Jan Morris

PAX BRITANNICA

The Climax of an Empire

Read by Roy McMillan

PAX BRITANNICA • 2
Introduction by Jan Morris

Chapter 1: The Heirs of Rome

Chapter 2: Palm and Pine

Chapter 3: Life-lines
Chapter 4: Migrations

2: Emigration to the Empire was officially popular.
3: If the Empire dispersed the British...
4: As for the flora and fauna...
5: It multiplied so fast that its progeny became a plague...
6: Saddest of all, in their irrepressible impulse to control...

Chapter 5: Pioneers

2: It was a sign of the imperial times that Rhodesia...
3: ‘As for us,’ said the *Rhodesia Herald*...
4: The Company had been, it is true, under a cloud...
5: These were the homely pleasures of a frontier town...
6: But far lower even than the vagrants in the social scale...
7: Salisbury was scarcely a sentimental town.

Chapter 6: The Profit

2: In the 1890s this atavistic view of imperial profit...
3: Trade was a steadier imperial impulse...
4: The free ports of the Empire...
4: It was a common belief among the late Victorians...
5: Such was the profit-mechanism of Empire...
6: So all these various instincts and impulses of profit...

Chapter 7: The Glory
2: The Empire was at its zenith...
3: Dreams of private glory, too, forced the imperial play...
4: What incentives they were!
5: Many years before Dr Livingstone had laid another trail...
6: The evangelical mood was now past its prime...
7: On a Governmental level...
8: And there was one more stimulus to splendour...

Chapter 8: Caste
The joke that ‘niggers began at Calais’ was not entirely a joke.
3: But to be coloured was something else.
4: By the nineties the attitude had hardened.
5: In England those who believed the East could be...
6: The immediate problems of race arose only...
7: Yet this very class of Anglicized Asians and Africans...
8: Among the settlers and planters of the tropical Empire...
8: A vassal could qualify for respect...
On the banks of the Hooghly River in Calcutta...

For it was not viciousness, nor even simply conceit...

Steevens’s unspeakable conceit might speak...

Chapter 9: Islanders

Like many another island fortress it had endured...

It was a colony exceptional in its beauty...

It was quite an elaborate little Government...

A mile or so from Government House...

Often, when a merchant ship approached the entrance...

St Lucia’s Diamond Jubilee accordingly...

But then a feu de joie, commented the Voice sourly...

Brigade-Surgeon Gouldsbury never returned to St Lucia...

Chapter 10: Imperial Order

The one immoveable thing about it was the Crown.

The Crown at the very summit...

From the graceful little iron suspension bridge...

It was an imperial maxim...

Steeped in the traditions of the team spirit...

Top jobs in the Empire sometimes went to grandees...

The law was different.
9: Loftily above it all, the supreme fount of imperial justice...
10: Not the law as such, but the rule of law...

Chapter 11: Imperial Complexity
2: At one end were the great self-governing colonies...
3: Nothing was uniform.
4: Consider the island of Ascension...
5: Here are a few less spectacular anomalies of Empire.
6: And oddest of all the imperial phenomena was Egypt.
7: Paddling up the Nile with Oxford marmalade...
8: It was all bits and pieces.

Chapter 12: Imperialists in General
2: Nobody, of course, runs so true to type as that.
3: The aristocracy of Empire was the official class...
4: Poor Anglo-Indians!
5: They walked dolorously to and fro under the glare...
6: Among the white settlers everywhere...
7: The maverick patrician escaped all this...

Chapter 13: Imperialists in Particular
2: The age of the great explorers was almost over...
3: There were only three British soldiers...
The second soldier of the Empire was... 6:16
4: Alone among the admirals of the imperial Navy... 6:31
5: Of the proconsuls in the field of Empire that summer... 9:20
6: Two politicians of very different stamp... 5:16
Salisbury was a remote enigma to the British public. 4:48
7: The men Kipling called ‘the doers’ were mostly unknown... 4:50
Rhodes was first of all a money-maker. 4:03
8: There were other exceptional imperialists... 2:39
Chapter 14: Proconsuls 2:30
2: Simla in 1897 was one of the most extraordinary places... 3:12
3: In the morning Simla seemed different again... 2:54
4: Seven thousand feet up, eighty miles from a railway line... 9:22
5: The British Government in India was a despotism... 6:37
6: So from top to bottom... 5:21
7: But however original the young officers in the field... 9:49
8: The Viceroy knew that his was a unique imperial trust. 9:04
9: It was a bad year in India... 3:30
Chapter 15: Consolations 1:19
2: Sport was the first. 8:14
3: Drink came next – food did not interest them half so much. 6:06
4: They liked their creature comforts…

In Australia the clubs very early became strongholds…

5: Throughout the length and breadth of the Empire…

6: They had developed to a new pitch of finesse…

7: They enjoyed themselves with tourism.

8: One easily detects pathos in these pleasures.

Chapter 16: Challenge and Responses

2: But one of the most enviable advantages…

3: For a century living dangerously, or alone…

4: Into the mystique of every British settlement…

5: But there was to this great communal exploit…

Chapter 17: Stones of Empire

2: Supreme in every imperial city stood the house of God…

3: Next to the house of God, the home of the Empire-builder.

4: Public buildings of the most august elaboration…

5: One day in 1836 Colonel William Light…

6: The British, who generally neglected their waterfronts…

7: ‘The Maharajah gave the order…’

The British had a genius for parks…

8: The garden instinct of the English did not always survive…
Chapter 18: Tribal Lays and Images

2: No English Delacroix arose…

3: Few other professional painters made the Empire…

4: Most of the statues in the British Empire…

5: But they were mostly of the Queen.

6: Marches and oratorios, fanfares and even ballets…

7: The difficulty about imperialism as a literary motif…

8: Out of the frenzy three writers emerge…

9: Yet the third of our writers, a short-sighted journalist…

Nobody saw more clearly through the petty pretences…

9: In literature as in art…

Chapter 19: All by Steam!

2: The British Empire was a development agency…

3: Some of the imperial works really were on the colossal scale.

4: But this was the railway age…

5: There was no grand plan for the railways of the Empire.

5: In India especially…

6: In the last three decades of the century…

7: They were making a start with tropical medicine.

8: One gets the unfortunate impression…
9: The natives saw this millennium, and it worked.

Chapter 20: Freedmen

2: Canada was still a colony of the British Empire.

3: The imperial hegemony was tactfully exerted.

4: Canada had become a nation, of a sort...

5: The first Europeans in Canada were the French...

6: The British Canadians were loyal to the Crown...

7: An English Canadian, W.H. Drummond...

8: They did not, for example, throw squibs at the Jubilee...

9: It was not a contented country.

Chapter 21: On Guard

2: The land forces of the Empire were drawn...

3: The Army List of 1897 records only nine...

4: This was not a promising formula for modern war...

5: But also at the Queen’s command stood another army...

6: It was in India that the martial heroism of Empire...

7: No other imperial war had left memories so hallowed...

8: Between them the two armies of the British Empire...

Chapter 22: At Sea

2: The Royal Navy did not lack self-esteem.
3: These were the extravagances of a lost age…

4: The social structure of the Navy…

5: British naval strategy, such as it was…

Chapter 23: Imperial Effects

2: Let us ourselves, guide in hand, wander around London…

3: And if, like every other visitor, we finally strolled…

4: The New Imperialism was too new…

5: Half without knowing it, the British had picked up…

6: In 1882 there appeared in the list of English cat breeds…

7: A shifting population of colonials moved through London.

8: If the physical imprint of Empire was slight…

9: The New Imperialism was potent politics.

10: But cause and effect were often muddled…

11: So the foreigner’s first impression was right in a way.

Chapter 24: Overlords

2: Implanted in this melancholy setting were the Anglo-Irish…

3: Many Anglo-Irish were understandably distressed…

4: The Cadogans stood, *ex officio*…

5: This queer regime remained undeterred…

6: Much more permanent were the barracks…
7: Of all the cities the British had created across the waters…
8: Ireland was the only one of the Queen’s dominions…
9: ‘Everything was orderly and peaceable,’…
10: *The Irish Times* blushed.
11: The noblest cause? Treason or patriotism?
Chapter 25: Omens
2: If precedents were anything to go by…
3: Would the barbarians one day take over?
But it was the sea that counted.
4: On Jubilee evening the Governor of Bombay…
5: In Egypt almost nobody wanted the British to stay…
6: Everything was under control…
7: Was it all worth it?
8: But in that celebratory summer any weakening…
9: It was not to be.
Chapter 26: ‘The Song on Your Bugles Blown’
2: Was it a Christian Empire?
3: Yet there was no rule to it.
4: A less involved imperial principle…
5: Plain Englishness, in those days, was a principle.
6: To many Britons this was not enough.
16:16
7: But if in some corners of the Empire…
42:3
8: This was the saving flaw of British imperialism…
02:3
Chapter 27: Finale
10:3
2: So their pride was understandable…
38:1
3: The New Imperialism quickly subsided.
16:1
Total time: 17:05:30
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Jan Morris was born in 1926 of a Welsh father and an English mother, and educated at Lancing and Christ Church, Oxford. After military service during World War Two (which first took her to Venice) she spent ten years as a foreign correspondent for The Times and The Guardian, before becoming a full-time writer in the 1960s. Since then she has written some 40 books of history, travel, biography and fiction. She lives at the top left corner of Wales.

Roy McMillan is a director, writer, actor and abridger. For Naxos Audiobooks he has read The Body Snatcher and Other Stories, Bulldog Drummond, The French Revolution – In a Nutshell, Cathedrals – In a Nutshell and the introductions to works by Nietzsche and the Ancient Greeks. He has directed readings of Hardy, Hopkins, Kipling, Milton and Blake; Austen, Murakami, Conrad and Bulgakov, among many others; and has written podcasts and sleevenotes, as well as biographies of Milton and Poe. He has also directed plays for BBC Radio 3 and 4.
Credits

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PAX BRITANNICA
The Climax of an Empire

Read by Roy McMillan

The Pax Britannica trilogy is Jan Morris’s masterly telling of the British Empire from the accession of Queen Victoria to the death of Winston Churchill. It is a towering achievement: informative, accessible, entertaining and written with all her usual bravura.

Pax Britannica, the second volume, is a snapshot of the Empire at the Diamond Jubilee of 1897. It looks at what made up the Empire – from adventurers and politicians to communications and infrastructure, as well as anomalies and eccentricities. This humane overview also examines the muddle of jumbled ideologies behind it, and how they affected its 370 million people.

Jan Morris is a leading historian and travel writer. She has spent ten years working as a foreign correspondent and has written some 40 books of history, travel, biography and fiction, including the Pax Britannica trilogy and Venice.

Roy McMillan is a director, writer, actor and abridger. For Naxos AudioBooks he has directed many readings, written podcasts and sleevenotes, and read titles such as The Body Snatcher and Other Stories, Bulldog Drummond and The Communist Manifesto.