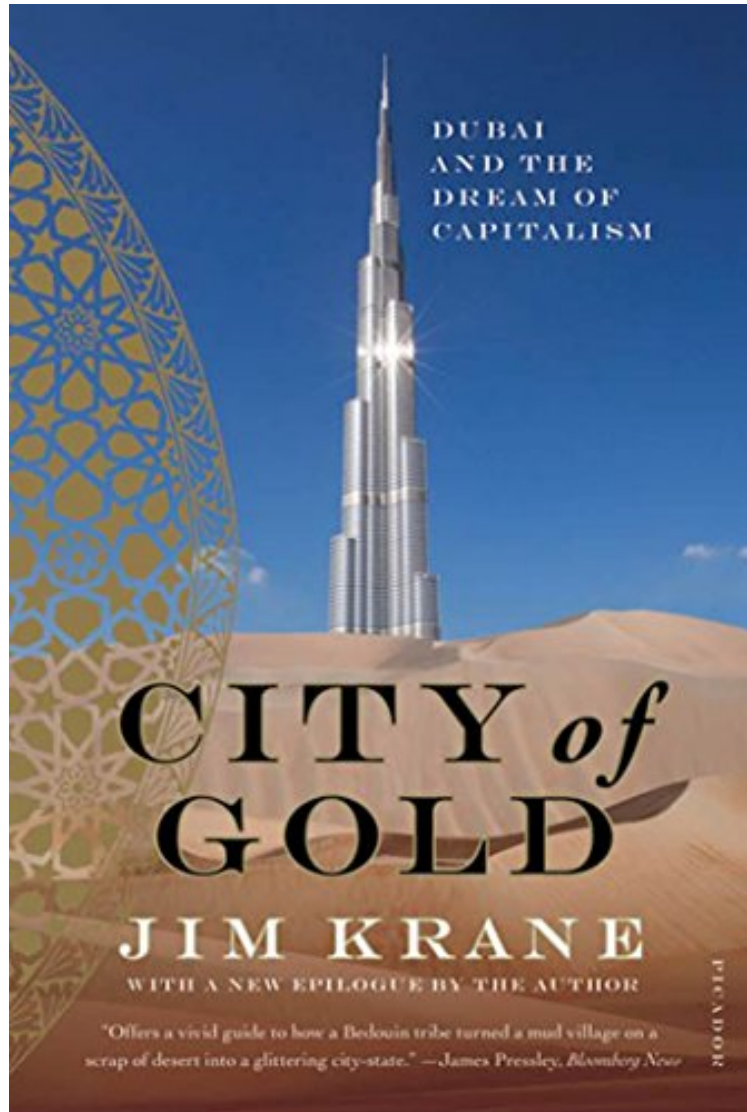


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## City of Gold: Dubai and the Dream of Capitalism

*Jim Krane*

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**Jim Krane : City of Gold: Dubai and the Dream of Capitalism** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised City of Gold: Dubai and the Dream of Capitalism:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great, readable portrait of a city. Really hits the mark. By A. Howell  
This is a well written, concise, very readable and fascinating portrait of Dubai and the United Arab Emirates. Although I understand that its sale has been banned in Dubai, it strikes me as a very complimentary/upbeat portrayal of what has been achieved in the desert. Krane does not ignore the social issues such as the poor treatment of labor and lack of political freedom. But the overall judgement is that the Al-Maktoum family has repeatedly taken huge, gutsy bets that have paid off big. We have them to thank for one of the world's most modern, efficient and livable cities --

certainly in this part of the world. This book really hits the mark. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Top Flight Book on Dubai By George Mullen I just finished reading Jim Krane's "City of Gold" book about Dubai. Having spent a fair amount of time in the Middle East and having written a bit about the region myself, I found "City of Gold" to be highly informative, thoughtful, balanced in perspective, and well worth the read. Fascinating topic and hard to put down...I highly recommend this book. In fact, I found myself searching to see if Mr. Krane had an updated edition, but unfortunately it appears not at present. Four or five years after the greatest global financial meltdown since the 1930's, and Dubai being one of the greatest growth stories of the past 20 years, we need an update on how Dubai has fared. Seems like there could be multiple new chapters - at least two on the financial meltdown itself and how it impacted Dubai, another chapter on what Dubai and its leaders have learned from it, another chapter on the new building projects Dubai is proposing and now unleashing...the massive replica Taj Mahal, MBR City, an island that will house the world's largest ferris wheel, new malls, Dubai's bid for World Expo 2020, et al. Plus another chapter on what is happening in the development of the arts in Dubai...for example, Dubai had its first homegrown big budget film (City of Life) a few years back that drew considerable international attention. The Dubai growth story is getting back on track, and this is a city we need to keep an eye on. Mr. Krane seems the writer most likely to give us a thoughtful and balanced update. Anyone out there know whether an updated edition might be in the works? 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Should be given out upon landing at DXB By Patrick Gray When traveling to a new country for work for an extended period of time, I try to read a book or two that provides some historical and cultural context to the place. It's nice to get some grounding on the place I'm visiting, and I've found this contributes both to my enjoyment of the locale and also my understanding of the people I'm working and interacting with. For the first-timer to Dubai, I don't think you could do much better than this book. The author is clearly fascinated by his subject matter, and brings passion and deep expertise to his writing. Mr. Krane presents Dubai through the eyes of a reporter, providing first-hand interviews from the men and women behind the scenes in Dubai, and presenting several facets of the key aspects of the city. Rather than a puff piece or agenda-driven slash job, the author presents the positives and negatives of Dubai's breakneck development and allows the reader to form their own conclusions at the benefit of his research and commentary. While it's missing the details of Dubai's economic crash, it certainly gives one the grounding to make more sense of Dubai's chances for the future. Aside from a jab or two at former US President GW Bush, which seems a bit hackneyed and trite in 2012, the book was well-researched and unbiased, and managed the difficult task of remaining entertaining rather than reading like a graduate thesis. I was unable to set the book down, and found my evening walks through Dubai complemented by each chapter I read. The only flaw I found was several photographs are mentioned in the acknowledgments, but none appear in the Kindle edition of the book, although they would not have been missed unless one read the end notes. For the casual observer, it's tempting to dismiss Dubai as the "Las Vegas of the Middle East," but Mr. Krane provides a deeper, more nuanced view of this fascinating place. Beneath the shiny buildings there are subtle undercurrents, and I found each chapter of this book provided a welcome exposure to yet another facet of the City of Gold.

Award-winning journalist Jim Krane charts the history of Dubai from its earliest days, considers the influence of the family who has ruled it since the nineteenth century, and looks at the effect of the global economic downturn on a place that many tout as a blueprint for a more stable Middle East. The city of Dubai, one of the seven United Arab Emirates, is everything the Arab world isn't: a freewheeling capitalist oasis where the market rules and history is swept aside. Until the credit crunch knocked it flat, Dubai was the fastest-growing city in the world, with a roaring economy that outpaced China's while luring more tourists than all of India. It's one of the world's safest places, a stone's throw from its most dangerous. In *City of Gold*, Jim Krane, who reported for the AP from Dubai, brings us a boots-on-the-ground look at this fascinating place by walking its streets, talking to its business titans, its prostitutes, and the hard-bitten men who built its fanciful skyline. He delves into the city's history, paints an intimate portrait of the ruling Maktoum family, and ponders where the city is headed. Dubai literally came out of nowhere. It was a poor and dusty village in the 1960s. Now it's been transformed into the quintessential metropolis of the future through the vision of clever sheikhs, Western capitalists, and a river of investor money that poured in from around the globe. What has emerged is a tolerant and cosmopolitan city awash in architectural landmarks, luxury resorts, and Disneyfied kitsch. It's at once home to America's most prestigious companies and universities and a magnet for the Middle East's intelligentsia. Dubai's dream of capitalism has also created a deeply stratified city that is one of the world's worst polluters. Wild growth has clogged its streets and left its citizens a tiny minority in a sea of foreigners. Jim Krane considers all of this and casts a critical eye on the toll that the global economic downturn has taken. While many think Dubai's glory days have passed, insiders like Jim Krane who got to know the city and its creators firsthand realize there's much more to come in the City of Gold, a place that, in just a few years, has made itself known to nearly every person on earth.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . The modern city-state of Dubai exists largely because two men willed it so. Through a combination of prescient investment of resources, grandiose vision and the freedoms of absolute rule, the late Sheikh

Rashid and his son (and current ruler) Sheikh Mohammed transformed the backwater village into a global powerhouse erupting onto the earth. Mohammed's ideas are so stamped on the landscape that two of his poems are being written on the sea as a group of [artificial] islands. Dubai-based journalist Krane does a superb job of conveying the near-maniac atmosphere swirling around the creation of the world's tallest building (half a mile high), first indoor ski slope (in a mall) andmdash;incidentallymdash;the world's largest carbon footprint, revealing the creativity and tolerance that characterize a city where 95% of its residents are foreigners, as well as the inevitable costs of such lavish ambition. Environmental needs have been ignored (another island was built atop a coral reserve, and migrant laborers and sex workers face routine abuse and exploitation. A fascinating study of a small nation that has taken the ideas of modernization and capitalism to their outer limits. (Sept.) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "ldquo;City of Goldrdquo; offers a vivid guide to how a Bedouin tribe turned a mud village on a scrap of desert into a glittering city state."--Bloomberg