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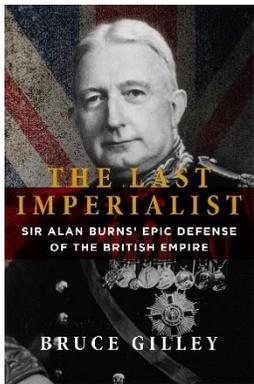
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Critical Race Theory is Wrong about Colonialism



Washington, D.C.—Ibram X. Kendi and other leaders of the Critical Race Theory (CRT) and The 1619 Project movements decry “imperialism” and “colonialism” as inherently evil, writing off anyone who disagrees with them as a racist. They are wrong, and we must know why. Dr. Bruce Gilley is a professor of political science and public policy at Portland State University, and his book ***The Last Imperialist: Sir Alan Burns’ Epic Defense of the British Empire*** dethrones the revisionist historians and shatters their unbalanced accusations against European colonialism.

CRT is a dangerous, closed-minded ideology, and Dr. Gilley is no stranger to its consequences. His 2017 article [“The Case for Colonialism”](#) drew international attention after he received death threats in response.

Sir Alan Burns was the last imperialist, one of the few in the British Empire willing to defy the anti-colonial reaction that condemned millions to despotism under the regimes that replaced it. Through previously unavailable documentation from the Burns family, Gilley proves just how right Burns was to soberly assess the benefits of imperialism and the tragic results of too-rapid decolonization. His discoveries completely undermine CRT’s teachings:

- CRT claims that colonialism was racist, but it was premised on the idea that everyone could achieve freedom, development, and peace no matter his race or culture. Anti-colonialists are the ones who created identity groups and even admired Hitler because his race-purity doctrines were like their own.
- CRT claims that colonialism was detrimental and unjust. However, colonialism sparked economic development, good governance, provided the rule of law and human rights for minorities and women, and rescued cultural artifacts and languages from disappearance.
- CRT claims that the more a people was under British influence the worse off they were, but the opposite is true. The difference between Hong Kong and China, Singapore and Thailand, Haiti and the Bahamas, and Kenya and Ethiopia is British colonialism.
- CRT claims these countries were better off after decolonization, but when the British were forced out without adequate preparations, there mass suffering and civil conflict followed.

The 1619 Project and CRT are missing the truth and suppressing academic freedom and political diversity. Gilley’s ***The Last Imperialist*** is a tool free-thinking people need to promote these things.

The Last Imperialist by Dr. Bruce Gilley is available September 21, 2021, in hardcover (288 pp, \$28.99, 978-1-68451-217-1) from Regnery Gateway (www.regnerygateway.com).



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The Last Imperialist

By Dr. Bruce Gilley

TALKING POINTS

- **CRT claims that white societies are inherently racist, and they cite colonialism as proof. But colonialism was premised on the idea that everyone could achieve freedom, development, and peace no matter their race or culture.** It was the anti-colonialists who began to divide the world into identity groups and insist they were all different and should be treated like different species. CRT is neo-racism, and it grows out of the neo-racism of the anti-colonial movement that sought racial purification of colonial areas by throwing out the Europeans. Hitler was a hero in the anti-colonial world because his own race purity doctrines meshed with their own; today this is CRT.
- Colonialism created a cosmopolitan and classically liberal (small “l”) basis on which all societies could thrive. It sparked economic development, laid the foundations for good governance, provided the rule of law and human rights—especially for minorities and women—and rescued cultural artifacts and languages from disappearance. The Western model of classical liberal society believed that all human beings are equal and that universal rights and freedoms are a common human need. Western societies began to implant that model in their colonies. **CRT rejects the very idea of human equality and universal needs in favor of human division based on race and on culturally determined needs that differ according to race.**
- **The longer and more intensely a place was ruled by the British, the better off its people were. The evidence for that is unambiguous.** The difference between Haiti and the Bahamas is British colonialism; between Belize and Guatemala; between Singapore and Thailand; Hong Kong and China; Kenya and Ethiopia; Ghana and Liberia. When the British were forced out without adequate preparations, there was mass suffering and civil conflict—partition in India, the Biafran war in Nigeria, and now the same thing in Hong Kong. The long-term advantages of having been a British colony, however, survived.

Notable Findings from The Last Imperialist :

- American policy on colonialism was distorted in the 1950s by the reckless Massachusetts politician Mason Sears, who undermined British rule in its final stages while at the United Nations and had to be reined in several times by the State Department.
- The critical destroyers-for-bases deal that brought the United States into World War II in 1941 nearly fell apart due to bickering among British colonies, but it was saved by the work of Sir Alan Burns, who headed the British negotiating team.
- A chance 1935 flight by Burns on the seaplane of American plutocrat William Vanderbilt II explains the development of modern Belize.

To schedule an interview with Dr. Bruce Gilley, please contact [Kylie Carlino](mailto:Kylie.Carlino@Regnery.com) at Kylie.Carlino@Regnery.com or 202-596-1680



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QUESTIONS FOR THE AUTHOR

General

1. Critical Race Theory and The 1619 Project are pushing their way into curricula—why is what they teach about colonialism a problem?
2. You have written a biography of Sir Alan Burns called ***The Last Imperialist***; who was he, and why does this story matter in light of the CRT movement?
3. What were the pros and cons of British colonialism that Sir Alan Burns saw?
4. Burns was a defender of the British empire; why?
5. Why has no one written this biography until now?
6. What has been the response of academics and the culture to your work on the benefits of colonialism?
7. Tell us about your journey writing this book. Why did you get interested in Burns? How did you track down his family? How did you find all his letters and personal effects?
8. What was the most exciting and important discovery you made?
9. What were Burns' relationship with and views of the United States and its policies towards European colonialism?
10. What lessons does Burns' life hold for our world today?
11. Where can people go to buy ***The Last Imperialist*** and support your work?

Religious

1. How important were missionaries in the success of colonialism?
2. Was Burns himself a man of faith? How often did Burns draw upon his faith during his career?
3. What was the relationship between the British empire and the Catholic Church? The Protestant churches?
4. How did British colonies deal with non-Christian faiths?

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The Last Imperialist
By Dr. Bruce Gilley
ABOUT THE AUTHOR



DR. BRUCE GILLEY is the author of four previous books, a professor of political science at Portland State University, and a member of the board of the National Association of Scholars, which defends free speech and free inquiry. A former journalist based in Hong Kong and a graduate of the University of Toronto, Princeton University, and the University of Oxford, he lives with his family in Portland, Oregon.

His 2017 article [“The Case for Colonialism”](https://www.thecollegefix.com/pro-colonialism-article-taken-journal-editor-receives-credible-death-threats/) drew international attention after he received death threats in response. To read about the article that sparked death threats, visit:

<https://www.thecollegefix.com/pro-colonialism-article-taken-journal-editor-receives-credible-death-threats/>

<https://www.aei.org/articles/bruce-gilleys-orwellian-campus-nightmare/>

Read “The Case for Colonialism” article here:

https://www.nas.org/academic-questions/31/2/the_case_for_colonialism

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