

# The End of Empire

Joseph Priestley

*In his utopian vision of the free future, inspired by the American and French Revolutions, which Priestley included in his Lectures to the Right Honorable Edmund Burke in 1791, he foresaw the end to Western colonialism.*

The very idea of distant possessions will be even ridiculed. The East and the West Indies, and everything without ourselves will be disregarded, and wholly excluded from all European systems; and only those divisions of men, and of territory, will take place which the common convenience requires, and not such as the mad and insatiable ambition of princes demands. No part of America, Africa, or Asia, will be held in subjection to any part of Europe, and all the intercourse that will be kept up among them will be for their mutual advantage.