



Suez: Britain's End of Empire in the Middle East

By Keith Kyle

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On July 26, 1956, the British Empire received a blow from which it would never recover. On this day, Egypt's President Gamal Abdul Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal Company, one of the gems of Britain's imperial portfolio. It was to be a fateful day for Britain as a world power. Britain, France and Israel subsequently colluded in attacking Egypt, ostensibly -- in the case of Britain and France -- to protect the Suez Canal but in reality in an attempt to depose Nasser. The U.S. opposition to this scheme forced an ignominious withdrawal, leaving Nasser triumphant and marking a decisive end to Britain's imperial era.

In this, the seminal work on the Suez Crisis, Keith Kyle draws on a wealth of documentary evidence to tell this fascinating political, military and diplomatic story. Including new introductory material, this revised edition of a classic work will be essential reading for anyone interested in the history of the twentieth century, military history and the end of empire.

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Suez: Britain's End of Empire in the Middle East By Keith Kyle Bibliography

- Rank: #1034408 in Books
- Brand: Brand: I. B. Tauris
- Published on: 2011-02-15
- Released on: 2011-02-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.43" h x 2.13" w x 6.38" l, 2.10 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 704 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In July 1956, Egyptian president Gamal Abdul Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal, expelling British oil and embassy officials after London withdrew its pledge of financial support for the Aswan Dam project. Nasser's action set in motion an historic chain of events: Israel invaded Egyptian territory (the Sinai Campaign); Great Britain and France sent armed forces to retake the canal; intervention by the U.N. brought about an armistice, and a U.N. emergency contingent replaced the British and French troops. Working from new documentary sources, Kyle's comprehensive and authoritative history of the Suez crisis deepens our understanding of the decisive American role in the U.N.'s involvement. The study also reveals more clearly how it was that Nasser emerged from the crisis with greater prestige in the Arab world: he withstood the "triple aggression" of Israel and the two imperial powers, broke the spirit of colonialism and rekindled the dream of Arab unity. Kyle is a research fellow with Britain's Royal Institute of International Affairs. Illustrations.

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From Library Journal

Kyle has written a marvelous traditional narrative history, re-creating the complex events leading up to and forming the 1956 Suez crisis, when Britain and France, aligned with Israel, tried to overthrow Nasser and reestablish their imperial domination in the Middle East. He begins with Anthony Eden's ascent to political leadership in Great Britain and conveys Britain's eroding political leadership, while also examining developments in the other key countries--France, the United States, Israel, and Egypt. His clear style and lively language illuminate the complex events and convey fascinating portraits of the personalities involved. This is engaging and balanced history based on extensive research. It is valuable for scholars and highly readable for history buffs wanting a better understanding of an important event in the evolution of the Cold War and the continuing political frustration in the Arab world.

- Elizabeth R. Hayford, *Associated Colls. of the Midwest, Chicago*

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Review

"... a superb account ... that rare thing: a compelling read that will also serve to define the context for all future scholarship on the subject" -- *The Economist*

"... the definite work on the subject ... easily surpasses all earlier accounts" -- Anthony Howard, *TLS*

"... has the quality of making everything that has come before ... look like a pamphlet off the top of a partisan's head" -- Roy Jenkins, *The Sunday Times*

"Keith Kyle draws on a wealth of documentary evidence...to tell this fascinating, political, military and diplomatic story." -- *Middle East 'Books in Brief'*

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Rickie Miller:

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