

The west



Your full April 21, What is the "secret of the west"? Why has it been able to dominate the world?

Duiker and Spielvogel assert that history has it that many areas of the world saw crisis and dominance, and west has been a part of this. The rise of the west has been "the most dominant aspect of world history in recent centuries" (Duiker and Spielvogel). Europe has been the main region where history has seen capitalism and the rise of the west. The main reason behind this was the religion of Christianity which played a main role in the development of the west. Many scholars have agreed that since Christianity embraced truth and logic as compared to other religions, it helped in the development of science and capitalism. Most of the people who led this progress were religious Christians. This was the 15th century when huge developmental progress was driven by the Christian Europeans and this progress made the west dominate the world politically, economically, culturally and religiously. Conquering the Muslim regions in East and bringing Muslims' technology to Europe was the biggest reason for development in west. These crusades brought especially the medical knowledge and technology into Europe which was initially the expertise of the Muslims. Aristotle and Plato were leading scientists of that era. The devastation of Baghdad in 1258 AD; the Naval Crusade and the atrocious slavery of West Africans; the attacks on Cape Bojador; the invasion of Christian armies in Spain; and, the collapse of Granada led to the downfall of the Islamic civilization which handed over its best discoveries and scientific knowledge to the west. Royal marriages linking Spain and Hapsburg in 1500; Spain becoming a global Christian empire; the demolition of Al-Andulus; a following Crusade against Ceduta, a Muslim trading center, in 1415; the motivation

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given to the Portuguese by the Church to fight against the Muslims; the Crusades of Vasco da Gama in 1500s to conquer Africa and India; the creation of a New Order, Protestantism, by the Church, which made the Protestant countries displace Catholic Spain and Portugal; all of these were a chain of events leading to the dominance of the west. Europeans brought the gunpowder technology in from the Mongols and utilized it in the creation of weapons. What advantaged this were the modern trade routes of the west financed by capital owners- the Church and Jews. The development of weaponry in the west enabled it to conquer small countries and enlarge the kingdom. Western technologies and their incorporation in all countries quietly enabled the western culture and values to sneak into these countries thus strengthening their roots in their cultures and becoming a reason for west's dominance. Many countries like Japan have been accepting western attitudes without destroying their own cultural identities but still there are a lot of third world countries that have been threatened by the invasion of western culture in their societies which they have not been able to combat because of their struggle to come at par with the globalization of the world. English has continued to grow as world language. These are some of the reasons why west has been able to dominate the world.

Works Cited

Duiker, William J., and Jackson S. Spielvogel. World History Volume II Since 1500. USA: Thomson Wadsworth, 1994.