



# Empires According to Burbank and Cooper

by Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper

The following excerpt is from *Empires in World History* by Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper. The book was the winner of the 2011 World History Association Book Prize. Burbank and Cooper discuss how empires gained power and the ensuing effects.

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## Secondary Source:

Competing empires had to devise new **repertoires** of power. Innovations in shipbuilding, navigation, and weapons were crucial tools. Trading areas, company **monopolies**, plantations, and colonies of settlement became **staples** of overseas empires. European empire-builders could be extremely destructive – with effects beyond their intentions... The world did become more connected in this period. The operations of empire extended ties, visible in the length of trade routes and tightened business relations such that mining silver on one continent become important to the money system of another.

## Glossary:

**repertoires:** reserves or supplies  
**monopolies:** markets with only one seller who can therefore influence the pricing  
**staples:** basic, but important parts

# Empire Defined

by Conrad W. Geoffrey and Arthur A. Demarest

*Conrad W. Geoffrey is the Director of the Anthropology department at the William Hammond Mathers Museum at Indiana University and is known for his studies of Central Andean Cultures. Arthur A. Demarest is an American Anthropologist at the College of Arts and Science at Vanderbilt University best known for his studies of the Maya civilization.*

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## Secondary Source:

We define *empire* as a state encompassing a large territory and incorporating a number of previously **autonomous**, culturally **heterogeneous**, societies, one of which dominates the others. The dominant society, which has achieved this position by military force, exploits resources formerly controlled by the subordinate society. While this definition implies some sort of overarching administrative framework, that framework may take various forms, and it may be tightly organized or relatively loose.

## Glossary:

**autonomous:** having self-rule

**heterogeneous:** diverse