

despite national idiosyncrasies, all temperance campaigns were largely based on the same logic. The ideology of temperance resulted from a combination of enlightenment-influenced progressivism and Christian evangelicalism that pointed to the perfectibility of mankind. And while the essay concentrates mainly on the intersection of temperance and religion, it also touches upon socialist, nationalist and colonial interpretations of the movement. The collection of essays is rounded out with Toner's 'Cultural Representations', which investigates the ambivalent representations of drinking in art and literature from the period. It argues that alcoholism was 'depicted simultaneously as a by-product of modernity and as an obstacle to further social progress' (p. 184).

Overall, the essays provide an invaluable introduction to the field and some of its major historiographical trends and debates and as such would serve as an excellent primer for those interested in the history of alcohol. Moreover, the volume contains a remarkably thorough and highly useful bibliography of works on the history of alcohol and alcoholism that will be of great use to established researchers. However, despite the volume's efforts to provide a global history of alcohol, much of its material tends to focus on Anglo-American and European history. The extensive bibliography, for example, includes nearly entirely English-language works—some treatment in the essays of non-English historiographies would have been welcome. Nevertheless, the volume provides an excellent starting place for new researchers as well as useful references for more seasoned ones. Several of the essays have already found their way into my footnotes.

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*Learning Empire: Globalization and the German Quest for World Status, 1875–1919*, by Erik Grimmer-Solem (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019; pp. xiv + 654. £34.99).

How influential is academic scholarship? While many of us may strive to produce socially relevant work with a modest degree of 'impact', Erik Grimmer-Solem's book focuses on a small group of scholars in Wilhelmine Germany who, it seems, greatly influenced German global politics up to and including the First World War. The book links the individual stories of these middle-class political economists with the 'high politics' of the likes of Tirpitz, Bülow, Kaiser Wilhelm II and the German foreign office (p. 21), demonstrating the remarkable salience of liberal imperial thought from the late nineteenth century through the First World War. Grimmer-Solem thus joins recent scholars in taking on the Fischer school, whose advocates have long claimed that a nationalist quest for *Weltmacht* and expansion rooted in Imperial Germany was responsible for the First World War as much as the Second. The author's aim is ambitiously formulated: 'a novel retelling of the entire history of the German Empire from a simultaneously local prosopographical and global perspective' (p. 24). A tall order, indeed.

Although Grimmer-Solem alludes in his introduction to the role of the German university 'as a node of global connection that brought the world to

Germany' (p. 7), this study is really more about a group of individuals and their personal and scholarly networks than the actual institutions in which they were embedded. It thus resonates with recent work on intellectual networks and empire, and particularly with Tamson Pietsch's *Empire of Scholars: Universities, Networks and the British Academic World, 1850–1939* (2013). It makes an important contribution to our understanding of the German academic world, at the same time demonstrating its global entanglements.

The book is organised into three parts, moving chronologically from 'Absent-Minded Empire, 1875–1897', through 'Empire Imagined, 1897–1907', to 'Empire Lost, 1908–1919'. A total of twelve chapters interweave developments in the lives of the main subjects with major domestic and foreign policy debates. Drawing largely on unpublished or under-used personal papers and accounts as well as an impressive array of secondary literature, Grimmer-Solem takes us on the intellectual and geographical journeys of six scholars, all of whom studied under the economist Gustav Schmoller. We travel with Ernst von Halle to the United States in 1893–4, with Karl Rathgen to Korea, China and Japan in 1886 and 1890, and later to the American South, the Caribbean, Panama and Honduras. We accompany Hermann Schumacher to the US and Cuba in 1907 and to Malaya, Java and Sumatra in 1911. We trace Max Sering's route through the US and Canada in 1883 and track the connections Karl Helfferich made in Cairo. We witness how the American Henry Farnam, having studied in Germany, continued to facilitate intellectual exchange between the two countries until the outbreak of the First World War, when he was just about to begin an academic exchange in Berlin. Grimmer-Solem retraces these scholars' connections and their frequent journeys overseas in great detail, thus reminding us of the broad scope of German academic and political interests during this era, interests not just limited to the colonies in Africa, but also stretching through informal networks to North America, the Caribbean, Latin America, Japan and China.

The author thus seeks to tell the story of German empire 'from the globe inward toward Germany' (p. 8). On the one hand, the book succeeds in this endeavour, convincingly arguing that the seeds of *Weltpolitik*, as it was conceptualised, for example, by Max Sering, lay as much in the American West and Frederick Turner's idea of the frontier as in the works of Friedrich Ratzel. However, as the author widens our gaze to take in the full scope of German imperialism, he also narrows it by focusing almost exclusively on the outputs of a small group of six white, middle-class, Protestant male economists. A history told through their personal archives can of course only go so far towards a truly 'global' perspective. The reader does get tantalising glimpses of the lives of non-German scholars circulating in this network as well, such as Rathgen's research student in Tokyo, Kanai Noburu, who travelled and studied in Heidelberg, Halle, Vienna, Berlin, London and Cambridge, before assuming a professorship in political economy on his return to Japan in 1890 and introducing the 'social question' into Japanese economics (pp. 96–7). These remain mere glimpses, however, and one is left wondering if and to what extent the intellectual field of the German scholars under scrutiny was in fact enriched by non-Western academic thought—whether the frequently cited international exchanges were really two-way conversations or, rather, unilateral acts of cultural imperialism.

One of Grimmer-Solem's main contentions is that these six scholars were 'defining much of the content of *Weltpolitik* well before it ever entered the political agenda' (p. 20), which begs the question to what extent they were enmeshed in crucial political processes, or merely part of the intellectual background in which key decision-makers were acting. Their reach, in fact, was greater than one might imagine. With painstaking attention to archival traces of individual meetings, itineraries, talks given, degrees acquired, pamphlets published, picnics held, dinner invitations offered and declined, Grimmer-Solem delineates the remarkable extent to which these men were, for one, actively propounding a liberal imperial *Weltpolitik* to a wider public, above all through the Navy Office's Communications Bureau and the Colonial-Political Action Committee. At the same time, they were rubbing shoulders with Secretary of State of the German Imperial Naval Office Alfred von Tirpitz, tutoring Crown Prince Wilhelm, preparing memoranda for Chancellor Bernhard von Bülow and receiving honours from the Kaiser himself. At times, the extent of their influence can only be surmised—Bülow shared opinions with Schmoller 'to an uncanny degree', for example (p. 269); his exposure to the writings of some of these scholars in the *Jahrbuch für Gesetzgebung, Verwaltung und Volkswirtschaft im Deutschen Reich* 'almost certainly played a role in shaping his perceptions of Germany's political economy and its place in the world' (p. 190). At other times, however, the links are far more concrete. Take, for example, Schumacher's memorandum on war aims drafted for the mighty industrialist Hugo Stinnes and handed to Chancellor Bethmann Hollweg in November 1914. In one way or another, this group of academics had their hands in the making of the navy laws of 1898 and 1900, the Bülow tariff of 1902, the colonial crisis of 1904–7, the so-called 'Hottentot elections', Dernburg's colonial reforms, the founding of Hamburg Colonial Institute 1908, the dreadnought arms race, the Baghdad Railway and, as such, even the war aims of the First World War.

The breathtakingly thorough investigation of these scholars' writings and manoeuvres in the economic and political realm leaves little room for reflection on the wider impact of their work. The author briefly alludes to German overseas railway investments, wholeheartedly promoted by Schmoller's disciples, as having a 'darker side' (p. 393). Some more consideration of their actual effect on the lives of indigenous peoples, including forced labourers, may have been appropriate. At just over 600 pages, this tome is not always light reading. The study will therefore be somewhat overwhelming for undergraduates and even some Master's students, but certainly valuable for more advanced scholars.

Overall, Grimmer-Solem manages to bring to life a set of historical characters that have thus far been confined to the footnotes of historical narratives of German empire, if mentioned at all. The extent to which these scholars were agents of industrial and political interests is perhaps still up for debate. Importantly, though, Grimmer-Solem meticulously demonstrates the evolution of their liberal imperial conception of *Weltpolitik*, locating its roots in the *Weltwirtschaft* of the 1880s and 1890s. Moreover, he shows the remarkable staying power of a liberal *and* imperial vision in Germany, right through to the First World War and beyond.

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