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Amaury Lorin and Christelle Tauraud, eds., *Nouvelle histoire des colonisations européennes (XIXe-XXe siècles): Sociétés, cultures, politiques*. Paris: Presse Universitaires de France, 2013. vi + 225 pp. Preface, notes, and bibliography. 20.00€. (pb). ISBN 978-2-13-061928-4.

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This slim volume entitled *Nouvelle histoire des colonisations européennes (XIXe-XXe siècles) Sociétés, cultures, politiques*, edited by Amaury Lorin and Christelle Tauraud, offers a collection of sixteen chapters by different authors on a wide array of topics falling within the parameters laid out by the title.

The guiding principle of the collection is to uproot modern European colonial histories from the limited perspective of national historical contexts and instead analyze them through a comparative European lens. This perspective fits well with recent trends that situate the history of imperialism in global and/or comparative history as opposed to individual national histories. [1] In the introduction, editors Lorin and Tauraud propose “la nécessité d’envisager le fait colonial non plus seulement dans une perspective nationale dangereusement dialectique mais bien plutôt transnationale (et donc comparative)...” (p. 3). However, only a few of the collection’s chapters are explicitly comparative or transnational in perspective (by which I mean covering several European empires). Additionally, perhaps not surprisingly for a French language publication, the collection is a bit heavy on French subjects (nine of the sixteen chapters are exclusively about the French empire).

Nevertheless, I would still maintain that the book is successful in achieving the goal of providing a venue for integrating the study of European empires. Reading Nicola LaBanca’s contribution on Italian concentration camps in Libya (“L’Italie fasciste et la violence coloniale: les camps de concentration en Cyrénaïque [1930-1933]”) alongside David Anderson’s chapter on British-sanctioned violence against the “Mau Mau” revolt in Kenya (“La violence par procuration: les Britanniques dans la guerre Mau Mau du Kenya [1952-1960]”) provokes the reader to make connections between two histories of colonial repression. Matthew Stanard’s article arguing that, despite claims to the contrary, a true imperial culture was developed in Belgium (“Apprendre et aimer un fantôme: propagande pro-impériale, mémoire de Léopold II et culture coloniale en Belgique [1880-1960]”) makes a connection to the French population’s ambivalence towards imperialism. Nadia Vargaftig’s article on colonial propaganda under both Mussolini and Salazar (“L’empire des dictateurs: la propagande coloniale sous Salazar et Mussolini [1922-1940]”) demonstrates the specifics of what made up fascist colonialism, but more importantly, reveals what made it similar to European imperialism in general. Above all, this volume will likely encourage readers mostly interested in French colonialism to think more about connections and comparisons to other European imperial contexts.

The book is divided into three parts. The first entitled “Constuire l’empire” includes contributions that fill gaps in the history of colonial conquest but use rather conventional perspectives and methodologies (for example, “Une Conquête Pacifique: Auguste Pavié, l’explorateur aux pieds nus [Cambodge-Laos, 1876-1895]” and “Du Gibier au Colonisé: chasse, guerre et conquête coloniale en Afrique [France, Royaume-Uni, Belgique, 1870-1914]”). The second grouping of articles is called “Acteurs et pratiques des colonisations européens” and covers a wide range of topics from an analysis of French Governors

General (“Les gouverneurs généraux de la France coloniale [1880-1914]: servir la république aux colonies”) to the British establishment of hill stations in the Himalayas (“Tourisme et colonisations: les hill stations himalayennes de l’empire Britannique des Indes [Darjeeling, Simla, Mussoorie, Nainital] [1820-1947]”). By far, the strongest section is the third section, “Violences en Situation Coloniale” (including the chapters by Anderson and LaBanca). Clearly a more specific and unifying theme than the previous two, this section feels the most innovative. By emphasizing the role of violence, as opposed to ideas, popular culture, or propaganda, these chapters help shift historical research in a fresh and compelling direction. [2]

The volume is the result of a research seminar conducted by Lorin and Taraud at the Centre d’histoire de Sciences Po. It is likely due to these origins, which undoubtedly welcomed a variety of topics and scholars, that the collection sometimes feels uneven in encompassing such a wide range of disconnected topics.

In a brief preface, Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch writes about the importance of a “comparative” or “connectée” history of empires that eschews a Eurocentric point of view. She elaborates on the need to include the perspective of the colonies as well, “Or l’histoire connectée n’est intéressante qu’à partir du moment où elle examine les deux bouts de la chaîne, en accordant au regard de l’autre le même poids que le sien” (p. vi). The collection certainly does not always achieve Coquery-Vidrovitch’s aim of examining both metropole and colony. A bit disappointingly, many of the articles focus solely on European colonial administrators, European politicians, or ideas.

Despite these shortcomings, the collection includes many interesting contributions, the most thought-provoking of which bring the reader to the margins of empire or attempt to de-center the story of colonialism from a metropole v. colony approach. For example, Isabelle Sacareau’s contribution on hill stations employs a geographer’s perspective to argue that tourism and colonial domination were interwoven as the building of vacation destinations along the fringes of the British India helped shape Anglo-Indian life and provided an opportunity to clamp down on the unruly borders of empire. Nelcy Delanoë tells the story of French colonial Moroccan soldiers (“Poussières d’empire: les soldats marocains dans le corps expéditionnaire français en extrême-orient [1947-1972]”) stationed in Vietnam to help repress the independence movement. Her chapter explores the various reasons (from money and discrimination to the influence of propaganda and anti-colonialism) that motivated some Moroccans to abandon the French and rally to the Viet-Minh. Based on her book *Poussières d’empire*, Delanoë’s chapter defies the typical metropole-colony relationship by placing Moroccan soldiers in Vietnam at the center of her story. [3]

David Anderson provides a vivid window into an episode in the British repression of the so-called “Mau Mau” revolt. Anderson, who has published extensively on the British in Kenya, highlights the way Kikuyu men were co-opted by British authorities to do the dirty work of repressing the uprising. Anderson describes it here as “violence par procuration” (p. 183). By engaging the Kikuyu Home Guard (KHG) to commit atrocities, the British were able to portray the repression of Mau Mau as a civil war (p. 184). And, yet the use of the KHG was even more complex than a simple mercenary situation. Anderson shows that some KHG were collaborating with the Mau Mau commanders while the rebels remained divided amongst themselves (p. 188).

Other outstanding contributions employ or interpret archives in innovative ways. Armelle Mabon contributes a piece on the 1944 massacre of *tirailleurs* at Thiaroye in Senegal (“Le massacre des prisonniers de guerre coloniaux le 1er décembre 1944 à Thiaroye [Sénégal]”) in which (depending on which sources one believes) either thirty or seventy West African veterans of the Second World War who had been held as prisoners of war in German *Frontstalags* were killed while demanding a full accounting of their compensation. Mabon’s analysis probes absences and inconsistencies within the archive to show how an official myth was created to shroud administrators’ responsibility for the tragic

deaths of the soldiers. Vanina Profizi's article on the "legend" of Corsicans within the French empire ("La légende coloniale des corses: les corses et l'empire colonial français [XIXe-XXe siècles]") brings readers to the margins of empire while introducing innovative sources. Acknowledging that Corsicans were somewhat disproportionately represented in French colonial service, Profizi traces the Corsican legend from the era of colonial conquest. Her most interesting sources, however, date from the 1980s. Profizi analyzes how local history publications and museum exhibits helped to exaggerate Corsican involvement in empire and create the myth of Corsicans as "des coloniaux superlatifs" (p. 108). Ultimately, participation in overseas colonialism meant carving out a special niche for Corsicans, but it also served as fundamental proof of their patriotism and nationalism.

H-France readers interested in the history of French colonialism might be most drawn to this book because it includes several contributions on the history of France's empire. But they would be wrong to stop there. As someone who regularly attends French Historical Studies annual conferences it is clear to me that scholars of nineteenth- and twentieth-century French colonialism are eager to engage not only with historians of France, but also with scholars studying modern empires of other European metropolises. But, why stop there? A history of nineteenth and twentieth-century empires should also include comparisons and connections with Asian and American imperialism. This collection edited by Lorin and Taraud is a step in the direction of broadening our understanding of imperialism to a more global and comparative perspective.

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Lancelot Arzel, "Du gibier au colonisé: chasse, guerre et conquête coloniale en Afrique (France, Royaume-Uni, Belgique, 1870-1914)"

Isabelle Dion, "Une conquête pacifique? Auguste Pavié, l'explorateur aux pieds nus (Cambodge-Laos, 1876-1895)"

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## NOTES

[1] For example, see Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper, *Empires in World History* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2011); Miguel Bandeira Jerónimo and António Costa Pinto, eds., *The Ends of European Colonial Empires: Cases and Comparisons* (Cambridge: Palgrave MacMillan, 2015).

[2] These subjects have been the topics of other edited collections. See for example, Martin Thomas, ed., *The French Colonial Mind, Vol. 1: Mental Maps of Empire and Colonial Encounters* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2011); Tony Chafer and Sackur, Amanda, eds., *Promoting the Colonial Idea: Propaganda and Images of Empire in France* (New York and Hampshire, U.K.: Palgrave, 2002). For another collection that highlights the role of colonial violence see Martin Thomas, ed., *The French Colonial Mind, vol. 2: Violence, Military Encounters, and Colonialism* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2011).

[3] Nelcya Delanoë, *Poussières d'empires: Trois couleurs, un drapeau, un empire*. (Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 2002).

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