



The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company

By John Keay

Download now

Read Online 

The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company

By John Keay

The most infamous of the trading companies established by the great European powers, the English East India Company was the world's greatest trading power. For more than two centuries, they dominated world trade, raised armies and demolished nations. Now comes this major new book--a surprise hit in England. Photos and maps.

 [Download The Honourable Company: A History of the English E ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Honourable Company: A History of the English ...pdf](#)

The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company

By John Keay

The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company By John Keay

The most infamous of the trading companies established by the great European powers, the English East India Company was the world's greatest trading power. For more than two centuries, they dominated world trade, raised armies and demolished nations. Now comes this major new book--a surprise hit in England. Photos and maps.

The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company By John Keay Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #252523 in Books
- Brand: Scribner
- Published on: 1994-05-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.50" h x 6.50" w x 1.50" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 474 pages

 [Download The Honourable Company: A History of the English E ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Honourable Company: A History of the English ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online **The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company** By John Keay

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

For 213 years, beginning around 1700, the "incurable pioneering" of merchant traders of the East India Company furthered the "peculiarly diffuse character" of the British Empire. British author Keay tells an ambitious story with sweep and brio, encompassing the company's origins as a "bane of bedraggled pioneers" in search of spices in the remote Indonesian archipelago; its role in the 1690 founding of Calcutta (an episode of "commercial greed and political mayhem"); and the opening up of China in 1700, which was to become the company's most profitable trade. Keay not only portrays some of the adventurers and potentates who encountered one another but also grasps the details of trade, some more momentous than others: one missive from London to India mixed declarations of war with Spain and complaints about a bar bill. The company's monopoly charter was eventually broken not by rival traders but by British manufacturers wanting more overseas outlets for their products. If, as Keay notes, there are "enough incomplete histories of the Company to justify a health warning," then this book is a salubrious contribution. Photos not seen by PW.

Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

Conventional wisdom has it that the commercial imperialism of the early English trading companies was intertwined with the political imperialism of the expanding British empire. In this reexamination of the English East India Company, Keay, an author and broadcaster specializing in Asian history, acknowledges that "but for the Company there would have been not only no British India but also no global British Empire." But he also shows that the triumph of imperialism helped bring about the downfall of the company by eliminating its monopolies and creating conditions for the 1857 Indian mutiny. Keay's title is intentionally ironic; he reports, "venal and disreputable, [the company's] servants were believed to have betrayed their race by begetting a half caste tribe of Anglo-Indians, and their nation by corrupt government and extortionate trade." Published two years ago in Britain and cited as one of that year's three best books by the *Financial Times* (London), *The Honourable Company* fascinatingly illuminates one of the lesser-known chapters of Asian history. *David Rouse*

From Kirkus Reviews

From a British specialist in Asian affairs, this is comprehensive, fact-choked history of the English East India Company, which went to India to trade and founded an empire--the British Raj. Chosen as one of the three best books of the year in England by the Financial Times, it is a bold attempt to tell the action-packed story of a trading company that was founded in 1600 and continued in business until 1873; a company that, stretching from London to China, was once the world's largest trading power. Over the course of two centuries it behaved more like an independent principality as it made treaties, waged wars, and acquired territories. Created in London by "men with long heads and deep purposes," it originally sought to gain for England a portion of the profitable spice trade, which had been hitherto controlled by the Spanish, Portuguese, and Dutch. There was also a secondary purpose--to find markets for Britain's wool cloth, an absurdist subtext to the more colorful trading ventures as the British merchants vainly tried to sell heavy fustian to tropical peoples. Beginning with the early days when these entrepreneurs were more buccaneers than legitimate traders, Keay goes on to describe the derring-do and occasional chicanery that led to the granting of trading rights; the great fortunes made in India by men such as Thomas Pitt, the great-grandfather of Prime Minister William Pitt; the founding of cities like Calcutta and Bombay; the regulations made in response to attacks by Edmund Burke, who claimed the company had broken every treaty it had ever made

and sold every title it had ever dispensed; the opium sales that paid for the entire investment in tea; and the eventual takeover by the British government intent on creating an empire. Keay has written a colorful, swashbuckling saga filled with epic characters and ambitions as corporate history merges with world history. A notable achievement. -- *Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Terry Sugg:

Reading a guide can be one of a lot of pastime that everyone in the world loves. Do you like reading book consequently. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoyed. First reading a reserve will give you a lot of new information. When you read a publication you will get new information simply because book is one of many ways to share the information or even their idea. Second, looking at a book will make you more imaginative. When you looking at a book especially tale fantasy book the author will bring that you imagine the story how the people do it anything. Third, it is possible to share your knowledge to other folks. When you read this *The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company*, you could tells your family, friends and soon about yours e-book. Your knowledge can inspire others, make them reading a publication.

Lela Hird:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book especially book entitled *The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company* the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe not known for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a guide then become one form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get previous to. The *The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company* giving you a different experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful info for your better life within this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Brenda Gregg:

Beside this specific *The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company* in your phone, it could possibly give you a way to get nearer to the new knowledge or information. The information and the knowledge you can got here is fresh from oven so don't become worry if you feel like an outdated people live in narrow community. It is good thing to have *The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company* because this book offers for you readable information. Do you oftentimes have book but you seldom get what it's about. Oh come on, that won't happen if you have this inside your hand. The Enjoyable option here cannot be questionable, similar to treasuring beautiful island. Use you still want to miss the idea? Find this book along with read it from at this point!

David Rutherford:

E-book is one of source of expertise. We can add our knowledge from it. Not only for students but additionally native or citizen want book to know the upgrade information of year for you to year. As we know those ebooks have many advantages. Beside we add our knowledge, can bring us to around the world. Through the book *The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company* we can get more advantage. Don't you to be creative people? To be creative person must like to read a book. Simply choose the best book that acceptable with your aim. Don't be doubt to change your life by this book *The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company*. You can more pleasing than now.

Download and Read Online *The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company* By John Keay #IUY1R64TMV9

Read The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company By John Keay for online ebook

The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company By John Keay Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company By John Keay books to read online.

Online The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company By John Keay ebook PDF download

The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company By John Keay Doc

The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company By John Keay Mobipocket

The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company By John Keay EPub