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### Book Review: The End of Power, by Moisés Naim

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## Basic Books

*The following review appeared in the November 2013 issue of CHOICE:*

### Political Science

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Naím, Moisés. **The end of power: from boardrooms to battlefields and churches to states, why being in charge isn't what it used to be.** Basic Books, 2013. 306p ISBN 9780465031566, \$27.99; ISBN 9780465037810 ebook, contact publisher for price.

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Naím (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), formerly editor of *Foreign Policy Magazine*, who served as Venezuela's minister of industry and trade and as executive director of the World Bank, presents a challenging and provocative theme, as simple as it is profound: "power ... is undergoing a historic and world-changing transformation"--it is "decaying." He further argues that power is "coming under attack in an unprecedented way" and that power is "yielding diminishing returns." Power, as the book's subtitle reminds readers, just "isn't what it used to be." This is due to that fact that the "barriers to power have weakened" and are now "more easily undermined, overwhelmed, and circumvented." This has led to "new players" rising to challenge the entrenched but crumbling status quo. If correct, this transformation will likely usher in a period of instability, a decline in authority, and weakened political order. This compelling and powerfully argued book is highly recommended for those concerned with the rapidly diminishing role of political leadership in a global context.

--M. A. Genovese, *Loyola Marymount University*

Summing Up: Highly recommended. General readers, upper-division undergraduate students, graduate students, and research faculty.