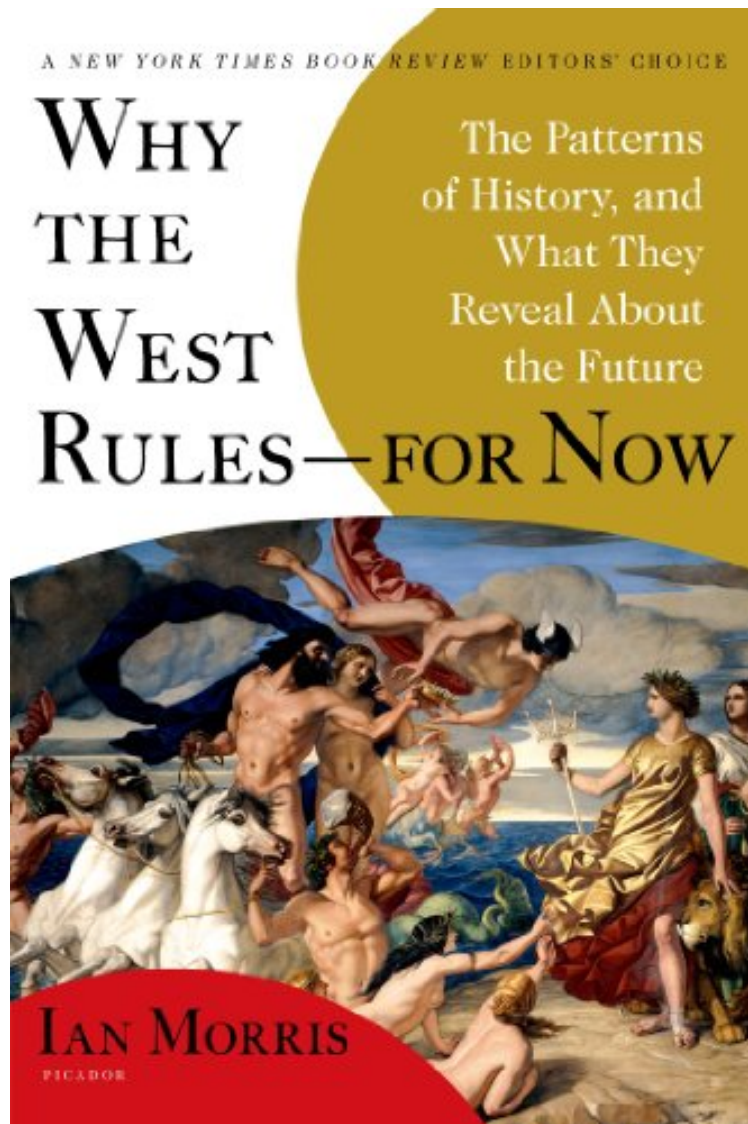


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# Why the West Rules--for Now: The Patterns of History, and What They Reveal About the Future

*Ian Morris*

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**Ian Morris : Why the West Rules--for Now: The Patterns of History, and What They Reveal About the Future** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why the West Rules--for Now: The Patterns of History, and What They Reveal About the Future:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed the broad sweep of history this book providedBy CesiumI enjoyed the broad sweep of history this book provided. Too often in history we study a small part of the world and

don't see what was going on in other parts of the world at the same time. This book gives a better idea as to how the overall world looked at different points in history. The book is easy to read and thought provoking. It can be read as a companion book to Jared Diamond's *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Spellbinding Tour de Force of the Patterns of History and Their Causes  
By Q. Publius  
This is one of the most interesting books I have read, summarizing a vast amount of research in archeology, biology, sociology, and geography. Those interested in thinking about patterns in history and comparing East and West, and various empires within East and West, will find this book quite thought provoking. The book hinges on an index of social development the author uses throughout the book to compare different societies over different periods. His appendix explains how he developed this index, and also contains a sensitivity analysis of the key variables that comprise his index, to argue that his index is unlikely to be so far off that it distorts the patterns of history and societies as he has described them throughout the book. The book is quite detailed and for that reason general readers may not enjoy it. But anyone who wants an overview of research in many social science fields should find this book quite interesting. The only mistake I found was on page 510. While the Wright brothers had their first flight in North Carolina, they were from Dayton, Ohio, and only went to North Carolina because of the high winds near the ocean at Kittyhawk, and because the sand dunes there were conducive to their experiments with gliders and then powered aircraft. But this mistake is minor and does not diminish the great accomplishment Dr. Morris has achieved in this most interesting book. Now his other books are on my reading list.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book - with one glaring gap.  
By The Anurag Bhatnagar  
Excellent book - the analysis, parameters and logic used to arrive at your results. I am an ardent student of history, and loved the book. Gripping, and "un-put down able" - if I may say so. But I think it is too focused on East as China - I would go so far as to use the word 'China syndrome' or 'China obsession'. There were equally developed societies in today's South America as well as today's India, which have been largely ignored. They were as developed on all the 4 parameters, if you care to dig deep. Sample this, if I may call it so, three small nuggets : there are only 3 oceans in the world - Pacific, Atlantic and Indian. Historians have through the centuries been so obsessed with India that they named an entire ocean after that country ... and you largely missed it. Or that Indians built a 22 kilometre bridge over sea connecting the mainland to today's Sri Lanka - clearly visible from space (you can check it on Google Earth); a civilisation that had such organisation ability ... Maps and not chaps, you said? Or the now submerged city of Dwarka off the west coast of India, which rivals Roman structures in size and scale - forget my opinion : as an archaeologist and a rational person, check out the last one which is right up your alley (FYI, Dwarka has been carbon dated to 3,200 BCE). I can give you similar examples for Mayan and Inca cultures. But I guess you get my point. Regards,  
Anurag CEO - GTNfW [www.gtnfw.org](http://www.gtnfw.org) [anuragbhat@yahoo.com](mailto:anuragbhat@yahoo.com)

A New York Times Notable Book for 2011 Sometime around 1750, English entrepreneurs unleashed the astounding energies of steam and coal, and the world was forever changed. The emergence of factories, railroads, and gunboats propelled the West's rise to power in the nineteenth century, and the development of computers and nuclear weapons in the twentieth century secured its global supremacy. Now, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, many worry that the emerging economic power of China and India spells the end of the West as a superpower. In order to understand this possibility, we need to look back in time. Why has the West dominated the globe for the past two hundred years, and will its power last? Describing the patterns of human history, the archaeologist and historian Ian Morris offers surprising new answers to both questions. It is not, he reveals, differences of race or culture, or even the strivings of great individuals, that explain Western dominance. It is the effects of geography on the everyday efforts of ordinary people as they deal with crises of resources, disease, migration, and climate. As geography and human ingenuity continue to interact, the world will change in astonishing ways, transforming Western rule in the process. Deeply researched and brilliantly argued, *Why the West Rules* spans fifty thousand years of history and offers fresh insights on nearly every page. The book brings together the latest findings across disciplines; from ancient history to neuroscience; not only to explain why the West came to rule the world but also to predict what the future will bring in the next hundred years.