

Imperial Ends

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The Decay, Collapse, and Revival of Empires

Alexander J. Motyl

C O L U M B I A U N I V E R S I T Y P R E S S N E W Y O R K



Columbia University Press
Publishers Since 1893
New York, Chichester, West Sussex
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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Motyl, Alexander J.

Imperial ends : the decay, collapse, and revival of empires / Alexander J. Motyl.
p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-231-12110-5 (alk. paper)

1. Civilization, Western—Philosophy. 2. Civilization, Modern—20th century—Philosophy. 3. Europe—History—1871–1918. 4. Soviet Union—History—1985–1991. 5. Revolutions. 6. Nationalism—History—20th century. 7. Turkey—History—Revolution, 1918–1923. I. Title.

CB245 .M66 2001

321'.03—dc21

2001017098



Casebound editions of Columbia University Press books are printed on permanent and durable acid-free paper.

Printed in the United States of America

c 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
p 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

To my parents

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She felt like she was slipping endlessly downward.

Monica Vitti, in Michaelangelo Antonioni's *The Red Desert*

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