



# Postmodern Imperialism: Geopolitics and the Great Games

*Eric Walberg*

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## **Postmodern Imperialism: Geopolitics and the Great Games** Eric Walberg

Eric Walberg's POSTMODERN IMPERIALISM: Geopolitics and the Great Game is a riveting and radically new analysis of the imperialist onslaught which first engulfed the world in successive waves in the 19th–20th centuries and is today hurtling into its endgame. The term "Great Game" was coined in the nineteenth century, reflecting the flippancy of statesmen (and historians) personally untouched by the havoc that they wreaked. What it purported to describe was the rivalry between Russia and Britain over interests in India. But Britain was playing its deadly game across all of Eurasia, from the Balkans and Palestine to China and southeast Asia, alternately undermining and carving up "premodern" states, disrupting the lives of hundreds of millions, with consequences that endure today. With roots in the European enlightenment, shaped by Christian and Jewish cultures, and given economic rationale by industrial capitalism, the inter-imperialist competition turned the entire world into a conflict zone, leaving no territory neutral. The first "game" was brought to a close by the cataclysm of World War I. But that did not mark the end of it. Walberg resurrects the forbidden "i" word to scrutinize an imperialism now in denial, but following the same logic and with equally horrendous human costs. What he terms Great Game II then began, with America eventually uniting its former imperial rivals in an even more deadly game to destroy their common revolutionary antagonist and potential nemesis-communism. Having "won" this game, America and the new player Israel-offspring of the early games-have sought to entrench what Walberg terms "empire and a half" on a now global playing field-using a neoliberal agenda backed by shock and awe. With swift, sure strokes, Walberg paints the struggle between domination and resistance on a global canvas, as imperialism engages its two great challengers-communism and Islam, its secular and religious antidotes. Paul Atwood (War and Empire: The American Way of Life) calls it an "epic corrective". It is a "carefully argued-and most of all, cliché-smashing-road map" according to Pepe Escobar (journalist Asia Times). Rigorously documented, it is "a valuable resource for all those interested in how imperialism works, and sure to spark discussion about the theory of imperialism", according to John Bell (Capitalism and the Dialectic).

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