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The next title in the American Empire Project

## **SORROWS OF EMPIRE**

**Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic**

**By Chalmers Johnson**

“In *Blowback*, published before ‘September 11,’ Chalmers Johnson introduced us to a chilling codeword for our times. **THE SORROWS OF EMPIRE** is even more sobering, for it associates the United States with a dynamic most Americans still find unmentionable—our ever-deepening militarism, with all the sorrows of perpetual war and moral as well as political and economic bankruptcy that inevitably accompany it. Here is a scholar’s critique and a patriot’s cry of anguish over the relentless erosion of once-cherished ideals—a dark vision presented with unflinching courage.”

—**John W. Dower, author of *Embracing Defeat*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize**

“Chalmers Johnson’s searing indictment of America’s flirtation with an imperial foreign policy should be required reading for all concerned citizens. One need not agree with all of his arguments to conclude that **THE SORROWS OF EMPIRE** is an extremely important and disturbing book.”

—**Ted Galen Carpenter, vice president,  
Defense and Foreign Policy Studies, Cato Institute**

When Chalmers Johnson published his prophetic book *Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire* in March 2000, pundits and media rushed to take a stance—did we or did we not invite our own political and military payback from abroad? Johnson was lambasted as an alarmist by more than a few. Six months later, when two commercial planes flew into the World Trade Center, Johnson’s horrifying prescience was proven justified, and “blowback” quickly became part of the popular lexicon describing terrorist activities. Now Johnson takes a startling look at American militarism and its consequences abroad and at home in his new book, **THE SORROWS OF EMPIRE: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic** (Metropolitan Books; January 13, 2004; \$25.00).

After the Second World War, our nation emerged as the richest and most powerful on earth, but it was really the Cold War and the build-up of hundreds of military installations around the world that led to the country’s current militarism. Today, there are at least 725 military bases outside of the U.S., and we employ over half a million soldiers, spies, technicians, teachers, dependents and civilian contractors in other nations. The American

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military budget is so large that the next-highest military budget in the world—Russia’s—is only 14% of our own.

Johnson explores the new militarism that is transforming America and compelling its people to pick up the burden of empire. Beginning with roots buried deep in the past and moving to the present, he maps America’s expanding empire of military bases and the vast web of services that support them; offers a look at the professional warriors for whom the manipulation of the military budget is of vital interest; and concludes that American militarism is putting an end to globalization and bankrupting the country, even as it creates conditions for more virulent blowback.

**THE SORROWS OF EMPIRE** offers a sobering look at what lies ahead for us if we continue on this path. As Johnson says, “It is nowhere written that the United States, in its guise as an empire dominating the world, must go on forever. The blowback from the second half of the twentieth century has only just begun.”

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Chalmers Johnson, president of the Japan Policy Research Institute and professor emeritus at the University of California, San Diego, is a frequent contributor to the *Los Angeles Times* and *The Nation*. A new edition of his previous book, *Blowback*, with an updated introduction, will be published in January 2004. He lives in Southern California.

**ABOUT THE AMERICAN EMPIRE PROJECT:**

**THE SORROWS OF EMPIRE** is the second title in Metropolitan Books’ American Empire Project, a new line of provocative and critical books that will focus on the increasingly high cost of America’s foreign policies. Written by this country’s leading thinkers, these books will examine the United States’ turn to empire-building and the domestic and international consequences that follow. Noam Chomsky’s *Hegemony or Survival*, published in November 2003, was the first title in the series. Forthcoming books in the project include Michael Klare’s *Blood and Oil: The Dangers and Consequences of America’s Growing Dependency on Imported Petroleum* and Tom Barry’s *The Empire Builders: America’s New Foreign Policy Mandarins*.

**THE SORROWS OF EMPIRE:  
Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic**

by Chalmers Johnson

Metropolitan Books

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