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Imperial History"

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Gerald S. GRAHAM, "The Maritime Foundations of Imperial History".

This is an Inaugural Lecture delivered on November 22, 1949 by Gerald S. Graham, upon his appointment as Rhodes Professor of Imperial History in the University of London, England. It is a brief survey of the subject dealt with more fully in his recent *Empire of the North Atlantic*, *ie.* of the "epoch of empire", the past four centuries "when the control of the surface of the oceans was the determining influence on the foundation of great empires".

Professor Graham studies the effect of sea power upon the struggle between France and Britain in America. "The essential difference between the two countries lay in the attitudes of kings and governments, for sea power is basically an artificial creation", he says. "In comparison with continental considerations, the French overseas empire in the eighteenth century counted as little more than an important subsidiary."

Gordon O. ROTHNEY