Thinking like an empire: Governor Henri Laurentie and postwar plans for the late colonial French "Empire-State"


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Abstract

Book synopsis: What made France into an imperialist nation, ruler of a global empire with millions of dependent subjects overseas? Historians have sought answers to this question in the nation's political situation at home and abroad, its socioeconomic circumstances, and its international ambitions. But all these motivating factors depended on other, less tangible forces, namely, the prevailing attitudes of the day and their influence among those charged with acquiring or administering a colonial empire. The French Colonial Mind explores these mindsets to illuminate the nature of French imperialism. The first of two linked volumes, Mental Maps of Empire and Colonial Encounters brings together fifteen leading scholars of French colonial history to investigate the origins and outcomes of imperialist ideas among France's most influential "empire-makers." Considering French colonial experiences in Africa and Southeast Asia, the authors identify the processes that made Frenchmen and women into ardent imperialists. By focusing on attitudes, presumptions, and prejudices, these essays connect the derivation of ideas about empire, colonized peoples, and concepts of civilization with the forms and practices of French imperialism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The contributors to The French Colonial Mind place the formation and the derivation of colonialist thinking at the heart of this history of imperialism.

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Martin Shipway

Recycling Empire: French Colonial Administrators at the Heart of European Development Policy

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219-251. Buy the Book.

Ruth Ginio also kindly read my introductions to both volumes and, as usual, made incisive suggestions about how to improve them. As editor, I would also like to thank Claire Keyte and Andrew Thorpe at Exeter and Heather Lundine, Bridget Barry, Joeth Zucco, and Jim Le Sueur at the University of Nebraska Press for their invaluable help in bringing the project to fruition. Editing is sometimes regarded as a rather thank-less task. Thinking like an empire: Governor Henri Laurentie and postwar plans for the late colonial French “Empire-State”. Shipway, Martin (2012) Thinking like an empire: Governor Henri Laurentie and postwar plans for the late colonial French “Empire-State”. In: Thomas, M. (ed.) The French Colonial Mind: Mental Maps of Empire and Colonial Encounters. France Overseas: Studies in Empire and Decolonization 1. Lincoln, U.S.: University of Nebraska Press, pp. 219-250. ISBN 9780803220935. Full text not available from this repository. Official URL: http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/F... The French Colonial Mind explores these mindsets to illuminate the nature of French imperialism. The French colonial empire constituted the overseas colonies, protectorates and mandate territories that came under French rule from the 16th century onward. A distinction is generally made between the “first colonial empire,” that existed until 1814, by which time most of it had been lost, and the “second colonial empire”, which began with the conquest of Algiers in 1830. The second colonial empire came to an end after the loss in later wars of Indochina (1954) and Algeria (1962), and relatively