

*How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States.* By Daniel Immerwahr. (New York, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2019. vii + 516 pp.)

Daniel Immerwahr has written an ambitious, provocative, insightful, and engaging history of what he characterizes as the “greater United States.” While scores of monographs on the history of U.S. foreign relations have been devoted to analyzing how empire has manifested either informally or by means of influence, Immerwahr seeks to refocus attention on the physical U.S. empire that has evolved since the mid-nineteenth century. He argues that rather than being considered as an aberration situated during a brief imperial spurt at the turn of the twentieth century, the U.S. strategic control over and actions in hundreds of non-contiguous possessions and military bases comprising its “pointillist empire” from the Philippines to Guantánamo Bay should be considered as a vital and inextricable part of the country’s history—even as the citizens who have lived in these territories have largely vanished from historical memory.

Immerwahr ties together seemingly random (yet ultimately interconnected and absolutely fascinating) concepts—Daniel Boone and his thematic descendant Han Solo, guano, cartographic history, screw threads, Godzilla, stop signs, birth control, and James Bond—to create a unique portrait of this empire. The discussion of the guano islands in Chapter 3, for example, not only proves to be scintillating storytelling but will also change the way that many scholars will teach about U.S. empire. Along the way, he highlights an entertaining and diverse cast of characters, including Douglas MacArthur, Emilio Aguinaldo, Cornelius P. Rhodes, and Pedro Albizu Campos. He engages a wide range of themes, including colonialism, globalization, racism, standardization, violence, citizenship rights, and technological innovation. His penchant for pithy descriptives makes for a lively—if occasionally meandering—read that combines humor, historical revelations, tragedy, absurdity, and poignancy.

One of the most impressive aspects of the book is the prodigious research Immerwahr conducted. Indeed, perhaps only academic historians will recognize and appreciate the extensive work he has done, both in traditional diplomatic collections and in less obvious—but crucially important—archives scattered across the globe. The facility with which Immerwahr seamlessly weaves his analytical narrative and integrates the archival material he has gathered is truly astonishing. It will be disappointing (although not surprising) to scholars that the press did not include traditional citations in the text, although it does offer eighty pages of notes about the sources.

The book is not without its minor flaws. There are chapters in which Immerwahr struggles to gain traction, although it is a testament to the author's narrative skill that he manages to transform Ernest Gruening and Herbert Hoover into riveting historical figures. Immerwahr's efforts to appeal to both an academic and a broader audience fall short at times, as anecdote and analysis compete for the reader's attention. In addition, a keener editorial eye could have tightened the argument, eliminated some repetitiveness, and shortened the book—which would make it even more accessible to non-scholars. That being said, *How to Hide an Empire* is a singular accomplishment that deserves close scrutiny by anyone seeking to better understand the nature of U.S. empire and the role it has played throughout the country's history.

Brigham Young University

ANDREW L. JOHNS

*The Instrumental University: Education in Service of the National Agenda after World War II.* By Ethan Schrum. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2019. x + 302 pp.)

In this well-researched and well-organized intervention into the history of American higher education, Ethan Schrum describes in convincing detail the extent to which research institutions became involved in trying to solve social problems and foster economic development through partnerships with either private entities or the state.

While Schrum describes the development of modern fields like public administration, industrial relations, and city planning from the Progressive Era through the 1930s, his main concern is to track the expression and evolution of these forms of university activity after 1945. Schrum delivers on his objective by dedicating four chapters to top research universities and their leaders (Chapter 2 on Clark Kerr at the University of California, Berkeley; Chapter 3 on Gaylord P. Harnwell at the University of Pennsylvania; Chapter 5 on Samuel P. Hayes Jr. at the University of Michigan; Chapter 6 on James G. March at the University of California, Irvine), one chapter to the globalization of American colleges and universities, and a brief epilogue on critics of instrumentalism.

Readers of *The Instrumental University* will learn much about the proliferation and work of organized research units (ORUs), like Michigan's Center for Research on Economic Development and Berkeley's Institute of