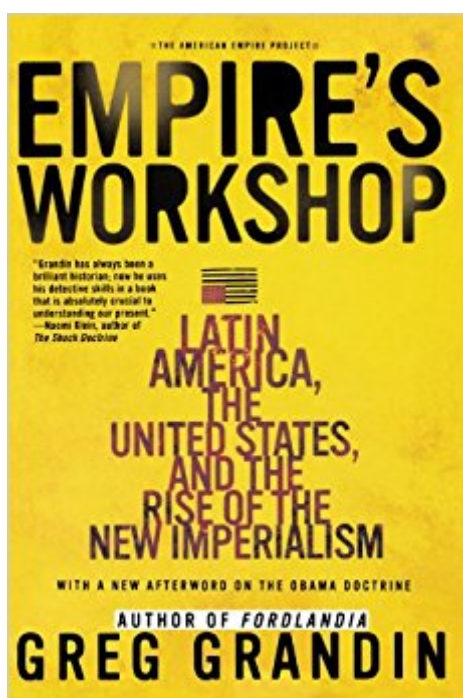


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# Empire's Workshop: Latin America, The United States, And The Rise Of The New Imperialism (American Empire Project)



## Synopsis

"Grandin has always been a brilliant historian; now he uses his detective skills in a book that is absolutely crucial to understanding our present." — Naomi Klein, author of *No Logo*

The British and Roman empires are often invoked as precedents to the Bush administration's aggressive foreign policy. But America's imperial identity was actually shaped much closer to home. In a brilliant excavation of long-obscured history, *Empire's Workshop* shows how Latin America has functioned as a proving ground for American strategies and tactics overseas. Historian Greg Grandin follows the United States' imperial operations from Jefferson's aspirations for an "empire of liberty" in Cuba and Spanish Florida to Reagan's support for brutally oppressive but U.S.-friendly regimes in Central America. He traces the origins of Bush's current policies back to Latin America, where many of the administration's leading lights first embraced the deployment of military power to advance free market economics and enlisted the evangelical movement in support of their ventures. With much of Latin America now in open rebellion against U.S. domination, Grandin asks: If Washington failed to bring prosperity and democracy to Latin America — its own backyard "workshop" — what are the chances it will do so for the world?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

America's post-9/11 policy of idealistic military adventurism has a long history, argues this incisive study. NYU historian Grandin (*The Blood of Guatemala*) sketches the vexed course of U.S. relations

with Latin America, but focuses on the Reagan administration's involvement in Central America during the 1980s, when it backed the Salvadoran government in a brutal civil war against left-wing insurgents and the Nicaraguan Contras against the Sandinista regime. Then as now, Grandin contends, Washington justified a militarist stance by citing a threat to America (Communists advancing on the Rio Grande) and championing democracy and human rights. America did not send troops but did sponsor native death squads in El Salvador, and the author notes recent press reports that the U.S. military is sponsoring similar death squads in Iraq. Grandin's conception of American imperialism "covering everything from outright invasion to corporate investment and Fed interest-rate hikes" is too broad, and he overstates the importance of Central America in the making of the American New Right. But this timely book offers an analysis of the ideological foundations of today's foreign policy consensus and a cautionary tale about its dark legacy. (May 8) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Most Americans pay little attention to our southern neighbors; however, according to NYU Latin American history professor Grandin, the U.S. government has indeed been paying attention to the region. Grandin contends that Latin America has been a testing ground--a laboratory, if you will--for the U.S. government to exercise its imperialistic tendencies. Grandin argues that U.S.-Latin American relations, from the administration of Thomas Jefferson up to the present Bush presidency, should be seen as sure indication the U.S. has always harbored imperial intentions. Our interventions in Latin America, both military and economic, have gone on repeatedly over the decades and reveal that the current administration's foreign policy, built on the concept of using military action to spread and establish our "ideals," is nothing new; it's been practiced in Latin America again and again. Contentious, certainly, but well presented. Brad Hooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Have you ever wonder why the rest of America despises or doesn't trust the USA? Yes I wrote America so the people living in the USA will finally comprehend that America is a continent not a country, people please check your map!!! Well let me tell you why, is because the USA always interfere or sticks her big nose in the business of her American neighbors, just to name a few examples/ Guatemala 1954 and Chile 1973, and also a big part of the real problem is that the USA is not governed by the President, he or she is just a pawn or an employee of the big corporations,

and the person in the Oval Office will do anything in his or her power to keep the big CEO's happy. You want proof of this? Think about these recent events, 9\11, the wars on Iraq and Afghanistan, the tax payer's money given to big corporations to cover the losses caused by their satanic greed and Guantanamo. Also I'm tired of hearing that illegal immigration has ruined the USA, let me tell you that if you keep your nose to your own business and leave the rest of America alone, you won't have a big immigration problem and just to keep in mind that the USA was built by immigrant hands. Please the USA has enough problems, public education, public health, a failed economic system and social disintegration just to mention a few, for the United States' Government to start thinking about building a global empire. FYI I'm not a leftist or a USA hater, I like the USA and its people very much but I don't have affection for the neoconservatives and the capitalist pigs that think in big profits before their fellow human beings. Enough said, peace, live long and prosper. I'M PROUD OF BEING A REAL AMERICAN!!!!

I found this book enlightening. I had thought that the evils we (the US) sometimes do in the world were aberrations caused by greed of individuals accepting corporate donations. I have been off the mark. It turns out that this is a cohesive philosophy with actual followers: authors, scholars, and theologians. It was the theological underpinnings of this philosophy that shocked me. Some theologians say that third world poverty has a religious and moral dimension. It is the fault of the poor because they don't have respect for private property. A touch of Calvinism is involved too. Our prosperity is evidence that God prefers us. The profit motive is part of God's divine plan to discipline fallen man and make him produce. The Evangelicals actually sent guns and bibles to the Contras! While the corporations might not be religious, they can certainly make common cause with this philosophy. This philosophy is what made it okay to attack and kill human beings who had never done anything to us in Iraq. I had been mistaken in my thought that it was caused by a temperamentally belligerent president and a vice president in the pay of the military industrial complex. This philosophy says it is okay to create instability and poverty in a nation because we can then lead these poor, tired people to unregulated capitalism which is the highest good. Having said the book is enlightening, I must add it is hard to read. The run on sentences kept having me backtrack to antecedents. And words like "insurgents" must necessarily shift meaning depending upon who is in power. I suggest wading through it anyway.

This book is an extremely powerful look at the history of the U.S. relationship with Latin America. I really recommend it for anyone wanting to better understand current issues in Latin America today.

This is a very readable book about US foreign policy in Latin America. I used it as a resource when writing MA level papers about US foreign policy. It is a good read and well worth adding to your library.

Greg Grandin's *Empire's Workshop* is a work of enormous synthetic breadth. While it is a commonplace for commentators to point out that many of the policy analysts and foreign policy specialists that staffed the Reagan administration have also staffed the George W. Bush administration, in my reading Grandin's work is the first to chart the philosophical, policy and propagandistic correlations between them. Grandin demonstrates that many of the techniques employed by the Bush administration to garner and sustain support for its wars and to employ effective disinformation were forged and refined in the laboratory (or "workshop" as Grandin puts it) of Central America during the Reagan years. Particularly novel is Grandin's analysis of how both Reagan and Bush curried the active support of the USA religious right in pursuit of its foreign and military policy aims. In the end, the reader realizes that the Reagan years became a template for the Bush years. The book is brilliant. I found it difficult to put it down.

Thought-provoking and well-written exploration of the new American empire in Latin America, and the rise of the conservative movement.

Yikes. We have not been the best moral country we often claim to be. Not great y'all. Not great.

surprisingly surprising. information hard to get and nowhere else. saves you a ton of reading. this is the only book you'll need to read really. fast paced all the way to the end

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