

Bridging World History

EPISODE: #18

Rethinking the Rise of the West

Producer: Brian Costello

Writer: Stephen Wright

Editor: Sarah Marcus

Host: Veronica Dujon

Produced by Oregon Public Broadcasting for Annenberg/CPB

TIME CODE	AUDIO
0:00:00	ANNENBERG/CPB LOGO
0:00:15	OPB LOGO
0:00:23	WEB TAG
0:00:28	<p>WILLIAM McNEILL: Well, if you think about the last 500 years more and more the rest of the world had to respond to initiatives, that were rooted in the European West. More and more what happened there allowed Westerners to travel to or impose themselves upon other parts of the world in varying ways and varying degrees. So that's why the rise of the West is a way to describe the last 500 years in a very loose and metaphorical way.</p>
0:01:12	OPENING CREDITS – THEME MUSIC
0:01:26	<p>HOST: BETWEEN ABOUT 1500 AND 1900, THE WORLD WAS TRANSFORMED. A WORLD MADE UP OF MULTIPLE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CENTERS EVOLVED INTO A GLOBAL SYSTEM DOMINATED BY EUROPE.</p>
	<p>HOST: HISTORIANS DISAGREE OVER EXPLANATIONS OF HOW THE EUROPEAN WEST ROSE TO GLOBAL DOMINATION BETWEEN THE 16TH AND 19TH CENTURIES. BUT HISTORIANS DO AGREE THAT THE "RISE OF THE WEST" IS A TOPIC OF KEY IMPORTANCE IN WORLD HISTORY.</p>
0:02:08	<p>HOST: THE RISE OF THE WEST IS THE TITLE OF AN INFLUENTIAL WORLD HISTORY TEXT. SUBTITLED A HISTORY OF THE HUMAN COMMUNITY, IT WAS WRITTEN BY HISTORIAN WILLIAM MCNEILL AND PUBLISHED IN 1963. THIS IMPORTANT WORK HAS HAD A DEEP AND LASTING IMPACT ON THE TEACHING OF WORLD HISTORY.</p>

0:02:17	<p>ANAND YANG: . . . I remember in graduate school recoiling when I first read the book . . . but it was really passed off as a world history textbook. But it was largely about Europe and Europe's domination of the world.</p> <p>And coming to it as a South Asian historian, as an Asian historian, being rather disturbed by an eminent historian passing off the story of Europe as the story of the world.</p>
0:02:54	<p>HOST: BUT BETWEEN THIS BOOK'S FIRST PUBLICATION IN THE 1960S AND SUBSEQUENT EDITIONS 25 YEARS LATER, A TRANSFORMATION IN HISTORICAL THINKING TOOK PLACE. WORLD HISTORIANS BEGAN TELLING THE STORY OF THE "RISE OF THE WEST" IN A VERY DIFFERENT WAY. THIS DRAMATIC CHANGE WAS REFLECTED IN THE TITLE OF THE WORK IN ITS LATER EDITIONS. THE ORIGINAL TITLE, <i>THE RISE OF THE WEST</i>, WAS REPLACED WITH THE ORIGINAL <i>SUBTITLE: A HISTORY OF THE HUMAN COMMUNITY</i>.</p>
	<p>HOST: THIS SEEMINGLY SIMPLE CHANGE ACTUALLY REPRESENTED A TRANSFORMATION IN HISTORICAL SCHOLARSHIP. BY THE LATE 20TH CENTURY, HISTORIANS—MCNEILL INCLUDED—NO LONGER ACCEPTED THE "RISE OF THE WEST" AS THE MAIN STORY-LINE FOR WORLD HISTORY.</p>
0:03:39	<p>ANAND YANG: And we've come a long way since the early '60s when that book was first written. And McNeill himself has come a long way since writing the book.</p>
0:03:49	<p>WILLIAM McNEILL: Well, when I wrote <i>The Rise of the West</i> I thought in terms of separate civilizations each with its own...sphere of influence and then interacting overlapping zones and movement of ideas back and forth of technologies back and forth and skills and organization back and forth.</p> <p>And now I think it's not untrue but it seems to be today it's better to think of the...totality of different civilizations lodged within a web, web of communication and transportation, that means that new experiences, new possibilities, new things can move back and forth perpetually.</p>
0:04:27	<p>HOST: UNTIL THE LATTER PART OF THE 20TH CENTURY, WORLD HISTORIANS HAD VIEWED THE "RISE OF THE WEST" AS THE <i>LOGICAL OUTCOME</i> OF PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPEAN HISTORY; AS IF IT WERE THE NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS THAT THE WEST SHOULD RISE TO WORLD DOMINION. BUT THAT RISE IS NOW MORE ACCURATELY VIEWED AS AN IMPORTANT HISTORICAL <i>PROCESS</i> TO BE EXPLAINED IN THE CONTEXT OF WORLD HISTORY; THE RESULT OF A COMPLEX SERIES OF CIRCUMSTANCES.</p>
0:04:56	<p>GRAPHICAL TRANSITION</p>
0:05:13	<p>JERRY H. BENTLEY: When you're talking about the rise of the West, one of the...big questions is when it took place. Some historians would probably say that it took place back in medieval times. Some would say that it followed from the voyages overseas of Christopher Columbus and Bartholemé Dias and...others. But there's increasingly a...school that considers the rise of the west to have taken place only after industrialization maybe the late 18th/early 19th C. when an industry made it possible for heavy-duty imperialism to emerge.</p>

0:05:55	HOST: MOST HISTORIANS VIEW THE 15TH THROUGH THE 18TH CENTURIES AS THE CRITICAL ERA IN EXPLAINING THE RISE OF THE WEST. WHAT OCCURRED DURING THIS TIME TO VIEW THIS ERA AS SO IMPORTANT?
	HOST: FOR CENTURIES, GOODS HAD BEEN TRADED ACROSS LAND AND SEA ROUTES THROUGHOUT EURASIA, AFRICA, AND THE AMERICAS.
	HOST: AS EARLY AS THE 8TH CENTURY, A WIDE-RANGING TRADING NETWORK ACROSS THE INDIAN OCEAN BASIN WAS IN PLACE. IT EXTENDED FROM SOUTH CHINA TO THE COAST OF AFRICA AND BEYOND.
	HOST: AT THE HEIGHT OF THIS NETWORK'S PROSPERITY DURING THE FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH CENTURIES, INDIA AND CHINA ACCOUNTED FOR FULLY TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC PRODUCTION. IT WAS AT THIS POINT THAT THE EUROPEANS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.
	HOST: DURING THE LATE 15TH CENTURY, EUROPEANS HAD GAINED ACCESS TO THE INDIAN OCEAN BY MAKING THE LONG TRIP AROUND THE SOUTHERN TIP OF AFRICA – THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.
	HOST: EUROPEANS GENERALLY HAD NO GOODS TO OFFER THAT INTERESTED TRADERS FROM THE WEALTHY LANDS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN BASIN. MERCHANTS FROM ENGLAND, HOLLAND, PORTUGAL, AND SPAIN EVEN ATTEMPTED TO FORCE THEIR WAY INTO ASIAN MARKETS WITH LIMITED SUCCESS.
	HOST: WHILE SEEKING A QUICKER ROUTE TO ASIA, EUROPEANS, QUITE BY ACCIDENT, STUMBLED ONTO THE AMERICAS. AS HISTORY REVEALS, IT WAS A DISCOVERY THAT PROVED UNIMAGINABLY RICH IN RESOURCES.
0:07:25	HOST: IN HIS BOOK, <i>THE WEALTH OF NATIONS</i>, THE 18TH CENTURY POLITICAL ECONOMIST ADAM SMITH WROTE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE DISCOVERIES.
0:07:34	VOICE OF ADAM SMITH: <i>"The discovery of America, and that of a passage to the East Indies by the Cape of Good Hope, are the two greatest and most important events recorded in the history of mankind ... By uniting ... the most distant parts of the world, by enabling them to relieve one another's wants, to increase one another's enjoyments, and to encourage one another's industry, their general tendency would seem to be beneficial."</i>
0:08:13	JERRY BENTLEY: Adam Smith very clearly recognized the significance of the new maritime routes for the commercial development of early modern Europe. But what he was unable to appreciate was the significance of those maritime trade routes for the development of industrial Europe.
0:08:31	HOST: THE WELDING TOGETHER OF A <i>GLOBAL</i> NETWORK OF TRADING SYSTEMS WAS ONLY POSSIBLE WITH THE CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE GLOBE AFTER 1500.

0:08:41	<p>HOST: AFTER THIS MILESTONE, THE FREQUENCY OF CONTACT BETWEEN EUROPEANS AND THE REST OF THE WORLD ACCELERATED AS THE PORTUGUESE, SPANISH, DUTCH, ENGLISH AND FRENCH EXPANDED THEIR MARITIME EXPLORATIONS.</p>
	<p>HOST: BY THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY, ENGLAND WAS IN THE THROES OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. AND THE READY AVAILABILITY OF A CRUCIAL NATURAL RESOURCE FUELED THE ENGLISH ECONOMIC PROGRESS.</p>
	<p>HOST: COAL WAS ESSENTIAL TO THE GROWTH OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, AND SOME OF EUROPE'S LARGEST AND MOST ACCESSIBLE COAL DEPOSITS WERE LOCATED IN ENGLAND.</p>
0:09:16	<p>HOST: THESE DEPOSITS LAY RELATIVELY CLOSE TO THE SURFACE, WITHIN EASY REACH OF WATER TRANSPORT, CENTERS OF COMMERCE AND POOLS OF SKILLED LABOR.</p>
	<p>HOST: WITH A DWINDLING SUPPLY OF WOOD FUEL, COAL PROVIDED A KEY SOURCE OF ENERGY VITAL TO THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF ENGLAND AND EVENTUALLY, ALL OF EUROPE.</p>
0:09:36	<p>HOST: A SUCCESSION OF EVENTS HELPED TRANSFORM ENGLAND FROM AN AGRARIAN AND HANDICRAFT-CENTERED ECONOMY INTO AN-INDUSTRIAL ONE.</p>
	<p>HOST: TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY IMPROVED, GIVING RISE TO ELABORATE NETWORKS.</p>
	<p>HOST: THE COTTON INDUSTRY RAPIDLY MECHANIZED, AND THE INVENTION OF TEXTILE MACHINES INCREASED PRODUCTION. STEAM ENGINES DRAMATICALLY INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY. FIRST IRON AND THEN STEEL PRODUCTION SKYROCKETED.</p>
	<p>HOST: THE RHYTHM OF WORK EVOLVED IN ENGLAND. THE OLD RHYTHM—BASED ON THE SEASONS, THE SUN AND THE WEATHER—WAS REPLACED WITH A NEW CADENCE OF CLOCKS, MACHINES AND SHOP RULES.</p>
0:10:18	<p>HOST: BY THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY, ENGLAND HAD DEVELOPED A BIGGER STAKE IN TRADE WITH ASIA.</p>
	<p>HOST: THE WEAKNESS OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE IN 18TH-CENTURY INDIA HAD CREATED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ENGLISH MERCHANTS. THE BRITISH EAST INDIA COMPANY, A PRIVATE ASSOCIATION OF MERCHANTS CHARTERED BY THE CROWN, ESTABLISHED TRADING RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDEPENDENT INDIAN RULERS.</p>

0:10:40	<p>HOST: ROBERT CLIVE HAD DEFEATED THE RULER OF BENGAL IN THE MID-18TH CENTURY AND TAKEN CONTROL OF THAT INDIAN STATE. THIS ALLOWED THE EAST INDIA COMPANY TO GAIN <i>POLITICAL</i> AS WELL AS ECONOMIC POWER IN INDIA.</p>
	<p>HOST: OVER THE NEXT CENTURY, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT GRADUALLY ERODED THE POSITION OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY. THE CROWN INCREASINGLY ASSERTED ITS AUTHORITY OVER INDIAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL LIFE.</p>
	<p>HOST: BY THE MID-19TH CENTURY, CHINA WAS ALSO FALLING VICTIM TO BRITISH IMPERIALISM. IN 1842, BRITISH GUNBOATS FORCED THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A SERIES OF HUMILIATING CONCESSIONS. THESE CONCESSIONS UNDERMINED THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE QING DYNASTY.</p>
	<p>HOST: IN 1853, A WARSHIP FROM THE UNITED STATES ENDED JAPAN'S PROTECTIVE ISOLATION, BY FORCING THE JAPANESE TO ENGAGE IN DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. THIS USHERED-IN AN ERA OF MAJOR UPHEAVAL IN <i>THAT</i> COUNTRY.</p>
	<p>HOST: AND, NEAR THE END OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES AND FOURTEEN EUROPEAN POWERS HELD A CONFERENCE IN BERLIN. AT THIS CONFERENCE, THEY DEvised A PROCESS OF DIVIDING-UP THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA AMONG THEM.</p>
0:11:58	<p>HOST: IN ALL THESE WAYS, EUROPEAN PEOPLES, AS THEY HAD EARLIER IN THE AMERICAS, IMPOSED THEIR RULE ON MOST OF AFRICA, AND MUCH OF ASIA.</p>
	<p>HOST: INDUSTRIALIZATION HAD ALSO EQUIPPED EUROPEANS WITH THE MOST EFFECTIVE TOOLS—AND THE MOST LETHAL WEAPONS—AVAILABLE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.</p>
	<p>HOST: THE BALANCE OF POWER WAS NOW DECISIVELY IN EUROPEAN HANDS.</p>
0:12:22	<p>GRAPHICAL TRANSITION</p>
0:12:40	<p>HOST: THIS IS THE TRADITIONAL STORYLINE OF THE "RISE OF THE WEST," EXPLAINING EUROPEAN GLOBAL DOMINANCE IN THE 19TH CENTURY. IT BEGINS WITH THE DESIRE FOR TRADE WITH ASIA THAT FUELED EXPLORATION AND COLONIZATION, AND ENDS WITH THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND IMPERIALISM.</p>
	<p>HOST: THIS VIEW OF THE "RISE OF THE WEST" PREVAILED AMONG HISTORIANS UNTIL WELL AFTER THE END OF WORLD WAR II.</p>

0:13:05	HOST: IN THE WAKE OF WORLD WAR II, NEW POLITICAL ALIGNMENTS TOOK SHAPE AROUND THE WORLD. THE FORCES OF ANTI-COLONIALISM GATHERED STRENGTH TO RESIST FORMER IMPERIAL POWERS.
	HOST: AS A RESULT, IN THE POSTWAR ERA, MANY FORMER EUROPEAN COLONIES BECAME INDEPENDENT.
	HOST: THE <i>EXPECTATION</i> OF THE WESTERN WORLD WAS THAT THESE NEWLY DECOLONIZED COUNTRIES...AS WELL AS OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD...WOULD MODERNIZE BY BECOMING MORE LIKE THE WEST.
	HOST: SCHOLARS DEVELOPED <i>MODERNIZATION THEORY</i> IN THE 1950S AND 60S WHICH SUPPORTED THIS "WEST IS BEST" IDEA.
0:13:45	HOST: BY THE 1960S, THE STRUGGLES OF COLONIES TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE INSPIRED SOME SCHOLARS TO QUESTION THE WEST AS A MODEL FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
	HOST: DURING THIS TIME, SOCIOLOGIST IMMANUEL WALLERSTEIN DEVELOPED AN EXPLANATION FOR THE RISE OF THE WEST THAT WAS BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF A "WORLD SYSTEM" THAT EMERGED WITH EUROPE AS THE CORE AND ITS COLONIES AS THE PERIPHERY.
0:14:10	ANAND YANG: World systems theory is a theory developed in the '60s and '70s in the West, that attempts to look at the entire world, and looks at the entire world in terms of the present. So it tries to explain why has the world become what it has from 1500 onwards. And it sees it largely in terms of the relentless drive of capitalism to reshape the world, and as capitalism develops, so does labor. And what it looks at is the world over an extended period of time.
0:14:44	HOST: WORLD SYSTEMS THEORY WAS BUILT, IN PART, UPON THE IDEAS OF THE 19TH CENTURY THEORIST, KARL MARX. MARX, LIKE ADAM SMITH BEFORE HIM, WAS FASCINATED WITH CAPITALISM AND THE DISCOVERIES THAT HELPED LEAD TO ITS GROWTH.
	HOST: HOWEVER, MARX, WHO WAS EXPLAINING THE SOURCES OF-REVOLUTION, LOOKED AT THE CAPITALIST EXPANSION OF EUROPE THROUGH VERY DIFFERENT EYES.
0:15:09	VOICE OF KARL MARX: <i>"The discovery of America, the rounding of the Cape opened up fresh ground for the rising bourgeoisie. The East Indian and Chinese markets, the colonization of America, trade with the colonies, the increase in the means of exchange and in commodities generally, gave to commerce, to navigation, to industry an impulse never before known, and thereby, to the revolutionary element in the tottering feudal society, a rapid development."</i>

0:15:45	HOST: WORLD SYSTEMS THEORY DRAWS ON THE IDEAS OF MARX AND OTHER EUROPEAN CRITICS OF CAPITALISM.
0:15:52	ANAND YANG: The Marxist part of it being interest in capitalism, interest in the divisions in labor that capitalism brings about, interest in the hegemony that is exerted by countries that control capital. And so, it's very much a systems, a theory that looks at the entire world in terms of the modern history of capitalism.
0:16:20	HOST: WORLD SYSTEMS THEORISTS EXPLAIN THE RISE OF THE WEST AS A PRODUCT OF CAPITALISM AND THE EXPLOITATION OF LABOR BOTH WITHIN EUROPE AND AROUND THE GLOBE. IN CONTRAST, THE TRADITIONAL NARRATIVE SEES EUROPE'S DOMINANCE AS A LOGICAL – AND ON THE WHOLE, POSITIVE -- OUTCOME OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.
	HOST: THESE DIFFERENCES ARE VIVIDLY APPARENT IN THE CONTRASTING VIEWS OF TWO EMINENT SCHOLARS—ANDRE GUNDER FRANK AND DAVID LANDES. LANDES' BOOK, <i>THE WEALTH AND POVERTY OF NATIONS</i>, AND FRANK'S, <i>RE-ORIENT: GLOBAL ECONOMY IN THE ASIAN AGE</i> WERE BOTH PUBLISHED IN 1998. BOTH ADDRESSED THE RISE OF THE WEST, BUT WITH COMPLETELY DIFFERENT APPROACHES.
0:17:09	PATRICK MANNING: Landes' view of <i>Wealth and Poverty of Nations</i> was that the European nations had particular technical strengths and institutional organization that enabled them again and again to develop new technologies, to build the markets with...of the goods that they sold and to expand in their influence in the world economy in the period from the first maritime voyages around the world. And that the other parts of the world had no equivalent contribution to make . . .
0:17:49	HOST: LANDES CLAIMS THAT EUROPEANS POSSESSED INHERENT CHARACTERISTICS—including AN EXTRAORDINARY WORK ETHIC—THAT LED THEM TO WORLD DOMINANCE.
	HOST: IN CONTRAST, FRANK'S BACKGROUND IN <i>WORLD SYSTEMS</i> THEORY SHAPED HIS VIEWS OF THE RISE OF THE WEST.
0:18:06	PAT MANNING: So Frank's book with a...cleverly chosen title <i>Reorient</i> is to reemphasize the role of the Orient in the world economy to argue that the economy of China and the Qing Empire especially was, growing. It's an attempt to argue a worldwide focus in the economy and to that degree he emphasizes the silver trade, something where research is recently...really showed how from the late 16 th C. a kind of globe encompassing silver trade, tied together, all...different regions of the world.
0:18:46	HOST: FRANK CONTENDS THAT SOME HISTORIANS ARE BLINDED BY THEIR OWN ETHNOCENTRIC BIASES...AND THEREFORE FAIL TO SEE THE RECENT ERA OF EUROPEAN DOMINATION IN ITS PROPER CONTEXT.
0:18:58	HOST: HE EMPHASIZES THAT CHINA HAD LONG BEEN THE WORLD'S PRIMARY SOURCE OF WEALTH AND TRADE...AND THAT EUROPEANS HAD LONG SOUGHT ENTRY INTO

	THRIVING ASIAN TRADE NETWORKS.
	HOST: FRANK POINTS TO A VITAL AND SOPHISTICATED TRADING SYSTEM IN INDIA LONG BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF EUROPEANS...AND DESCRIBES THE INDIAN OCEAN AS HAVING BEEN A HOTBED OF CAPITALISM.
0:19:22	PAT MANNING: The turning point is...some place in late 18 th to early 19 th C. The phrase that Frank used was that Europe got a ticket or hitched the ride on the Asian economic train that Europeans as traders around the outside of the Asian economy were at a time when there was a cyclical downturn in the...Asian economy and the Europeans were able to gather military power and economic power and some place it that turn of the 19 th C. to begin to expand at the expense of the Asian economies.
0:20:02	HOST: MOVING BEYOND THE POLARIZED POSTURES OF THE LANDES—FRANK DEBATE, SCHOLARS TRAINED IN THE HISTORIES OF CHINA, INDIA AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD BEYOND EUROPE HAVE TAKEN UP THE CHALLENGE OF EXPLAINING THE RISE OF THE WEST.
0:20:15	HOST: SOME HISTORIANS HAVE ARGUED THAT THE DIVERGENCE BETWEEN CHINA AND EUROPE, HAD LITTLE TO DO WITH ANY PRE-EXISTING SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, OR POLITICAL CONDITIONS. THEY MAINTAIN THAT THE PRIMARY DISTINCTION WAS IN THE ABILITY TO CONTROL MECHANICAL FORMS OF ENERGY—SUCH AS THE STEAM ENGINE.
	HOST: ON THE WHOLE, IT APPEARS THAT CHINA’S RELATIVE STABILITY MAY HAVE MADE IT MORE RESISTANT TO ADOPTING UNTRIED TECHNOLOGIES.
	HOST: MANY HISTORIANS HOLD THAT THE GREAT DIVERGENCE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST HAPPENED ONLY AFTER THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION GAVE THE BRITISH THE ABILITY TO OVERCOME ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CONSTRAINTS ON FURTHER GROWTH – GROWING POPULATION DEPENDENT ON LIMITED ARABLE LANDS.
	HOST: THE BRITISH WERE ABLE TO OVERCOME THESE CONSTRAINTS BECAUSE OF THEIR CONVENIENT SUPPLY OF COAL AND THEIR ACCESS TO ABUNDANT RESOURCES IN THE NEW WORLD THROUGH THEIR COLONIES.
	HOST: THROUGH CAREFUL <i>COMPARATIVE</i> STUDY OF CRUCIAL FACTORS SUCH AS THE PROXIMITY OF COAL DEPOSITS OR THE ROLE PLAYED BY COLONIES IN SUPPORTING THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND THE RISE OF THE WEST, THESE SCHOLARS HAVE PUSHED THE DEBATE TO AN EVEN MORE COMPLEX AND SOPHISTICATED LEVEL.
0:21:29	GRAPHICAL TRANSITION

0:21:46	<p>HOST: COMPARATIVE WORLD HISTORIANS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEEPEN DISCUSSION OF THE RISE OF THE WEST BY PLACING EXPLANATIONS OF IT IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT. CONTEMPORARY HISTORIANS ALSO USE CONCEPTUAL TOOLS THAT ALLOW A MUCH MORE COMPLEX UNDERSTANDING OF HISTORICAL CAUSATION.</p>
	<p>HOST: THREE KEY CONCEPTS ARE USEFUL IN ANALYZING THE CAUSES BEHIND-THE RISE OF THE WEST: CONTINGENCY, ACCIDENT, AND CONJUNCTURE.</p>
	<p>HOST: THE IDEA OF CONTINGENCY—AS IT PERTAINS TO THE WEST’S RISE TO POWER—IS THAT THE WEST’S ASCENDANCY WAS <i>DEPENDENT</i> ON OTHER DEVELOPMENTS...</p>
	<p>HOST: ...OTHER DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAPPENED <i>INDEPENDENTLY</i> ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD, AND COULD HAVE TAKEN ANY NUMBER OF PATHS—MEANING THE RISE OF THE WEST <i>WAS NOT</i> INEVITABLE.</p>
0:22:36	<p>HOST: FOR EXAMPLE, AS ONE SCHOLAR HAS POINTED OUT ... THE TREMENDOUS BENEFIT EUROPEANS RECEIVED BY THE SO-CALLED “DISCOVERY” OF THE AMERICAS AND SAILING AROUND THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE WAS <i>CONTINGENT</i> ON OTHER FACTORS. AS IT HAPPENED, THEY FOUND VAST AMOUNTS OF SILVER IN THE AMERICAS THEY COULD USE TO BUY ASIAN GOODS, AND A SUPPLY OF SLAVES IN AFRICA TO WORK NEW WORLD PLANTATIONS.</p>
	<p>HOST: IN THIS WAY, EUROPE’S SUCCESS IN THOSE ENDEAVORS—AND THEIR EVENTUAL DOMINANCE—WAS <i>CONTINGENT</i> ON THESE <i>OTHER</i> CONDITIONS <i>OUTSIDE</i> OF EUROPE.</p>
	<p>HOST: AN EXAMPLE OF A HISTORICAL <i>ACCIDENT</i> IS THE READY AVAILABILITY OF COAL IN ENGLAND AT THE DAWN OF INDUSTRIALIZATION.</p>
0:23:20	<p>JERRY BENTLEY: Well, there was plenty of coal in China as well as in England. The problem was that the principal deposits of coal in China were way the heck off in the northwestern part of the country just sparsely populated and not convenient to people who could make use of it. Plus it was so far away it was uneconomical even to think about transporting it to regions where people could have made use of it. In the England on the other hand, the coal deposits were situated very conveniently in the neighborhood of people who were able to put it to good use and develop an...industrial base with it.</p>
0:23:58	<p>HOST: FINALLY, THE IDEA OF <i>CONJUNCTURE</i>.</p>
	<p>HOST: A <i>CONJUNCTURE</i> IS A COMBINATION OF EVENTS HAPPENING INDEPENDENTLY, THAT THEN INTERACT TO CREATE A UNIQUE HISTORICAL MOMENT.</p>
	<p>HOST: SCHOLARS GIVE THE EXAMPLE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATION STATES AND INDUSTRIALIZATION—BOTH OCCURRING IN EUROPE.</p>

	HOST: OVER TIME, THE NATION-STATE DEVELOPED AS THE CHIEF FORM OF POLITICAL ORGANIZATION IN EUROPE.
	HOST: INDUSTRIALIZATION AS AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM HAD ITS ORIGINS IN EUROPE ALSO.
	HOST: BUT, THE <i>DEVELOPMENT</i> OF EACH WAS <i>INDEPENDENT</i> OF THE OTHER.
	HOST: YET, THESE <i>TWO</i> DEVELOPMENTS EVENTUALLY <i>CAME TOGETHER</i> TO PRODUCE A POWERFUL WORLDWIDE FORCE—ECONOMICALLY AND MILITARILY.
	HOST: THIS WAS <i>CONJUNCTURE</i>.
0:24:48	HOST: CONTINGENCY, ACCIDENT, AND CONJUNCTURE ALL COME TOGETHER TO CREATE A MORE COMPLEX LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING AND A MORE SOPHISTICATED EXPLANATION FOR THE RISE OF THE WEST.
	HOST: AND THESE CONCEPTUAL TOOLS ALSO ENCOURAGE WORLD HISTORIANS TO EXAMINE THE PERIOD OF THE RISE OF THE WEST FROM ENTIRELY NEW PERSPECTIVES.
0:25:03	WILLIAM MCNEILL: An historian of course, lives through time himself and the world changes in the course of a lifetime as long as mine quite drastically, really very drastically so that your awareness, your sensibility is your expectations, your consciousness will alter if you keep reading and keep listening and keep talking to people across 60 or 80 years very considerably so that the observer has a...has where a platform which is constantly transformed by the very fact that he's alive. It's a new world but it's the same principle. We are communicating with the people around us, the people around us communicate with the people around them. It's a web that's been there from the very beginning of humankind and it's kept us as one species, it's kept us as one adventure upon earth. So you're never the same twice. It... No day you're quite the same person. Your sensibilities and what you can see in the world will alter depending on what you're looking for, and of course history changes as well so you're looking back upon a change where these... the processes were constantly going on. Your sensibilities constantly changed and thus history will always going to have to be rewritten—always.
0:26:35	HOST: WILLIAM MCNEILL'S LANDMARK WORK, <i>THE RISE OF THE WEST</i>, WAS BUT THE BEGINNING OF A LONG PATH TOWARD UNDERSTANDING AN IMPORTANT CHAPTER IN HUMAN HISTORY. BUT IT IS ONLY ONE PATH OF MANY.
	HOST: THIS CHAPTER CONTINUES TO BE REWRITTEN, AND THERE IS, ASSUREDLY, MORE TO COME.
0:26:57	WEB TAG

0:26:58	PROGRAM CREDITS
0:27:33	SPECIAL THANKS
0:27:48	OPB LOGO
0:27:55	ANNENBERG LOGO
0:28:10	1-800 ORDER TAG
0:28:25	END