

Daniel Immerwahr. *How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States*. New York: Picador, 2019. Pp. 528. Paper \$22.00.

How to Hide an Empire is a meticulously researched narrative that challenges the conventional understanding of the United States as a continental power. Daniel Immerwahr, Associate Professor of History at Northwestern University, unveils the expansive yet often overlooked dimensions of American imperialism by exploring the country's far-flung territories, covering a broad timeline from the Spanish-American War to the post-World War II era. He provocatively asserts that the traditional narrative of the United States, focusing solely on its continental borders, significantly understates the country's global footprint and its implications for understanding American history and identity.

Immerwahr thoroughly examines how U.S. imperial ambitions have shaped its policies, culture, and global standing. Integrating the histories of territories such as the Philippines, Guam, Puerto Rico, and others into the broader narrative challenges readers to reconsider what constitutes the United States. Governmental records, personal letters, newspapers, and declassified military documents detail the strategic importance of bases in the Philippines and Guam, shedding light on the military and geopolitical motivation behind territorial expansion. This reevaluation is not merely academic; it has profound implications for contemporary political and social issues, including debates over citizenship, rights, and national identity.

One of the most significant contributions to historiography is the illumination of the U.S. role in global historical processes. Immerwahr adeptly situates the narrative within the contexts of imperialism, colonialism, and international migration, thus offering a comprehensive view that intersects with various fields of historical inquiry. The interdisciplinary approach, drawing upon cultural studies, political science, and geography, enriches the historical narrative and offers a model for future scholarship.

Immerwahr masterfully renders complex historical themes accessible and compelling, weaving a rich narrative that guides readers through the United States' imperial past with clarity and engagement. The chronological and thematic approach il-

luminesces key moments and figures while enhancing understanding of the nuanced dynamics of power, resistance, and identity across American territories. One notable example is the discussion of the impact of World War II on the U.S. territories, particularly the transformation of Puerto Rico into a critical military base. This period illustrates the nuanced dynamics of power, resistance, and identity as Puerto Ricans navigated their strategic importance to the United States against their ongoing struggle for autonomy and rights. This balanced approach, weaving academic rigor with a compelling narrative style, invites readers to explore American imperialism that transcends conventional classroom narratives. By highlighting prominent and lesser-known events and personalities, such as the strategic use of the Philippines during the Cold War and the hidden story of the U.S. occupation of the Aleutian Islands, Immerwahr offers a comprehensive view of the empire.

However, the broad scope occasionally leads to the overgeneralization of complex historical episodes, which, while effective in crafting a cohesive narrative, might obscure the intricate nuances that characterize the local histories of the United States' territories. Immerwahr's method of synthesizing vast information into a comprehensive overview is impressive, showcasing his scholarly prowess. Yet, this approach sometimes glosses over the unique socio-political and cultural dynamics that define each territory's experience under American rule. A more detailed examination of the local contexts and perspectives of the territories discussed would not only enrich the narrative but also provide readers with a clearer understanding of the varied impacts of American imperialism.

Despite the considerations mentioned, this work distinguishes itself through its originality and the provocativeness of its arguments, making it an indispensable resource for historians, students of American history, and a broader audience interested in the United States' global presence. Immerwahr's compelling narrative appeals not only to academic circles but also to educators, policymakers, activists, and the general public, who will find the book enlightening for understanding America's complex and often contradictory role on the world stage. Its accessibility and engaging writing style shed light on overlooked aspects of American imperialism, offering fresh perspectives on contemporary issues such as global politics, human rights, and national identity. Activists and

advocates working on colonialism, decolonization, and territorial rights will find invaluable historical context for ongoing struggles for justice and self-determination within its pages. *How to Hide an Empire* serves as a comprehensive examination of American imperial endeavors and their lasting global effects, inviting a wide range of readers to reflect on the narratives that define the United States and its place in the world, thereby encouraging a more informed and critical engagement with these important issues.

Felix McDonald

Christian O. Paiz. *The Strikers of Coachella: A Rank-and-File History of the UFW Movement*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2023. Pp. 412. Paper. \$29.95.

Christian O. Paiz, former high school teacher and Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, examines the Coachella Valley's United Farm Workers Movement (UFW) and the Chicana/o movement from the early 1960s to the mid-1980s. The central argument revolves around the approach to understanding the UFW movement as a subject. Instead of concentrating on a singular leader like Cesar Chavez, Paiz utilizes the rank-and-file members, ordinary people within the organization, to create a more contextualized history of the UFW movement. He challenges the idea that Cesar Chavez was responsible for the decline of the UFW movement. Instead, he suggests that the decline was due to the UFW becoming anti-democratic and that movements crumbled due to several factors.

Paiz adopts the UFW term "Rancher Nation," which refers to the authoritative white California ranch owners. The ranch owners accumulated wealth while keeping farmworkers marginalized. Grasping the concept of "Rancher Nation" is essential to understanding the exploitation of farmworkers and who the workers were going against. Organized into four sections, he begins with white pioneers settling in Coachella before the UFW movement and the region's transformation from a "dead land" to an area of irrigation on the eastern side. Then, focuses from the mid-1960s to the early 1970s. While the main emphasis is on the UFW movement, he effectively examines the interplay between the two movements and their mutual support. Chicana/o activists, some from