



by Marina Münkler  
Rowohlt · Berlin Verlag  
GmbH

March 2024 / 544pp  
Non-Fiction

🏆 1st place in the ZDF,  
Deutschlandfunk Kultur and  
DIE ZEIT non-fiction best  
book list April 2024

🏆 Die Welt/NZZ Neue  
Zürcher  
Zeitung/ORF/Spiegel/SWR 2  
non-fiction best book list  
May 2024

## Dawn of the New Era – The Dramatic 16th Century

*Anbruch der neuen Zeit. Das  
dramatische 16. Jahrhundert*

### review

*Dawn of the New Era: The Dramatic 16th Century* by academic and author Marina Münkler is an engaging new history of the sixteenth century. This work of popular non-fiction successfully decentralises Europe by foregrounding the interdependence of global empires, from the Ottoman Empire to the Aztecs.

*Dawn of the New Era* is a refreshing departure from standard histories of Europe. Focusing on the sixteenth century, Münkler explores the interconnectedness of empires and world regions during the period without exceptionalising any one geopolitical location, and instead exposes a complex international network of correlations and conflict. Europe emerges from this narrative not as a coherent entity but as one that was created through the need for self-definition.

Münkler begins by laying out her rationale for what she describes as a history of the sixteenth century 'from a global perspective'. The book is then structured thematically, rather than chronologically, and is divided into eight main chapters, each with multiple subchapters. Chapters cover themes from the expansion of the Ottoman Empire to religious wars and persecution in the old and new worlds.

*Dawn of the New Era* makes it clear that empire building was not a

uniquely European proposition and examines the subtle differences between the varying approaches and perspectives of colonising powers, whether these came from a desire for economic control or the advent of bureaucratic governance. One of the book's many strengths lies its emphasis of the Ottoman Empire's instrumental role in the creation of the concept of Europe; Münkler reveals how the idea of the Turkish empire was tactically deployed within European countries so as to portray it as a threatening external force, in a narrative that did no justice to the Ottoman Empire's inner complexity.

A well-written and accessible book, *Dawn of the New Era* recreates a map that connects Europe, the Ottoman Empire, South Asia, and the Americas, exploring their relative technological, scientific, and maritime efforts, but also detailing how each of these world powers was indispensable to the others. Unpacking unexpected aspects of familiar events, it will appeal to a wide cross-section of readers, and will have particular appeal for those who enjoyed Peter Frankopan's *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World*.

**Rights sold:** Spain, Planeta

Find out more:

<https://www.rowohlt.de/verlag/rights/book/marina-muenkler-anbruch-der-neuen-zeit-9783871341762>

## press quotes

*'Marina Münkler's historical work opens up a whole age ... a pearl of a non-fiction book.'*

Welt am Sonntag

*Marina Münkler sheds new light on the 16th century, illuminating the close relation of its conflicts to the age we live in.'*

Die Welt/NZZ Neue Zürcher Zeitung/ORF/Spiegel/SWR 2,  
Best non-fiction list May 2024

*'Holds a mirror up to our own era: new empires, deep divisions, contested trade routes. Cultural historian Marina Münkler paints a portrait of the 16th century.'*

Süddeutsche Zeitung 6.4.2024

## about the author

Marina Münkler is Professor of Early Modern Literature and Culture at the Technical University of Dresden. She has written and edited various cultural and political books. She has been Deputy Chair of the Scientific Committee of the German Science and Humanities Council since 2019.

Previous works: Marco Polo, C.H.Beck (1998); Lexikon der Renaissance, C.H.Beck (2000); Die neuen Deutschen, Rowohlt.Berlin (2016); Abschied vom Abstieg, Rowohlt.Berlin (2019); Gespräche über Freundschaft, Wallstein (2022).

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