

of any critical academic reasoning or discussion current political debates in many African countries about relations with China. While in many places, the levels of enchantment have certainly increased, the conditions for engagement between African countries and China certainly still call for a serious academic debate.

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**Robert A. Olwell / James M. Vaughn (eds.):
Envisioning Empire: The New British World
from 1763 to 1773, London: Bloomsbury
Academic 2019, 256 pp.**

The edited volume, *Envisioning Empire*, captures the imperial moment of 1763, the end of the Seven Years' War. The prominent contributors to this volume, all situated at universities in the US and UK, were asked to think of this moment without the hindsight of the approaching American Revolution and other longer-term repercussions of the Seven Years' War. Instead, the chapter contributions investigate different plans and visions for empire from a variety of perspectives as new subjects and new territories fell under British rule in 1763.

Indeed, while the American Revolution has been studied recently as a result of clashing visions of the British Empire, it makes sense to take a step back and ask how the multiple actors from various sites in the British Empire envisioned the Empire in the decade that preceded the war. A recent monograph from S. Max Edelson, *The New Map of Empire*, asks some

parallel questions to this volume through the lens of mapmaking endeavors that accompanied imperial reform agendas for British America. This Bloomsbury volume does not tackle the history of cartography, but does ask how actors such as imperial agents and local elite, some with competing agendas, envisioned empire after 1763 in a more expansive lens, both topically and geographically.

The book contains eight chapter contributions as well as an introduction and an epilogue, each single-authored by one of the two editors. The slim volume manages to shed light on how central themes were reimagined for the British empire post-1763 such as religion, trade, company rule, and subjecthood; moreover, the volume also incorporates regional perspectives from India, Africa, North America, and Britain. Most successfully, the volume brings together Indian and North American developments and does a good job of including local power structures like princes and Native communities. Local elite are not eclipsed here by the focus on Britain; rather, British visions of empire are altered by these encounters and accommodations. The book has an index but unfortunately no collective bibliography.

This book is recommended for historians of the British Empire, the American Revolution, Atlantic Empires, British India, and neighboring topics. Though contributors were asked to think small in terms of the limited timespan the volume addresses, 19th century historians will also find inspiration in this pivotal imperial moment.

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