

2018

Hopkins, A.G.: American Empire: A Global History

L. M. Lees

Old Dominion University, llee@odu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.odu.edu/history_fac_pubs



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Lees, L. M., "Hopkins, A.G.: American Empire: A Global History" (2018). *History Faculty Publications*. 40.
https://digitalcommons.odu.edu/history_fac_pubs/40

Original Publication Citation

Lees, L. M. (2018). Hopkins, A.G.: American empire: A global history. *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, 55(12), 1511.

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the History at ODU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in History Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of ODU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@odu.edu.

J. Wickham with Heide Castañeda. Texas A&M, 2018. 256p bibl index ISBN 9781623495947 cloth, \$35.00; ISBN 9781623495954 ebook, contact publisher for price

Heinrich Berghaus published an article in the 1851 German *Geographic Yearbook* to establish connections between the Comanches, Shoshones, and Apaches using only language observations. Though he lacked formal anthropological training, his use of lexical data rests on facts gathered by a German settler, Emil Kriewitz, showing Comanche words in German translation. Berghaus offered cultural notes on the Comanches, information on the existing literature about the three tribes, and an original map of the Comanche hunting grounds. Anthropologist Gelo and German professor Wickham (both, Univ. of Texas San Antonio) now supply the first reliable translation of this document, revealing insights for historians, language researchers, and anthropologists of Texas. Interesting early maps of the area drawn by German cartographers show the overlap of German settlement with the Indian hunting grounds. The lengthy introduction reviews the many ways the Germans arrived in Texas. Brief chapters define who Berghaus was (a trained surveyor and geodetic mathematician), his relationship to Alexander von Humboldt and Humboldt's *Physical Atlas of 1848*, and his ideology. The book's second half is the Berghaus article followed by historical analysis, word comparisons in tables, fine endnotes, a strong bibliography, and a comprehensive index. **Summing Up:** ★★ Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above, and the sophisticated public.—*L. J. Rippley, emeritus, St. Olaf College*

CC 55-4605 HV6477 CIP
Gillon, Steven M. **Separate and unequal: the Kerner Commission and the unraveling of American liberalism.** Basic Books, 2018. 374p index ISBN 9780465096084 cloth, \$32.00; ISBN 9781472598509 pbk, contact publisher for price

Those who remember the Kerner Commission only for its famous warning that the US was "moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal" will find this book highly enlightening. Gillon (Univ. of Oklahoma) effectively makes the case that the commission's 1968 report revealed the "limits of American liberalism" and was a significant marker of the political and racial divisions that characterize American society to this day. Faced with growing controversy over the Vietnam War and public alarm over horrendous riots in 1967, President Lyndon Johnson concluded that he could somewhat defuse the latter issue by authorizing a commission to answer the fundamental question of "why?" As Gillon skillfully demonstrates, Johnson was outraged when the commission, chiefly comprising establishment figures, failed to produce a report endorsing the progress achieved by his Great Society programs and instead pointed a finger at white racism as a chief cause of inner-city turmoil. Johnson's insufferable pettiness becomes evident in his snide treatment of Senator Fred Harris and his visceral detestation of New York Mayor John Lindsey, both of whom were leading participants. Ultimately, Johnson took every possible step to obstruct and diminish the commission's work. This admirable study concludes with a chapter on the nation's deepening racial and political divisions after 1968. **Summing Up:** ★★★ Highly recommended. All public and academic levels/libraries.—*B. T. Browne, emeritus, emeritus Broward College*

CC 55-4606 F420 CIP
Guerrero, Perla M. **Nuevo South: Latinas/os, Asians, and the re-making of place.** Texas, 2017. 238p bibl index ISBN 9781477313640 cloth, \$90.00; ISBN 9781477314449 pbk, contact publisher for price; ISBN 9781477313657 ebook, contact publisher for price

Guerrero (American studies, Maryland) introduces readers to the history of the migration of Vietnamese, Cubans, and Mexicans into

northwestern Arkansas, examining the intersection of race and place between Latina/os and Asians. The author highlights how racialization and racial formation have defined the Asian and Latina/o experience, especially their connection to the political economy and social relations of the region. She provides examples of how race and racial differences are defined within the Nuevo South. For example, as Asian and Latina/o citizens, refugees, or undocumented immigrants enter the Nuevo South, they become the newest southerners linked to the region's history of white supremacy and the exploitation of racial differences. This is the first comparative book on the transformation of race and place between Latina/os and Asians in the South. Guerrero challenges future scholars to broaden their understanding of the racial binary to explore and document the region's Latina/o and Asian history. A key contribution to Latina/o studies, Asian American studies, and American studies. **Summing Up:** ★★ Recommended. All academic levels/libraries.—*L. H. Moreno, Bowling Green State University*

55-4607 JV1011 MARC
Hopkins, A. G. **American empire: a global history.** Princeton, 2018. 980p bibl index ISBN 9780691177052 cloth, \$39.95; ISBN 9781400888351 ebook, contact publisher for price

Hopkins (emer., history, Cambridge Univ.) reinterprets the history of the US and its empire to place it within the history of globalization and imperial expansion. He challenges the idea of American exceptionalism to demonstrate that the US followed an imperial path similar to that of Britain and France. The author organizes the history of globalization into three phases and explores the dialectic that caused the transition from one phase to another. His account, which ranges from the 18th to 20th centuries, posits empires as the main agents of globalization. Hopkins is particularly interested in recovering "the lost history" of the insular empire the US acquired in 1898 and examines events there in detail. He also suggests a different way to view the Cold War and the relationship between it and decolonization. In general, he hopes to promote research that will integrate the imperial histories of the US and Western Europe and focus on the agency of the areas within these empires. Although he occasionally exaggerates the lack of attention other historians give to globalization, Hopkins's provocative study will be of value to international relations specialists. **Summing Up:** ★★★ Highly recommended. Graduate students/faculty.—*L. M. Lees, emerita, Old Dominion University*

CC 55-4608 E99 CIP
Ignace, Marianne. **Secwépemc people, land, and laws: Yerí7 re Stsqéys-kucw,** by Marianne Ignace and Ronald E. Ignace with Mike K. Rousseau et al. McGill-Queen's, 2017. 588p bibl index (McGill-Queen's Native and northern series, 90) ISBN 9780773551305 cloth, \$110.00; ISBN 9780773552036 ebook, contact publisher for price

Simon Fraser University professors Marianne Ignace (linguistics and First Nations studies) and Ronald Ignace (anthropology) have written an encyclopedic account of the Secwépemc (Shuswap) people of British Columbia, covering not only their ethnography, but other topics such as the history of research on the people and political activism. The book is very obviously and explicitly also situated within the current Aboriginal rights context in Canada. In this way it is similar to Charles Menzies's excellent *People of the Saltwater* (CH, Mar'17, 54-3316). *Secwépemc* diverges from that book in that the authors use oral narratives much more extensively, enlivening the discussions. The Ignaces (Ron is a tribal member) have done significant and lengthy research among the Secwépemc, and their discussions of how past research on these people informed their own research is interesting as well. The noteworthy final chapter provides a fascinating discussion that interweaves the preceding chapters to