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Perilous Glory: The Rise of Western Military Power

By France, John.

Yale. 1 Paperback(s), 2011. soft. Book Condition: New. Surveying the history of warfare from ancient Mesopotamia to the Gulf War, and the experience of war in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, historian John France searches here for a deeper understanding of the origins of Western war, and the reasons for its preeminence today. He finds that despite enormous cultural differences, war around the globe was conducted in distinctly similar ways right up to the pursuit of technological warfare in the 19th century. His conclusions cast doubt on entrenched attitudes about the development of military strength, the impact of culture on warfare, and particularly the future of Western dominance. The present eminence of U.S. power, argues France, is much more precarious and accidental than commonly believed. "This is a powerful book, opinionated but crisply argued, and packed with information. It's hard to think of a more impressive single-volume history of the not-only Western way of war." Sunday Telegraph (London) 438.



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