New and Forthcoming Publications (21 August 2021)

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H-Empire regularly shares recent publications relevant to the network's scope, content, and purpose ("the origin, development, working and decline of empires, rather broadly defined across academic disciplines and professional interests, chronological time periods, and geographical regions"). Members are encouraged to share their new and forthcoming publications (but are also welcome to share the work of others).

**Submission Form**


Global and interdisciplinary in scope, *The Routledge Companion to Sexuality and Colonialism* features over 30 original contributions on the historiography of sexuality and colonialism and research essays on race and reproduction; sexuality and the law; interiority and selfhood; and the interrelation of pleasure and violence. The volume's coverage spans European, Ottoman, Japanese, and US imperial contexts in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Indian Ocean, the Middle East, and East and Southeast Asia. Those interested in the histories of gender, sexuality, race, and empire will find the volume to be an indispensable resource for recent scholarship on the intimate dimensions of colonial rule. Graduate students will also find the regionally-focused historiography essays especially helpful in preparing for exams or gaining an orientation in the field.


In the early 1840s, Ottoman rulers launched a new imperial project, partly in order to reassert their authority over their lands and subjects, crucially including the Arab nomads. By examining the evolution of this relationship between the Ottoman Empire and Arab nomads in the modern era, M. Talha Çiçek puts forward a new framework to demonstrate how negotiations between the Ottomans and the Arab nomads played a part in making the modern Middle East. Reflecting on multiple aspects of Ottoman authority and governance across Syria, Iraq, Arabia, Transjordan and along their frontiers, Çiçek reveals how the relationship between the imperial centre and the nomads was not merely a brutal imposition of a strict order, but instead one of constant, complicated, and fluid negotiation. In so doing, he highlights how the responses of the nomads made a considerable impact on the ultimate outcome, transforming the imperial policies accordingly.

The Congo-Océan railroad stretches across the Republic of Congo from Brazzaville to the Atlantic port of Pointe-Noir. It was completed in 1934, when Equatorial Africa was a French colony, and it stands as one of the deadliest construction projects in history. African workers were forcibly conscripted and separated from their families, and subjected to hellish conditions as they hacked their way through dense tropical foliage; excavated by hand thousands of tons of earth in order to lay down track; and risked their lives building bridges over otherwise impassable rivers. In the process, they suffered disease, malnutrition, and rampant physical abuse, likely resulting in at least 20,000 deaths. In the Forest of No Joy captures in vivid detail the experiences of the men, women, and children who worked on the railroad, and forces a reassessment of the moral relationship between modern industrialized empires and what could be called global humanitarian impulses—the desire to improve the lives of people outside of Europe.


A new history of English trade and empire—revealing how a tightly woven community of merchants was the true origin of globalized Britain. In the century following Elizabeth I’s rise to the throne, English trade blossomed as thousands of merchants launched ventures across the globe. Through the efforts of these “mere merchants,” England developed from a peripheral power on the fringes of Europe to a country at the center of a global commercial web, with interests stretching from Virginia to Ahmadabad and Arkhangelsk to Benin. Edmond Smith traces the lives of English merchants from their earliest steps into business to the heights of their successes. Smith unpicks their behavior, relationships, and experiences, from exporting wool to Russia, importing exotic luxuries from India, and building plantations in America. He reveals that the origins of “global” Britain are found in the stories of these men whose livelihoods depended on their skills, entrepreneurship, and ability to work together to compete in cutthroat international markets. As a community, their efforts would come to revolutionize Britain’s relationship with the world.