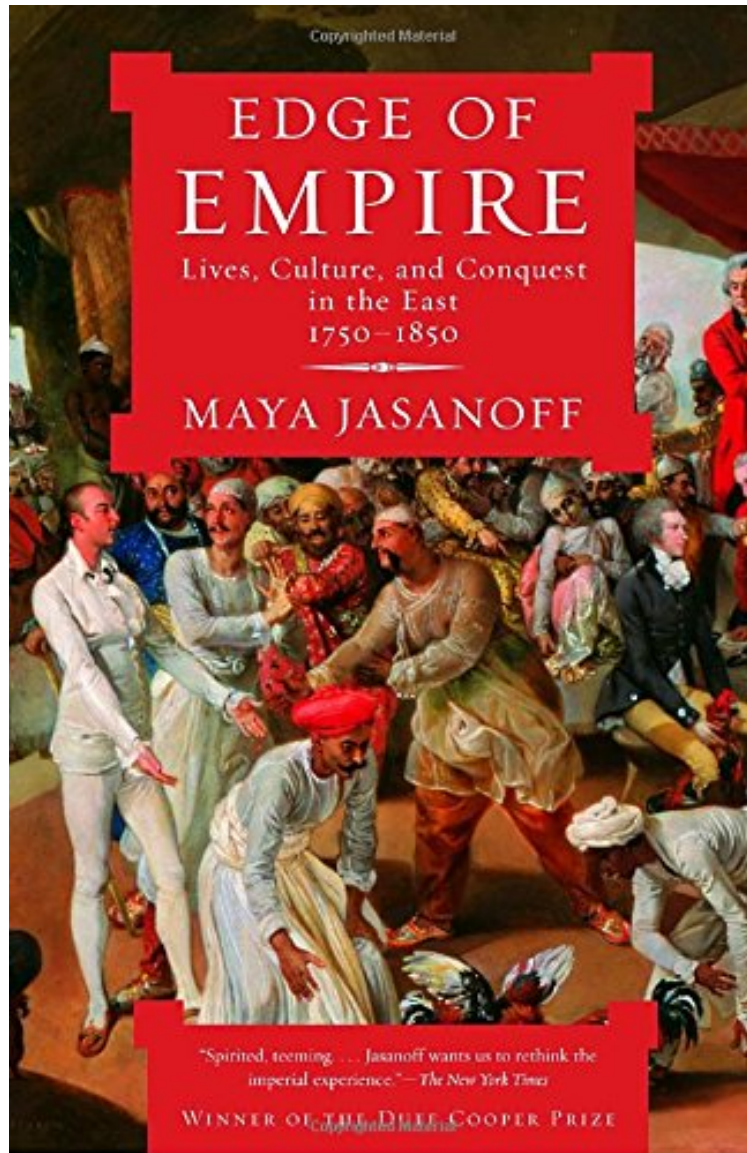


[DOWNLOAD] Edge of Empire: Lives, Culture, and Conquest in the East, 1750-1850

## Edge of Empire: Lives, Culture, and Conquest in the East, 1750-1850

Maya Jasanoff

audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#738137 in Books Vintage 2006-09-12 2006-09-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.97 x 1.03 x 5.181, .83 #File Name: 1400075467420 pages | File size: 53.Mb

**Maya Jasanoff : Edge of Empire: Lives, Culture, and Conquest in the East, 1750-1850** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Edge of Empire: Lives, Culture, and Conquest in the East, 1750-1850:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Superbly written, well researched and edited and full of ...By

DavidBSuperbly written, well researched and edited and full of original and provocative ideas. Jasanoff is rapidly becoming one of our most distinguished historians.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy ArcanusLiberoA good academic book. I have added it to my qualifying list.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Empires are made of the particular ambitions of a very ...By Fernando AmadorEmpires are made of the particular ambitions of a very few "pro-imperial" brains. Thanks to the very nature of human beings, the majority of us, do not have such pro-colonialism "neurons".

In this imaginative book, Maya Jasanoff uncovers the extraordinary stories of collectors who lived on the frontiers of the British Empire in India and Egypt, tracing their exploits to tell an intimate history of imperialism. Jasanoff delves beneath the grand narratives of power, exploitation, and resistance to look at the British Empire through the eyes of the people caught up in it. Written and researched on four continents, *Edge of Empire* enters a world where people lived, loved, mingled, and identified with one another in ways richer and more complex than previous accounts have led us to believe were possible. And as this book demonstrates, traces of that world remain tangible and topical today. An innovative, persuasive, and provocative work of history.

From Publishers WeeklyIn her debut book, Jasanoff challenges the idea that the British Empire imposed its own culture on its colonies, arguing instead that the empire thrived because it was able to "find ways of accommodating difference." As evidence, she traces the history of objects collected in India and Egypt by "border-crossers": diplomats and soldiers, "aristocrats and Grand Tourists" who, by collecting artifacts, influenced the homeland's perception of colonized countries. As she explains how various collections were put together through theft, excavation and connoisseurship, she personalizes the history by profiling those who were fueled to collect by the need for reinvention and pursuit "of social status and wealth." Jasanoff's narrative is most notable for synthesizing the study of architecture, art and commerce, as well as military and cultural history, and for digging deeper than predecessors. For example, in addition to the East India Company's infamous Robert Clive, she also profiles Clive's virtually forgotten son Edward, a much more ambitious collector. In this intriguing and readable book, Jasanoff, an assistant professor of British history at the University of Virginia, creates fertile common ground between the dominant stories put forth by postcolonial critics such as Edward Said and boosters like Niall Ferguson. 48 bw illus. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistUnlike typical historical narratives of British imperialism, Jasanoff's story only tangentially touches on its military component. It encompasses a different aspect of the empire: collecting Indian and Egyptian antiquities. In this postcolonial cultural atmosphere, that practice may seem akin to looting, but during the period Jasanoff considers, it was viewed less disapprovingly, as shown in her richly descriptive accounts of several collectors. The actual items amassed are secondary to Jasanoff's primary focus: how collecting represented the lives of people such as Robert Clive, who extended British suzerainty from its foothold in Calcutta, or the flamboyant circus-performer-cum-collector Giambattista Belzoni, an early excavator of pharaonic monuments in the 1810s. In the collectors' trades and purchases from local potentates, Jasanoff encounters a complex of interactions irreducible to a narrative of colonial oppression, although she acknowledges that the encroaching influences of Anglo-French rivalry and warfare were the fundamental facilitators of the collecting craze. A sympathetic biographer, Jasanoff is also a supple appraiser of acquisitiveness as symbolic of ambition, taste, and a certain time. Gilbert TaylorCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Spirited, teeming. . . . Jasanoff wants us to rethink the imperial experience." The New York Times"Astute and moving. . . . As original--and beautifully written--as it is compelling to read. The New York SunA historical tour de force, with wonderfully original and unusual material moulded into a convincing new narrative. Britains empire will never look the same again.The Guardian"Instead of concentrating on the 18th-and 19th-century European empire builders. . . . Jasanoff focuses on several ambitious, energetic, and eccentric men who used the East as a way to reinvent themselves....a fascinating and untold story." The Boston Globe