



Empires at War: A Short History of Modern Asia Since World War II

Francis Pike

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Empires at War gives a dramatic narrative account of how "Modern Asia" came into being. Ranging over the whole of Asia, from Japan to Pakistan, the modern history of this important region is placed in the context of the struggle between America and the Soviet Union. Francis Pike shows that America's domination of post-war Asia was a continuation of a 100-year competition for power in the region. He also argues cogently that, contrary to the largely "Western-centric" viewpoint, Asian nations were not simply the passive and biddable pawns of the superpowers, but had a political development which was both separate and unique, with a dynamic that was largely independent of the superpower conflict. And, in conclusion, the book traces the unwinding of American influence and the end of its empire, a crucial development in international history which is already having repercussions throughout the world.

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