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"The Last Lingua Franca: English Until the Return of Babel", by Nicholas Ostler, is a book whose basic thesis is in the title and subtitle. This is the first book I know of where he has to get straight with the reader what plural is going to be used for "lingua franca".

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(Allen Lane), London, 2010, xx + 330pp, Hb £20, 5 Paperback £9.99 ISBN 978-1 ...

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Nicholas Ostler (/ ˈ oʊ s t l ɪ r /; born 20 May 1952) is a British scholar and author. Ostler studied at Balliol College, Oxford, where he received degrees in Greek, Latin, philosophy, and economics. He later studied under Noam Chomsky at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he earned his Ph.D. in linguistics and Sanskrit.. His 2005 book Empires of the Word: A Language History of ...

Ostler's ultimate conclusion is spelled out in the title of the book itself, "The LAST Lingua Franca." Ostler takes the position that the rise of Machine Translation and non-English speaking countries like Brazil, Russia, China & India make English's survival as a the

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"The Last Lingua Franca: English Until the Return of Babel" by Nicholas Ostler (Walker & Company, 2010) "A bracing history of lingua francas and their dynamic variation, with a focus on the perfect wave that International English is riding-toward a wipeout.His aim is not pedantic but to pique general readers' code-cracking interest.

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