



Hegemonic Peace and Empire: The Pax Romana, Britannica and Americana (War, History and Politics)

By Ali Parchami

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This book examines the language and the ideology of the Pax Romana, the Pax Britannica and the *Pax Americana* within the broader contexts of 'hegemony' and 'empire'. It addresses three main themes: a conceptual examination of the way in which hegemony has been justified; a linguistic study of how the notion of *pax* (usually translated as peace) has been used in ancient and modern times; and a study of the international orders created by Rome and Britain.

Using an historiographical approach, the book draws upon texts from Greco-Roman antiquity, and sources from the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries to show how the *pax* ideology has served as a justification for hegemonic foreign policy, and as an intellectual exercise in power projection. From Tacitus' condemnation of what he described as 'creating a wilderness and calling it peace', to debates about the establishment of a *Pax Americana* in post-Saddam Hussein's Iraq, the book shows not only how the governing elite in each of the three hegemonic orders prescribed to a loose interpretation of the *pax* ideology, but also how their internal disagreements and different conceptualisations of *pax* have affected the process of 'empire-building'.

This book will be of interest to students of international history, empire, and International Relations in general.

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About the Author

Ali Parchami is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Defence and International Affairs, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He has a DPhil in History from Oxford University and was a lecturer in Politics at Exeter College, Oxford.

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