
Full text not available from this repository.


**Abstract**

The study of decline in history deserves as much attention as progress, and yet there are very few comparative studies available. This book fills that gap. Drawing on the works of Immanuel Wallerstein, Fernand Braudel, Michael Mann and Jonathan Israel to inform his approach, Thomson examines the experience of decline in history with particular reference to Europe. He argues that the history of Afro–Asian and European civilizations has been characterized by a slow diffusion of cultural and technical skills which has occasioned repeated cycles of progress and decline. The European variant of this dynamic was shaped by its unique qualities of political pluralism and economic dynamism, resulting in declines that were 'micro' rather than 'macro' in character.

Thomson develops his argument through a structured narrative of economic and technical change in European history from the fall of Rome and the decline of Byzantium to Italy’s declines and to those of Portugal and Spain. Within Spain, the decline of Castile is distinguished from those of Andalucia and Aragon; Thomson shows that the final decline of Andalucia and Aragon in the seventeenth century, rather than being a specifically Spanish crisis, was part of a general upheaval affecting the whole of the western Mediterranean and much of central Europe.

**Item Type:** Book

**Schools and Departments:** School of History, Art History and Philosophy > History

**Subjects:** D History General and Old World > D History (General)

**Depositing User:** James Thomson

**Date Deposited:** 06 Feb 2012 20:10

**Last Modified:** 20 Feb 2013 09:47

**URI:** [http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/id/eprint/24406](http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/id/eprint/24406)
You are using an outdated, unsupported browser. Upgrade to a modern browser such as Chrome, FireFox, Safari or Edge for a more complete experience.

wizdom.ai © 2018 Help - About - Contact - Download - Terms - Privacy - Free Trial T&Cs. Open Access Trends. European history 2009 scoring guidelines. Question 5 Historical Background. Material in this section is derived from the following texts: Mortimer Chambers, The Western Experience Lynn Hunt, The Making of the West Since 1340—Peoples and Cultures John Merriman, A History of Modern Europe John McKay, A History of Western Society Since 1300 R. R. Palmer, A History of the Modern World Jackson Spielvogel, Western Civilization Since 1300 The purpose of this question, was to investigate the phenomenon of economic decline on the part of two major European powers by the end of the seventeenth century. Analysis is mature and insightful, connecting historical events of the sixteenth century to economic decline in the seventeenth century. Part 3 Community and class: population, change, labour markets and working class militancy - the regions around Birmingham and St Etienne, 1840-1880, Michael Hanagan; going forward in reverse gear - culture, economy and political economy in the demographic transition of a Sicilian rural town, Jane Schneider and Peter Schneider; the history of migration and fertility decline - the view from the road, Leslie Page Moch numbers - social welfare legislation and fertility decline in Western Europe, Lynn Lees. Part 5 Postscript: movements in time - an historian's context of declining fertility, David Levine. show more. Rating details. 1 rating.