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FINALIST Winner of the Alfred and Fay Chandler Book Award The empire of cotton was, from the beginning, a fulcrum of constant global struggle between slaves and planters, merchants and statesmen, workers and factory owners. Sven Beckert makes clear how these forces ushered in the world of modern capitalism, including the vast wealth

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Deeply researched and eminently readable, "Empire of Cotton" gives

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new insight into the relentless expansion of global capitalism. With graceful prose and a clear and compelling argument, Beckert not only charts the expansion of cotton capitalism. . . he addresses the conditions of enslaved workers in the fields and wage workers in the factories.

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In his study of the expansion of the Cotton Empire, Sven Beckert continues drawing parallels between what was the first world-encompassing trade product, and modern globalism. The main statement of chapter 8, which he puts forth, is that cotton trade was the predecessor of the global economy as we know it, and served as a foundation for numerous practices and economic institutions.

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This subject is thoroughly researched in Sven Beckert ' s book, called “ Empire of Cotton: A Global History. ” It reviews and criticizes capitalist practices throughout its history through the prism of the cotton trade, observing its evolution from humble regional trade and practices to massive multinational business.

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Empire of Cotton: A Global History: Written by Sven ... Beckert follows cotton through a staggering spatial and chronological scope. Spanning five thousand years of cotton ' s history, with a particular focus on the seventeenth to twentieth centuries, Empire of Cotton is a tale of the spread of industrialization and the rise of modern global capitalism. Through emphasizing the international nature of the cotton industry, Beckert exemplifies how history of the commodity and global history are ideally suited to each other.

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Empire of Cotton: A Global History by Sven Beckert (2015 ...



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The cotton industry is fundamental to the development of global capitalism and broadly shaped the world we live in today. It is therefore important to realise the extent to which this depended on the militarisation of trade, massive land expropriation, genocide and slavery. This book refers to this system as ‘ War capitalism ’ and argues that the use of armed force by European states to reconfigure the world's cotton industry was a precondition for the industrial revolution.

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By multiple measures—the sheer numbers employed, the value of output, profitability—the cotton empire had no parallel. One author boldly estimated that in 1862, fully 20 million people...

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## Empire of Cotton - The Atlantic

At the heart of Harvard history professor Sven Beckert ' s award-winning book, “ Empire of Cotton: A Global History, ” is a simple but compelling syllogism: the wealthy, capitalist world we Americans live in today was created by the Industrial Revolution; the Industrial Revolution was driven by massive productivity gains in textile manufacturing; cotton was the essential raw ingredient that powered textile manufacturing.

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## Empire of Cotton: A Global History: Beckert, Sven ...

Beckert painstakingly narrates how cotton became the first global

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commodity and how it shaped and reshaped lives of peasants, workers and merchants across the world. It is astonishing to learn how Britain became the capital of the cotton empire, without growing cotton, without the expertise of spinning and weaving and without domestic demand.

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Empire of Cotton: A New History of Global Capitalism ...

The epic story of the rise and fall of the empire of cotton, its centrality to the world economy, and its making and remaking of global capitalism. Cotton is so ubiquitous as to be almost invisible, yet understanding its history is key to understanding the origins of modern capitalism. Sven Beckert's rich, fascinating book tells the story of how, in a remarkably brief period, European entrepreneurs and powerful

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statesmen recast the world's most significant manufacturing industry, combining ...

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But the book that has made the biggest impression on me is Empire of Cotton: A Global History by Harvard History Professor Sven Beckert, written in 2015. In its explanation of the economic system of cotton, it is reminiscent of Albert Speer ' s book Inside the Third Reich, with its clinical dissection of the essence of evil.

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Empire of Cotton | Edelman

Yet while Empire of Cotton is a global story, the book makes it clear that the United States and its particular ability to supply (via a specific kind of slavery) massive amounts of cotton at a crucial point in history

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form crucial pivot points of that story.

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