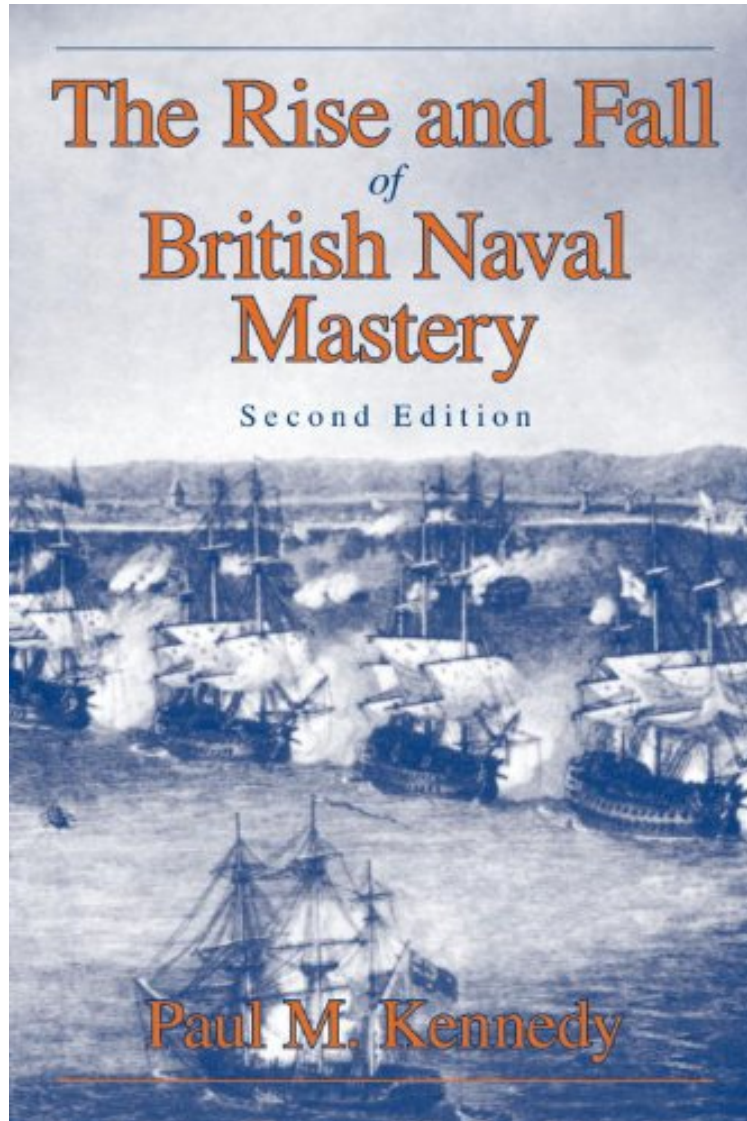


The Rise And Fall of British Naval Mastery

Paul M. Kennedy

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Paul M. Kennedy : The Rise And Fall of British Naval Mastery before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rise And Fall of British Naval Mastery:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Disturbing Book, in Many Ways By D. Chapman Without taking a definite position on Mahan or geopolitics, the book presents British naval power as a textbook example of how an island nation became first a regional naval power and then rose to global pre-eminence. The parts about how the first wave of global trade interacted with the Industrial Revolution are especially interesting. It then goes on to describe how a mixture of politics, social problems, and economic neglect weakened the British Navy, at a time when newly

industrialized countries like Germany, Japan, and America were becoming stronger. The end of the story is well known, as two Pyrrhic Victories against Germany shattered the British Empire in the 20th century. ---As an American, I find the description of how Britain in the late 1800s neglected its education system and engaged in trade policies which destroyed the physical economy to be much too close to home. This book can be read as a cautionary tale of what could happen to the United States if we are not careful.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Review By martin a urbas
Good review of British naval sea power both its rise and fall. Easy to understand does not read like a textbook

4 of 10 people found the following review helpful. MISLEADING, BIASED, YET INFORMATIVE. By SilverMalthusian
The title of this book, in my opinion, is misleading. I was expecting Specifications of British Naval Vessels, Research Development in Vessel Engineering, Naval Strategy, Naval Tactics, Seamen's skill sets equipment vis-a-vis their main opponents during periods of peace war etc during the rise fall of British Naval Mastery. Instead this book was about British Geopolitics Macro-economics the British Navy's role within that framework. As interesting as this topic is, I was disappointed because I wanted to read a different book. However, this book does a decent job in addressing what this book is really about, albeit it being biased towards Britain being some kind of Holy Nation. The Author doesn't even mention once the term "Opium War(s)" or "Concentration Camps" which the British invented during the Boer War. The Author comes across as if Britain was doing the whole World some kind of favour by expanding consolidating her interests. Very little was mentioned that Britain was emulating Portugal's Holland's lead, they were the real pioneers of Colonialism International Finance. Give me a break! I will now succinctly describe Britain's geopolitical strategy during their rise zenith: Assuming Britain was one of the top three nations in Western Europe, if the number one nation was in conflict with the number two nation, Britain would support the number two nation. If the number two nation was in conflict with the number three nation, Britain would support the number three nation. If the number one nation was in conflict with the number three nation, Britain would support the number three nation. If two out of the top three nations formed an alliance there was a conflict between them some other nation(s), Britain would support the weaker nations. While this was going on or not, Britain would expand consolidate her overseas Empire whilst always either developing the strongest Navy on the planet or maintaining the strongest Navy on the planet. Throw in some skewed diplomacy, an obsession with Naval Blockades voila, you have an enormous Empire while the rest of Western Europe was too busy asleep at the wheel to realise what was going on, even though they themselves were losing colonies all around the World to Britain. If you are wondering, how did they afford all this, the answer is that they had a very small Army, constructing vessels was not as expensive as in modern times, they invented Central Banking in 1694, the public accepted fiat currency once it was introduced no nation came even close to them in the magnitude of international trade once they got to the zenith. Pretty simple if you ask me you probably do not need to read the book anymore. On the positive side, this book is well written, broken up in chapters that are logical i.e. the different periods during the rise, zenith fall of the British Empire. Some interesting tables in regards to nation comparisons, vessels, macro-economic data etc during different periods. The improving then decline in Britain's macro-economy is also well described, discussing inflation, national debt, trade deficits/surpluses comparisons with other nations. For the Naval Strategists out there, the Author does sprinkle Mahan Mackinder throughout this book, however I found it superficial it left me wanting more. The Author also gets into the pivotal agreements over a short period of time which secured American hegemony, the passing of the baton, if you wish. Thank you Mr Kennedy for your contribution in this field, even though the title of your book was misleading you are biased.

First published in 1976, this book is the first detailed examination of the history of British sea power since A.T. Mahan's classic *The Influence of Sea Power on History*, published in 1890. In analyzing the reasons for the rise and fall of Great Britain as a predominant maritime nation in the period from the Tudors to the present day, Professor Kennedy sets the Royal Navy within a framework of national, international, economic, political and strategical considerations. To this new paperback edition the author has added a new introduction that brings the discussion of naval power up to date, with special emphasis on today's enormous U.S. Navy as the prime contemporary example of the use of naval forces to wield global influence.

"As soon as it appeared in 1976, Paul M. Kennedy's magisterial survey of the historical role and significance of British seapower was recognized by serious naval historians as a work of the first importance. The book's publication in paperback provides an opportunity to recommend it to students of international relations, for its main objective is to place British naval power in broad geopolitical context. This is by far the most important survey of British naval history since Sir Herbert Richmond's *Statesmen and Sea Power* (1946) and in some ways it is more important."
—International Historical About the Author Paul M. Kennedy is J. Richardson Dilworth Professor of History at Yale University. He regularly publishes in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Atlantic*, and many other periodicals and scholarly journals. The author of thirteen books, he is perhaps best known for *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. His most recent publication (2006) is *The Parliament of Man: The Past, Present, and Future of the United Nations*.