

No Cancel Mob at All for Bruce Gilley's Book
We canceled Prof. Bruce Gilley's book at his request.

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Regarding Bruce Gilley's "[The Cancel Mob Comes Back for More](#)" (op-ed, Oct. 8): Since 1949, Rowman & Littlefield has published high-quality, peer-reviewed scholarly books written by authors holding views across the political spectrum. We are proud of the diversity of thought and scholarship in our catalogs. Following a petition that raised questions about the scholarship in Prof. Gilley's book "The Last Imperialist" and the series "The Problems with Anti-Colonialism," we put the book on hold and removed it from our website while we reviewed the matter. A day later, before we had reached a decision concerning how to move forward and before we had had a chance to discuss our concerns with him, Prof. Gilley asked that we release him from the contract to publish his book. We agreed to his request and canceled the contract for the book as well as the series, for which no other titles had been signed or published. While I share Prof. Gilley's concern about freedom of speech, it is important to make it clear that we canceled Prof. Gilley's book at his request and we canceled the series because his book was the only title that had been signed for the series. We are proud of our history of publishing the best scholarship, submitted to rigorous peer review, from a variety of viewpoints across the social sciences and humanities.

Jed Lyons
President & CEO
The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc.
Lanham, Md.

Jed Lyons engages in dissimulation by insisting that his company did not cancel my book and book series. In an Oct. 8 letter to Dr. Andrew Nathan of Columbia University (which he has allowed me to share), Mr. Lyons explained that "Our editors' concerns about the Gilley book arose when we were made aware of problems regarding his previous work," contained in criticisms of my 2017 article "The Case for Colonialism" and that "We trust their judgement as well as that of other detractors of Bruce Gilley's academic work." As he is well aware, Lexington Books erased my book and series from their website shortly after a petition was launched Sept. 26 calling for their cancellation. After I learned of the erasure on Sept. 28, I spent two fruitless days emailing my editor seeking an explanation, only to receive silence. To protect my book from being deep-sixed by the publisher (as was allowed under the contract), I requested the rights back, which they did immediately and without explanation. That Mr. Lyons should seek to exculpate his act of censorship with reference to this technicality only adds to the disgrace of him and his organization in this sordid affair.

Prof. Bruce Gilley
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