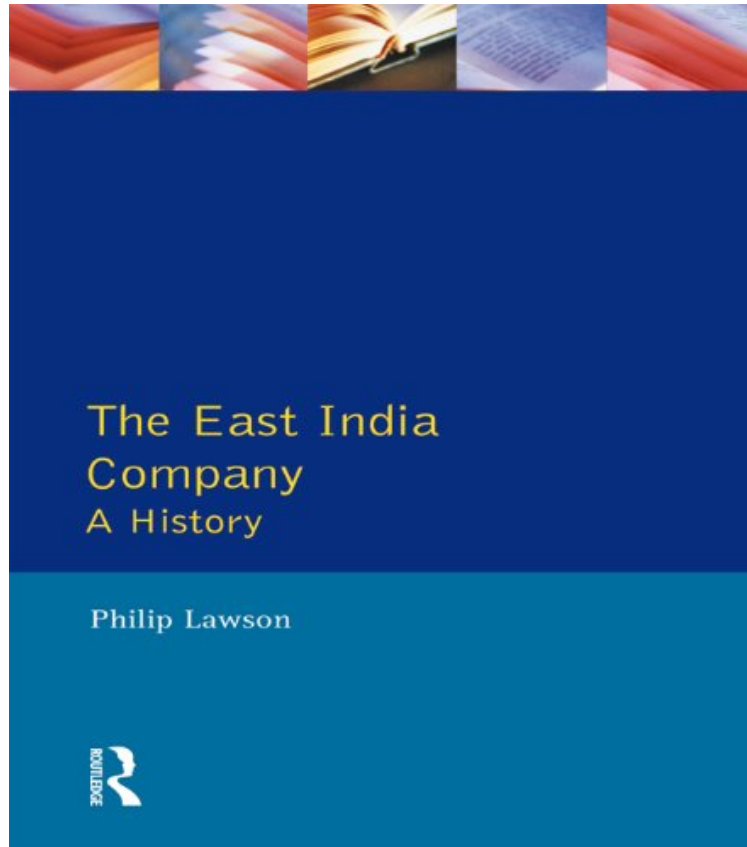


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Philip Lawson

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Philip Lawson : East India Company , The: A History (Studies In Modern History) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised East India Company , The: A History (Studies In Modern History):

15 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Excellent text by an author who died young By A Customer Philip Lawson is much missed. He died at age 46 with a promising career ahead and an impressive list of books and articles (most dealing with imperial topics) behind him. He was the most gifted of the younger generation of scholars who write imperial history not from the perspective of the metropole but from the periphery. This survey of the John Company constitutes the best introduction to the subject yet written. 16 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Objective Overview of a Sizeable Subject By Michael Pinto This book is a great overview of the East India Company to those who are looking for a good introduction to the subject. This book isn't aimed at hardcore academics, but more to students and the rest of us who watch the History Channel. Philip Lawson has taken an objective overview of his subject, which is important because it's easy to focus on the larger issue of colonialism. By reading this mini-epic you will get to trace the history of the company from its start in the Elizabethan era until its end in the mid-1800's. The book is packed with a cast of characters ranging from humble bookkeepers to greedy heads of state. There are some nice details about the history of tea and trading (example: I had no idea that it was the English who first put tea

and sugar together around the 1680's). Now you may ask yourself why you should read this if you are an American? Well our own history starts off with the Boston tea party, which was raiding an East India Company ship. More important the book touches on the subject of monopolies, which will be of interest to anyone into modern economics. What's great about this book is that it also serves as a good introduction to other books on the subject, so if you are interested you will know where to start.

This is the first short history of the East India Company from its founding in 1600 to its demise in 1857, designed for students and academics. The Company was central to the growth of the British Empire in India, to the development of overseas trade, and to the rise of shareholder capitalism, so this survey will be essential reading for imperial and economic historians and historians of Asia alike. It stresses the neglected early years of the Company, and its intimate relationship with (and impact upon) the domestic British scene.

'xxx;a straightforward and clear narrativexxx;Lawson has provided both an accurate guide to the main debates and a means of pursuing the subject further through more detailed reading. The Times Literary Supplement