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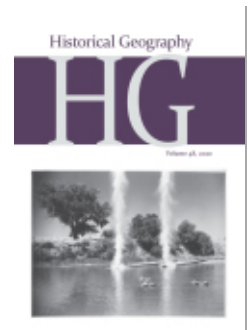
*Crossing Empires: Taking U.S. History into Transimperial
Terrain* ed. by Kristin L. Hoganson and Jay Sexton (review)

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Crossing Empires: Taking U.S. History into Transimperial Terrain. Kristin L. Hoganson and Jay Sexton, eds. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2020. Pp. x+349, photographs, charts, maps, notes, index. \$104.95, hardcover, ISBN 978-1-4780-0603-9. \$28.95, paperback, ISBN 978-1-4780-0694-7.

American imperial geopolitics and imperial cultures are not particularly new topics for rigorous scholarly study, theorization, or assessment (e.g., J. A. Hobson's influential—yet anti-Semitic—1902 work *Imperialism: A Study*). Nonetheless, historians and others continue to fruitfully fine-tune their perspectives on American empire, and some of this work also serves to meaningfully confront notions of American exceptionalism both at home and abroad. The contributors to this collection of works seek to de-exceptionalize narratives of America's empire and better contextualize it in terms of global history. As an initial step in this direction, the book's contributing authors variously scrutinize America's imperial history both comparatively and in concert with their examinations of other contemporary global empires, their institutions, and their local-to-global impacts and legacies. Through their efforts, the histories of America's empire are more discernible in terms both global and "transimperial."

In many regards this work derives from scholarly observations and theorizations of transnationalism. While the term transnational (or trans-national) has been in use for more than a century, transnationalism as a field of academic inquiry, research, and publication has been in play for just over a quarter century. Amid ongoing global and nation-scale institutional changes, academic perspectives also shifted—and re-adjusted their vocabularies, as with the relabeling of multinational corporations (MNCs) as transnational corporations (TNCs). Like works on the dynamics of globalization and its conceptualization, many studies from the 1990s to the present have focused on global economic flows, particularly those involving profits, commodities and brands, media and communications, and information and cultures. For a growing number of scholars who came to employ transnationalism as a research focus and agenda, however, the globalizationesque economic dimensions of modern transnationalism was largely context. Indeed, a significant body of transnationalism studies began to engage more so with global flows of both people and their constructs of gender, class, race, culture, eth-

nicity, and nationalism (i.e., crucial dimensions in both identity politics and scholarship). In this study of transnational/transimperial histories, however, the focus is not on the standard fare: global diffusions of Western capital, products, or logos, on the one hand, or the shifting identities of a marginalized transnational workforce and their struggles, on the other. Rather, the chapters in this volume engage with global flows of imperial power as manifest in empire-to-empire trade and diplomatic relations, empire-derived modernization and moralities, and resistances to imperial norms and institutions.

The editors' introduction succinctly sets the stage for this multifaceted inquiry and is followed by two chapters that form a section of the book titled "In Pursuit of Profit." The first of these, written by John Soluri, addresses how many nations' schemes to harvest seal furs operated both within and beyond emergent ideas and institutions of sovereignty while compromising marine ecologies and irreversibly marginalizing many indigenous populations around the world. The second chapter of the section, authored by Stephen Tuffnell, scrutinizes how British colonial labor regimes and American steel combined in the production of colonial infrastructure in East Africa, an experience that bolstered the holdings of the British Empire while fueling America's appetite for empire and its capacities to justify overseas conquest and imperial occupations.

The section titled "Transimperial Politics" includes three chapters. The first, by Michel Gobat, interrogates the early emergence of US liberal imperialism by focusing on the 1850s exploits of William Walker in Nicaragua—as informed by and likened to Britain's ongoing experience in India. Julian Go's following chapter addresses the "transimperial origins of modern democracy" through his engagement with the varied lineages of what was distilled by the early twentieth century into lessons on elections and voting practices for schoolchildren in the US-occupied Philippines. Anne L. Foster's chapter assesses global views of opium that resituated it in the minds and policies of many nations from being a medical commodity that generated abundant profits for Western powers to an illicit narcotic and moral scourge.

In the section "Governing Structures," Nicole M. Phelps's chapter provides an engaging examination of the politics of global trade, focusing on the US Consular Service through three periods of time that collectively range from 1789 to 1924. Marc-William Palen's chapter then

addresses the transnational origins of anti-imperialism in the US, and Oliver Charbonneau examines America's imperial domination over the Philippines by tracing how the US reached out globally to aid with its subjugation of the area's Muslim population. The following section, "Living Transimperially," begins with Ikuko Asaka's study of climatic and environmental narratives in the broader discourse over African Americans in both Canada and the US. Julie Greene's chapter then addresses how British Antilleans of African descent and their migrations figured in and facilitated America's construction of the Panama Canal while variously maintaining their status as British subjects. Genevieve Clutario's final chapter in this section addresses the precarious position of Filipinos during World War II as their homeland was contested between America's and Japan's empires. The final section, "Resistance across Empires," consists of two chapters. The first, by Moon-Ho Jung, examines the in-between status of Indians who would contest British rule from outside the empire and British expectations of American and Philippine authorities to halt their resistance. In the final chapter Margaret D. Jacobs analyzes the global histories of indigenous child removal in contexts of settler colonies.

In sum, the chapters of this volume offer a diverse range of vignettes of what the editors hoped would represent their notion of a transimperial history. As they conveyed in their introduction, this compilation is intended as a foundation for understanding the transnational and transimperial power relations that underlay our modern world. Although I believe their efforts were successful, the addition of a conclusion that would provide commentary and a sense of where we are to travel from this point of embarkation would have added to the volume's overall focus, potential impact, and the likelihood of their neologism's (i.e., transimperial) survival. While the book itself is beneficial as an introduction to the editors' stated objective, many of the individual chapters are also independently of value both for their scholarly contributions and as potential readings in undergraduate- and graduate-level courses and seminars.

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