

population of the last Ottoman territories perished in the war, far more from starvation and disease, greater than the losses of any of the nations of Europe.

Under international pressure, the debate about whether or not to recognize the Armenian genocide, reaching *its* centenary in 2015, has been much broadened of late, as a generation of Armenians and Turks outside Turkey talk to one another. A recent publication, *A question of genocide: Armenians and Turks at the end of the Ottoman empire* (Oxford, 2011), edited by Ron Grigor Suny, Fatma Müge Göçek, and Norman Naimark, definitive in many ways, is the result of workshops underway since 2000. Even in Turkey, where such debates are fraught with personal political consequences, the topic is on the table, as one more hurdle to clear in order to become part of the extended European community. Many in Turkey wonder about the virtue of joining the European Union, as they know perfectly well that the real issue has much more to do with the fact that the population is almost entirely Muslim, simultaneously both a testimony to the triumph of nation-state modernity and ethnic relocation and also a badge of exclusion from Europe.

There is considerable food for thought in this carefully crafted book, which is accessible to classroom and general reader alike. Reynolds' even-handed conclusion about the catastrophes endured by so many suggests that all the peoples of the Middle East need to be included as part of the First World War centenary ahead of us.

### **Empire and globalisation: networks of people, goods and capital in the British world, c. 1850–1914**

*By Gary B. Magee and Andrew S. Thompson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. Pp. xxi + 291. 13 tables. Hardback £53.00, ISBN 978-0-521-89889-8; paperback £19.99, ISBN 978-0-521-72758-7.*

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At a time when contemporary society is revelling in the novelty of electronic social networks, which have the power to drive anything from pop culture to the Arab Spring, a study such as Gary Magee and

Andrew Thompson's *Empire and globalisation* serves to provide both substance and historical context to the much-hyped preoccupation with networks and the spread of information that they facilitate. As the authors remark, 'networking is seen as a phenomenon that was and is widely practised in the contemporary and pre-modern eras, but somehow not in the modern period. By contrast, our position is to emphasise continuity. For us, the forging of networks represents a type of social and economic behaviour that is timeless ...' (p. 59).

Their book focuses on the movement and integration of people, goods, and capital in the Anglophone world in the late Victorian and Edwardian eras, in particular the British Dominions, the United States, and, to a lesser extent, Argentina. It takes as its premise that these movements formed an essential component of the first wave of modern globalization and seeks to historicize the phenomenon, as well as to test its theoretical assumptions against the historical record – an endeavour that it achieves admirably by highlighting both the multidimensionality and the unevenness of these processes.

The book is well written and lucidly structured. Its introduction provides an expansive historiographical discussion on empire, followed by a second chapter that examines theoretical frameworks for the study of networks in the British World. It then proceeds to investigate the nature and role of these networks in three subsequent chapters that deal with migration, trade and consumption, and capital investment respectively. In so doing, it provides a compelling reflection of the migrant experience, which takes account of ethnic, regional, and religious identities as the harbingers of an array of immigrant networks and support structures. Its explanations of the peculiar and imperfect flows of information in shaping decision-making; identity as a driver of both consumer culture and investment patterns; and the role of networks in nineteenth-century City finance are particularly impressive. Its portrayal of imperial economics is subtle and nuanced, in contrast to earlier Marxist depictions of the empire as a blunt tool, and it overturns arguments that the Dominions served as useful dumping grounds for British manufacturers by analysing the dynamics of colonial markets. By interweaving people, goods, and capital across the English-speaking world, the book provides a refreshing alternative to the old centre-periphery debates about the relationship between the colonies and the metropole (pp. 23, 118, 167). The authors succeed in moving away from class analysis by giving a fresh

account of the intersection between culture and economic behaviour (pp. 43–4).

*Empire and globalisation* is also an impressive work of synthesis, drawing on scholarship from across the English-speaking world, as well as the authors' own published research. In blending such a broad scholarship, it not only serves as a useful basis and reference work for recent converts to the field of global history but also, inadvertently, highlights lacunae in the various national historiographies. These gaps are, inevitably, reflected in the text and the reader cannot help but feel uncomfortable at times when Australian and Canadian case studies are relied on to carry the narrative, thereby making them representative of the imperial experience as a whole.

The book eschews the study of formal empire (although at no stage does it discount it) in favour of demonstrating the grassroots nature of globalization. As the authors rightly argue, 'there was no grand design here: almost by stealth, the workings of a multitude of trans-national networks by-passed national boundaries and unwittingly took large and historically important steps towards the emergence of a truly global market' (p. 235). It is certainly vital to move away from notions of 'outcome as motive', and to create an alternative to earlier historiographies that focused exclusively on political accounts, but the downplaying of political structures creates a void. While the authors acknowledge that networks are often underpinned by formal institutions (pp. 59–60) and, in the case in this study, the replication of familiar institutions in the colonies fostered the trust of British investors (p. 212), this reviewer cannot help but wonder whether the distinction between 'grassroots network' and 'formal institution' is not perhaps too insular and whether the integration of politicians and civil servants into these networks would be useful? Could the more formal structures of empire not be recast as yet another collection of networks, as the authors have done so successfully with the City of London and its financial institutions? This would have given the reader insight into the manner and extent to which migrant, trade, and financial networks sought to lobby, shape, and utilize political networks – which they doubtlessly did – and would have added reciprocity to the very interesting account of colonial governments' attempts to navigate the City networks to obtain finance (pp. 201–4). The allusions to ties between Britain's influential families and the colonial civil service and their behaviour as investors and financial advisers (pp. 184, 206), as well as the ability of governing elites to shape perceptions of the colonies in the press (p. 189),

provide rich material for yet another layer to this very nuanced tale.

These reservations are, however, peripheral and do not detract from the value of this work. Magee and Thompson have produced a deeply researched, interesting, and formative book that makes a substantial contribution to the study of empire, globalization, and networks. It is certain to become standard reading in years to come.

### The inner life of empires: an eighteenth-century history

By Emma Rothschild. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2011. Pp. xi+483. Hardback US\$35.00/£24.95, ISBN 978-0-691-14895-3; paperback US\$: 22.95/£15.95, ISBN 978-0-691-15612-5.

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This is a new kind of microhistory, which traces the lives of a Scottish family of eleven siblings (seven brothers and four sisters) and their spouses, servants, and intercontinental connections during the eighteenth-century era of escalating imperial activity in the Americas and Asia. The study benefits greatly from the author's previous work on enlightenment thought, especially on political economy. The adoption of current economic terminology to show, for example, the 'multiplier effects' of involvement in empire gives a contemporary relevance. Yet, at first sight, a shift from the renowned Scottish literati such as Adam Smith to concentrate instead on the Johnstone family might seem unpromising. The book proves otherwise. Certainly their beginnings seemed inauspicious. For, belonging to the 'unprosperous professional classes of lowlands Scotland' (p. 15), and based on the rural periphery of enlightenment influences, this family contributed little more than political ephemera to the stock of world literature. Nevertheless, although their inherited estates at Westerhall on the Scottish Borders yielded little income and their father was always indebted, his sons set out in turn to redress the extended family's financial situation through service and initiatives in the army, the navy, and overseas commercial enterprises. These routes took all but one brother to the Caribbean, the North American