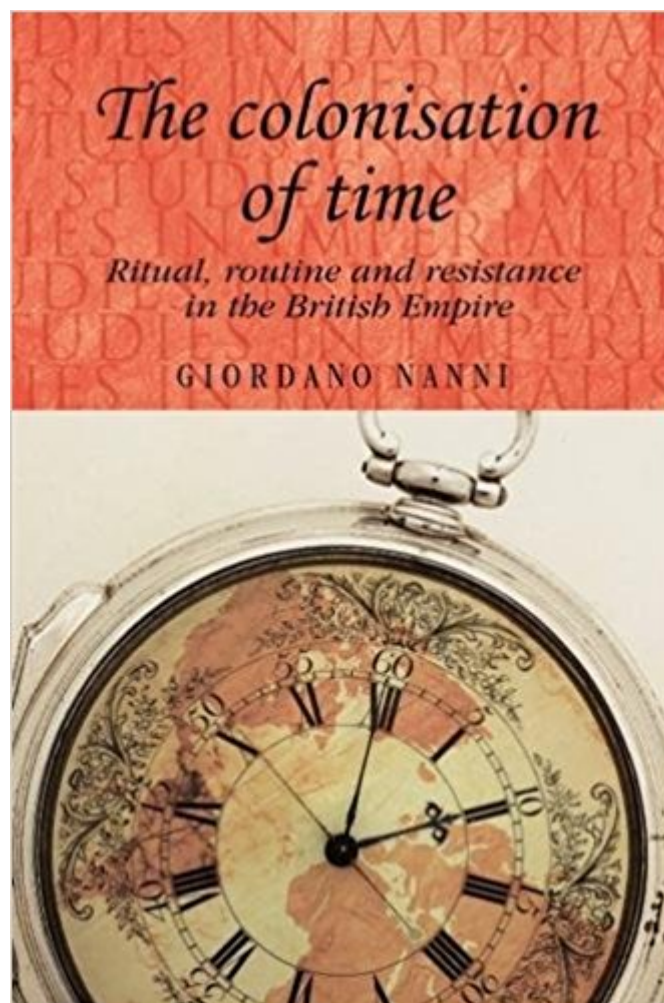




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The Colonisation Of Time: Ritual, Routine And Resistance In The British Empire (Studies In Imperialism MUP)



Synopsis

The Colonisation of Time is a highly original and long overdue examination of the ways that western-European and specifically British concepts and rituals of time were imposed on other cultures as a fundamental component of colonisation during the nineteenth century. Based on a wealth of primary sources, it explores the intimate relationship between the colonisation of time and space in two British settler-colonies (Victoria, Australia and the Cape Colony, South Africa) and its instrumental role in the exportation of Christianity, capitalism, and modernity, thus adding new depth to our understanding of imperial power and of the ways in which it was exercised and limited. All those intrigued by the concept of time will find this book of interest, for it illustrates how western-European time's rise to a position of global dominance-from the clock to the seven-day week-is one of the most pervasive, enduring and taken-for-granted legacies of colonisation in today's world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"In this thoughtful and illuminating book, Giordano Nanni mounts a persuasive argument for the role that time (whether measured in hours, weeks, months, or seasons) played in missionary endeavors to 'civilize' indigenous people ... This is a welcome addition to a now well-established trend in imperial history writing that emphasizes the centrality of quotidian struggles in understanding political, economic, and social change." -Joanna Cruickshank, Deakin University, American

Historical Review

Giordano Nanni is an Honorary Fellow of the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne.

This is an absolutely fascinating read. Every Australian and South African ought to read it as it explains so much that causes a divide between the indigenous people (and their descendants) from us colonials whose ancestors settled these countries. Well written and readable - though it does require quite a lot of concentration! I think it actually applies to the wider global population where many inherited cultural traits simply do not adhere to or include the Industrial revolution and religion's strict adherence to the civilising influence of adherence to strict time keeping!

This is an excellent book. Nanni does a great job highlighting how western constructions of time are being used to control and dominate the world. He cites many highly metaphysical authors such as Foucault and Althusser etc and he does a great job explaining their points without coming across as obtuse as they do (no beef I read all of them but their writing is so Banal). He also shows with precise detail how in Australia and the southern part of Africa missionaries (the foot soldiers of this papacy financed thing we call modernity) made use of their Cartesian rational knowledge to take advantage of people who did not have such a mechanistic linear view of time (nor did they need such because their societies "danced to a different beat in time"). Nanni keeps up the good work we need more books from your mind because like Baudrillard says we must symbolically exchange death with this system in order to see it go (since that is the only thing it fears hence Foucault talks of bio power and the way in which life is managed so rationally/ruthlessly. as always I learn Egbesu[...]

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