



# The Colonial Present: Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq

*Derek Gregory*

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## **The Colonial Present: Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq** Derek Gregory

In this powerful and passionate critique of the 'war on terror' in Afghanistan and its extensions into Palestine and Iraq, Derek Gregory traces the long history of British and American involvements in the Middle East and shows how colonial power continues to cast long shadows over our own present.

Argues the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11 activated a series of political and cultural responses that were profoundly colonial in nature.

The first analysis of the "war on terror" to connect events in Afghanistan, Palestine, and Iraq.

Traces the connections between geopolitics and the lives of ordinary people.

Richly illustrated and packed with empirical detail.

## **The Colonial Present: Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq Details**

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Author : Derek Gregory

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# **From Reader Review The Colonial Present: Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq for online ebook**

## **Amany Al Sayyed says**

Especially useful for people set on Academic journeys about the Middle East, this book is clever, the least pompous or pretentious out there by comparison in the field of Colonialism and identity politics .... my favorite thing about Gregory is his bright interest in art. In images and carto/photography ....

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## **Joeji says**

Inspired by the late Edward Said, Derek Gregory investigates the imaginary geographies that fuel current conflicts in Afghanistan, Palestine, and Iraq. His argument is that colonialism is not dead, but is present in the conflicts after 9/11. This may seem like an obvious thesis, but Gregory's claims about colonialism may be what is newest to the reader. He succinctly places colonialism in a context of "us vs. them"; "we" are order and "they" are the jungle. He shows how this rhetoric and colonial logic was used (non-ironically) at all levels of American/British/Israeli decision making in three separate and intertwined conflicts post 9/11. The main thrust of his argument is that individuals in occupied lands become non-humans, or homo sacer, and this gray area allows western military logic to render them in a legalistic gray area that freezes them or erases them in time. This concern about space, and the folding of space into new and oppressive geographies is what mainly adds a new urgent criticism of US/UK/Israeli policies towards their colonial "others."

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## **Megan says**

A devastating analysis of the history and present situation of some of the most contested colonial sites in the world. Beyond the spin of governments it presents a picture of conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine and Israel that shows the effects on people caught up in conflicts beyond their control.

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## **Ayah-Sofia says**

Clever and thought-provoking - gives you an interesting insight into America's war on terror, and how this links to Orientalism

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## **Leif says**

Required reading for our world. Absolutely.

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## **Naeem says**

This one is so good that I created a file called "cites from Colonial Present." He connects what is happening in Afghanistan, to what is happening in Iraq and Palestine.

It is simultaneously a sophisticated theoretical treatment and excellent connective threading of detail. I thought, "maybe I could write something like this."

It is motivated by anger but tempered by a scholars patience. There was one thing I didn't like in it -- but I cannot recall what it is at the moment.

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## **Luke says**

Written squarely in the tradition of Edward Said's *Orientalism*, this book is far more about the postcolonial construction of language to pit the West (or more specifically the US) against enemies in the Islamic World. Gregory's examination of the "colonial present" (or the "War on Terror") is less about systems of domination (although this is certainly part of the text) and more about the rhetoric that makes those systems of domination feasible.

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## **KATetheGREATESTBESTONE says**

while most of Gregory's arguments were not necessarily new or surprising to me (maybe having read his stuff on the ME elsewhere), i really appreciated his read on bringing together the histories of afghanistan, iraq, and palestine. and 'revisiting' Said.

(look, i'm not drunk this time!)

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## **Gada says**

The continuation of colonialism as we witneessed

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## **Emily says**

Amazing

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## **Andrew says**

Here's the thing: I am the choir to which Derek Gregory preaches. Nothing in this book especially surprised me. Of course the wars in Afghanistan, Palestine, and Iraq are neo-colonial. I learned some new details about

the events of those wars, but the overall thesis was neither especially shocking nor informative, but it was well-presented and there were lots of nifty maps. The one contribution I found was the notion of an "imaginary geography" that informs the colonial attitude-- this is something that I can work with, and hey, I gotta love a guy with a geography background.

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### **Yonis Gure says**

Expanding on Edward Said's rather recondite concept of "Imaginative Geographies" from his seminal work *Orientalism*, Derek Gregory's book, *The Colonial Present*, is a lucid critique of Western policies in dealing with the conflicts in the ME from a geographical perspective. He places the events of 9/11 in it's correct historical context by explaining the complex genealogy of the attacks that reach as far back into the colonial past and, equally, to show how those attacks were used by regimes in Washington, London, and Tel Aviv to advance a grisly colonial present in Iraq, Palestine and Afghanistan. This book is groundbreaking, insightful and accessible. I'd pick it up.

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### **Rich says**

A must-read if you're even remotely interested in the Middle East, Afgahnistan, and Iraq.

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### **Rima Rashid says**

His concept of 'architectures of enmity' was highly interesting to uncover and apply to several discourses of racial relationships.

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