In the late 18th century, the political economist Adam Smith predicted an eventual equalisation of power between the conquering West and the conquered non-West. Demonstrating Smith's continued relevance to understanding China's extraordinary rise, Arrighi examines the events that have brought it about, and the increasing dependence of US wealth and power on Chinese imports and purchases of US Treasury bonds. He traces how the recent US attempt to bring into existence the first truly global empire in world history was done in order to counter China's spectacular economic success of the 1990s, and how the US' disastrous failure in Iraq has made China the true winner of the US War on Terror. Smith's vision of a world market society based on greater equality among the world's civilisations is now more likely than at any time since "The Wealth of Nations" was published in 1776. In the 21st century, China may well become again the kind of non-capitalist market economy that Smith described, under totally different domestic and world-historical conditions.

The Netherlands Indies and The Great War, 1914-1918
By Kees van Dijk

In the first book-length study in English of the Netherlands Indies during the First World War, Kees van Dijk examines the impact of the Great War on the political and economic constellation of the Dutch East Indies. Special attention is given to relations with the mother country, developments in the colonial export sector, the position of the Islamic nationalist movement and the Netherlands Indies as a smuggling station used by Indian revolutionaries and German agents. World War One had just broken out, but colonial authorities in the Netherlands Indies heaved a sigh of relief. The colonial export sector had not collapsed and war offered new economic prospects, representatives from the Islamic nationalist movement had prayed for God to bless the Netherlands but had not seized upon the occasion to incite unrest. Furthermore, the colonial government, impressed by such shows of loyalty, embarked upon a campaign to create a "native militia", an army of Javanese to assist in repulsing a possible Japanese invasion. Yet there were other problems: pilgrims stranded in Mecca, the pro-German disposition of most Indonesian Muslims because of the involvement of Turkey in the war, and above all the status of the Netherlands Indies as a smuggling station used by Indian revolutionaries and German agents to subvert British rule in Asia. By 1917 the optimism of the first war years had disappeared. Trade restrictions, the war at sea, and a worldwide lack of teenage caused export opportunities to dwindle. Communist propaganda had radicalised the nationalist movement. In 1918 it seemed that the colony might cave in. Exports had ceased. Famine was a very real danger. There was increasing unrest within the colonial population and the army and navy. Colonial authorities turned to the nationalist movement for help, offering them drastic political concessions, forgotten as soon as the war ended. The political and economic independence gained by the Netherlands Indies, a result of problems in communications with the mother country, was also lost with the end of the war. Kees van Dijk examines how in 1917 the atmosphere of optimism in the Netherlands Indies changed to one of unrest and dissatisfaction, and how after World War One the situation stabilised to resemble pre-war political and economic circumstances.

The Indian Uprising of 1857-6: Prisons, Prisoners and Rebellion
By Clare Anderson
Anthem Press. 2007. ISBN 978 1 84331 295 6

During the military, social and economic unrest that spread across North India during the period 1857-8, mutineers and rebels targeted dozens of colonial jails. In what was the largest mass jail break in the history of the British Empire they set free over 20,000 prisoners free. Until now, the scale, nature and impact of this phenomenon has remained unexplored.

This fascinating book, based on extensive archival research in Britain and India, examines why mutineer-rebels chose to attack prisons and release prisoners, discusses the impact of the destruction of the jails on British penal policy in mainland India, considers the relationship between India and its penal settlements in Southeast Asia, re-examines Britain's decision to settle the Andaman Islands as a penal colony in 1858, and re-evaluates the experiences of mutineer-rebel convicts there. As such this book makes an important contribution to histories of the mutiny-rebellion, British colonial South Asia, British expansion in the Indian Ocean and incarceration and transportation.

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