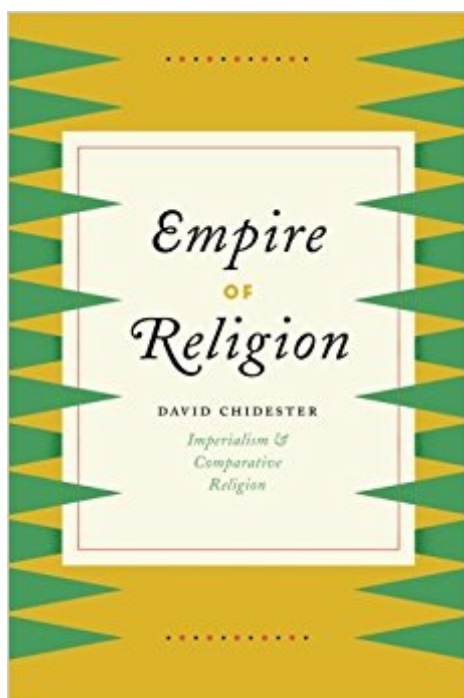


The book was found

Empire Of Religion: Imperialism And Comparative Religion



Synopsis

How is knowledge about religion and religions produced, and how is that knowledge authenticated and circulated? David Chidester seeks to answer these questions in *Empire of Religion*, documenting and analyzing the emergence of a science of comparative religion in Great Britain during the second half of the nineteenth century and its complex relations to the colonial situation in southern Africa. In the process, Chidester provides a counterhistory of the academic study of religion, an alternative to standard accounts that have failed to link the field of comparative religion with either the power relations or the historical contingencies of the imperial project. In developing a material history of the study of religion, Chidester documents the importance of African religion, the persistence of the divide between savagery and civilization, and the salience of mediations—imperial, colonial, and indigenous—in which knowledge about religions was produced. He then identifies the recurrence of these mediations in a number of case studies, including Friedrich Max Müller's dependence on colonial experts, H. Rider Haggard and John Buchan's fictional accounts of African religion, and W. E. B. Du Bois's studies of African religion. By reclaiming these theorists for this history, Chidester shows that race, rather than theology, was formative in the emerging study of religion in Europe and North America. Sure to be controversial, *Empire of Religion* is a major contribution to the field of comparative religious studies.

Book Information

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press (March 19, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 022611743X

ISBN-13: 978-0226117430

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #406,526 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #154 in [Books > History > Africa > South Africa](#) #970 in [Books > History > World > Religious > General](#) #1128 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Comparative Religion](#)

Customer Reviews

Chidester renders highly original readings of major figures like Max Müller, Charles Darwin,

James Frazer, Herbert Spencer, E. B. Tylor, and W. E. B. Du Bois. . . . By foregrounding the complex apparatuses of imperialism, racialization histories, and the imbrication of racial knowledge with colonial power, Chidester offers a game-changing volume that will shift scholarly understanding of empire and religion. . . . Essential.â • (Choice)â œThere is a growing body of scholarship that explores the complex relations between European imperialism and the modern field of comparative religion, but *Empire of Religion* is the first to really interrogate the relations between colonial Africa and the modern study of religion in a comprehensive and sophisticated way. Elegantly pairing key themes and authors in each section, Chidesterâ™s lucid and powerful book will be of central importance to specialists in African religions and history, and the larger genealogy of religion as a modern category.â • (Hugh B. Urban, Ohio State University)â œChidester makes vivid his story by focusing on important figures in the discipline, including Friedrich Max MÃ ller, E.B. Tyler, Andrew Lang, James Frazer, and W.E.B. DuBois. Even H. Rider Haggard and MoÃ-handas Gandhi also figure in this genealogy. . . . Chidesterâ™s critical analysis of how the early scholars navigated their cultural heritage suggest lessons modern scholars might consider.â • (Catholic Library World)â œBrilliantly illustrates the epistemological perils associated both with positing the insider as a â œmystical postulate of authenticityâ • . . . on the one hand, and with conferring objectivity to outsider status as though it could neatly erase tacit realities of privilege, power, and (in this case) empire, on the other. . . . Essential reading for graduate students and professional scholars.â • (Journal of Religion)â œHere, for perhaps the first time, is a genuinely empirical study of the empire of religion. Chidester doesnâ™t merely name a genealogy and geography of power, he proves it in the form of triple mediations that spin out from a very specific place, South Africa. Moving restlessly between the accounts of local actors, colonial officials and, most importantly, metropolitan theoreticians, Chidester â^doggedlyâ™ (see the book!) disentangles the dubious series of transactions and translations that generated the fetish called theory, and exposes its imperial encumbrances.â • (Paul Johnson, University of Michigan)â œChidester productively treats the famous scholars of religion as unintentional informants to their peculiar, imperial, and metropolitan society. . . . [His] discussion on the production, authorization and circulation of knowledge about religion is instructive. . . . The reader also encounters many fascinating themes, one and each worthy of an extensive article.â • Â (Religion)â œThis book challenges scholars of any field that relies on comparisonâ™who do we cite and what counts as evidence and as expertise? It lays bare the incestuous acts of scholarly citation and recitation by reminding us of the materiality, multiple meanings, and power relations of cultural encounters in Africa.â • Â (Journal of African History)â œA singularly erudite book and a signal contribution to the burgeoning literature in the

field of African comparative religion and missionary history.â • (Anglican and Episcopal History)"The story Chidester tells, however, is much more interesting and complex than a simple description of knowledge and scholarship as tools of colonial domination. Instead, he traces what he calls the â œtriple mediationâ • of imperial, colonial, and indigenous agents, sources, and voices in the creation of knowledge about religion." (Victorian Studies)

David Chidester is professor of religious studies and director of the Institute for Comparative Religion in Southern Africa at the University of Cape Town. He is the author or editor of more than twenty books, including the award-winning *Savage Systems: Colonialism and Comparative Religion in South Africa*. He lives in South Africa.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Empire of Religion: Imperialism and Comparative Religion
Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism (American Empire Project)
History of Empires: Rise and Fall of the Greatest "Empires" in History!
Understanding The: Roman Empire, American Empire, British Empire, & Much More. ... Mesopotamia, Byzantine Empire
Book 1) Imperialism, Sovereignty and the Making of International Law (Cambridge Studies in International and Comparative Law)
Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico
The Tools of Empire: Technology and European Imperialism in the Nineteenth Century
The Colonisation of Time: Ritual, Routine and Resistance in the British Empire (Studies in Imperialism MUP)
The Bridge Betrayed: Religion and Genocide in Bosnia (Comparative Studies in Religion and Society)
Savage Systems: Colonialism and Comparative Religion in Southern Africa (Studies in Religion and Culture)
Memory, Music, and Religion: Morocco's Mystical Chanters (Studies in Comparative Religion)
Towards a Chinese Civil Code: Comparative and Historical Perspectives (Chinese and Comparative Law)
Political Science: A Comparative Introduction (Comparative Government and Politics)
Political Economy: A Comparative Approach, 3rd Edition: A Comparative Approach
Foundations of Comparative Politics: Democracies of the Modern World (Cambridge Textbooks in Comparative Politics)
Building an American Empire: The Era of Territorial and Political Expansion (Princeton Studies in American Politics: Historical, International, and Comparative Perspectives)
Government, Imperialism and Nationalism in China: The Maritime Customs Service and its Chinese Staff (Routledge Studies in the Modern History of Asia)
The Congo Free State and the New Imperialism (The Bedford Series in History and Culture)
Engendering whiteness: White women and colonialism in Barbados and North Carolina, 1627-1865 (Studies in Imperialism MUP)
Metroimperial Intimacies: Fantasy, Racial-Sexual Governance, and the Philippines in U.S.

Imperialism, 1899-1913 (Perverse Modernities: A Series Edited by Jack Halberstam and Lisa Lowe)
Borders and Conflict in South Asia: The Radcliffe Boundary Commission and the Partition of Punjab
(Studies in Imperialism)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)