

# In Praise of Barbarians: Essays Against Empire

In this groundbreaking collection of essays, historian and author John M. Hobson challenges the traditional view of barbarians as uncivilized and destructive. Drawing on a wide range of sources, from ancient Greek and Roman texts to contemporary scholarship, Hobson argues that barbarians were often more complex and sophisticated than their civilized counterparts. He also shows how the concept of barbarism has been used throughout history to justify imperialism and oppression.



## In Praise of Barbarians: Essays Against Empire

by Mike Davis

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 555 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 347 pages  
Lending : Enabled



Hobson's essays are both erudite and accessible, making them essential reading for anyone interested in history, culture, or politics. They offer a fresh perspective on one of the most enduring stereotypes in Western thought, and they challenge us to rethink our assumptions about what it means to be civilized.

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- The Barbarians: Who Were They?
- The Barbarian Threat: Real or Imagined?
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## Sample Essay

### **\*\*The Barbarians as Savages\*\***

The image of the barbarian as a savage is one of the oldest and most enduring stereotypes in Western thought. From the ancient Greeks and Romans to the present day, barbarians have been depicted as uncivilized, bloodthirsty, and destructive. This image has been used to justify all sorts of atrocities, from the Roman conquest of Gaul to the European colonization of the Americas.

But is this image accurate? Are barbarians really as savage as they are often portrayed?

The answer is a resounding no. In fact, many barbarians were more complex and sophisticated than their civilized counterparts. They had their own laws, governments, and cultures. They were often skilled in art, music,

and literature. And they were capable of great feats of engineering and architecture.

The image of the barbarian as a savage is a myth. It is a myth that has been used to justify imperialism and oppression. It is a myth that is no longer tenable in the light of modern scholarship.

## Reviews

"A brilliant and provocative book that challenges our traditional assumptions about barbarians and civilization." - Niall Ferguson, author of *Civilization: The West and the Rest*

"Hobson's essays are essential reading for anyone interested in history, culture, or politics. They offer a fresh perspective on one of the most enduring stereotypes in Western thought." - Mary Beard, author of *SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome*

"In Praise of Barbarians is a tour de force. Hobson's erudition is breathtaking, and his arguments are persuasive. This book is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the history of civilization." - Tom Holland, author of *Rubicon: The Triumph and Tragedy of the Roman Republic*

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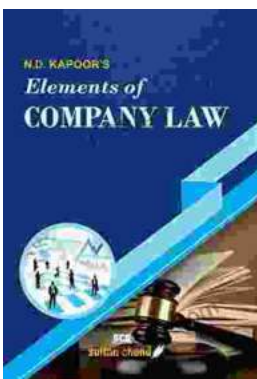


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