

NIALL FERGUSON | Civilization

READ BY NIALL FERGUSON

***Civilization* is the definitive history of Western civilization's rise to global dominance—and the “killer applications” that made this improbable ascent possible.**

Western civilization's rise to global dominance is the single most important historical phenomenon of the past five centuries. Yet six hundred years ago the petty kingdoms of Western Europe seemed like miserable backwaters, ravaged by incessant war and pestilence. How did the West overtake its Eastern rivals? And has the zenith of Western power now passed?

In *Civilization: The West and the Rest*, bestselling author Niall Ferguson argues that, beginning in the fifteenth century, the West developed six powerful “killer applications” that the Rest lacked: competition, science, the rule of law, modern medicine, consumerism, and the work ethic. These innovations allowed the West to leap ahead of the Rest, and a dozen Western empires came to control the vast majority of mankind and the world economy.

Yet now, Ferguson argues, the days of Western predominance are numbered because the Rest have finally downloaded the six killer apps the West once monopolized. Boldly argued but also teeming with memorable characters, verve, and wit, this is Ferguson at his very best.

Niall Ferguson is a professor of history at Harvard University and a Senior Research Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford. He is the bestselling author of *Paper and Iron*, *The House of Rothschild*, *The Pity of War*, *The Cash Nexus*, *Empire*, *Colossus*, *The War of the World*, *The Ascent of Money*, and *High Financier*. He has also written and presented five documentary series, most recently *Civilization*.



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