Global Capitalism and American Empire

Abstract

The left needs a new theorization of imperialism, one that will transcend the limitations of the old Marxist 'stagist' theory of inter-imperial rivalry, and allow for a full appreciation of the historical factors that have led to the formation of a unique American informal empire. This will involve understanding how the American state developed the capacity to eventually incorporate its capitalist rivals, and oversee and police 'globalization'—i.e. the spread of capitalist social relations to every corner of the world. The theory must be able to answer the question of what made plausible the American state's insistence that it was not imperialistic, and how this was put into practice and institutionalized; and, conversely, what today makes implausible the American state's insistence that it is not imperialistic, and what effects its lack of concealment might have in terms of its attractiveness and its capacity to manage global capitalism and sustain its global empire.
The United States is a unique Empire whose national security strategy since 1945 has relied upon a mix of diplomacy and brute military force to make the world safe for American capitalism around the world, and more importantly, made the world over for global capitalism. Unlike bygone colonial Empires, the U.S. Empire has not in its recent history tried to directly dominate territories, but instead, strove to build, integrate and police a world system of allies that share its model: capitalism, the neoliberal state form, and the consumerist "way of life." As of late, though, we read that the U. From the edited volume "American Capitalism: New Histories," by Sven Beckert and Christine Desan. Scholars currently working on American capitalism emphasize transnational flows of capital, people, ideas, and institutions, whether they are looking at trade relations in early America or considering the transnational history of neoliberalism. The rich literature on "varieties of capitalism" has fed that comparative perspective. He is the author of Empire of Cotton: A Global History (2014). Christine Desan is Leo Gottlieb Professor of Law at Harvard University and co-founder of the Program on the Study of Capitalism. She is the author of Making Money: Coin, Currency, and the Coming of Capitalism (2014). Related Reading Start by marking "Global Capitalism and American Empire" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving… Want to Read. This thoughtful reflection on capitalism, hegemony, and the United States addresses such questions as "What does imperialism mean today? How does the United States influence the rest of the world? and "What are the economic interests served by its domination? Explored is how the rise of the United States as a superpower brought an end to the old inter-imperial rivalries. A This thoughtful reflection on capitalism, hegemony, and the United States addresses such questions as "What does imperialism mean today? How does the United States influence the rest of the world? and "Wh