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From the Selected Works of Brian J. Maxson

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Review of The Renaissance of Empire in Early Modern Europe

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Dandele, Thomas James. *The renaissance of empire in early modern Europe*.
Cambridge, 2014. 305p bibl index ISBN 9780521769938 cloth, \$85.00; ISBN
9780521747325 pbk, \$29.99

Dandele (Berkeley) offers a panoramic sweep of the use of Roman imperial iconographies and literary traditions from the 14th through the 17th centuries. He argues that the seeds of the "Imperial Renaissance" were planted in 14th- and 15th-century Italy before germinating in the 16th century under Charles V, the first emperor since Charlemagne whose conquests and territories rivaled those of antiquity. The Imperial Renaissance reached maturity under Philip II of Spain, thrived in Louis XIV's France, and even exerted influence in 17th-century England, particularly before the political changes wrought by the Glorious Revolution in 1688. Dandele contends that the emulation of Roman emperors justified and motivated the imperial policies of European rulers during the early modern period.

The author draws on a wide range of both visual and written sources to create an accessible, compelling synthesis of political culture across early modern Europe.

The chapters on the Holy Roman Empire, Spain, and France are the book's strongest, while the inclusion throughout the book of overseas empires and architecture into a European political narrative is particularly noteworthy. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and above.

--B. J. Maxson, East Tennessee State University

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