 substitution

- 4 pragmatism
- 5 sharing solutions
- 6 reconsidering economic habits

- Nuclear power
- New fuel technology
- Competition for metals
- Food and water
- Commodities and the East-West balance of power

Polarisation

- Potential conflict zones by region

- North and South America
- Europe
- the Middle East
- India and Pakistan
- Africa
- Asia

- Depolarisation: averting conflict

- Case study: Saudi Arabia
 - oil wealth
 - religious monopoly
 - the tribal structure
 - social and structural reforms
 - effective rehabilitation

- Depolarising tensions across the world

- Border disputes
- Depolarising tensions between the US and the Islamic world
- Depolarising tensions between the US and China
- The critical mass of polarisation: danger signs

The Global balance of military power

- The emergence of new technologies and military trends
- The necessity for American military dominance
- Nuclear Proliferation
- The Achilles Heel of the US
- New force structures for future wars
- Cyber warfare
- The new space race
- Disease
- Climate change

Empire Earth

Afterword

- The story of Easter Island

Index