There is fierce argument, and much speculation, about what has replaced the old territorial empires in world politics. Empire: A Very Short Introduction asks: Do the United States and its allies, transnational companies, financial and media institutions, or more broadly the forces of ‘globalization’, constitute a new imperial system? Spanning the history of empires, from ancient Rome to the modern British empires, it explores the meaning of the idea of ‘empire’ through the ages and examines the aftermath of imperialism on the contemporary world, disentangling the multiple uses and abuses of the labels ‘empire’ and ‘colonialism’.