



Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire

By Erik Linstrum

Download now

Read Online 

Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire By Erik Linstrum

At its zenith in the early twentieth century, the British Empire ruled nearly one-quarter of the world's inhabitants. As they worked to exercise power in diverse and distant cultures, British authorities relied to a surprising degree on the science of mind. *Ruling Minds* explores how psychology opened up new possibilities for governing the empire. From the mental testing of workers and soldiers to the use of psychoanalysis in development plans and counterinsurgency strategy, psychology provided tools for measuring and managing the minds of imperial subjects. But it also led to unintended consequences.

Following researchers, missionaries, and officials to the far corners of the globe, Erik Linstrum examines how they used intelligence tests, laboratory studies, and even dream analysis to chart abilities and emotions. Psychology seemed to offer portable and standardized forms of knowledge that could be applied to people everywhere. Yet it also unsettled basic assumptions of imperial rule. Some experiments undercut the racial hierarchies that propped up British dominance. Others failed to realize the orderly transformation of colonized societies that experts promised and officials hoped for. Challenging our assumptions about scientific knowledge and empire, Linstrum shows that psychology did more to expose the limits of imperial authority than to strengthen it.

 [Download Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire ...pdf](#)

Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire

By Erik Linstrum

Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire By Erik Linstrum

At its zenith in the early twentieth century, the British Empire ruled nearly one-quarter of the world's inhabitants. As they worked to exercise power in diverse and distant cultures, British authorities relied to a surprising degree on the science of mind. *Ruling Minds* explores how psychology opened up new possibilities for governing the empire. From the mental testing of workers and soldiers to the use of psychoanalysis in development plans and counterinsurgency strategy, psychology provided tools for measuring and managing the minds of imperial subjects. But it also led to unintended consequences.

Following researchers, missionaries, and officials to the far corners of the globe, Erik Linstrum examines how they used intelligence tests, laboratory studies, and even dream analysis to chart abilities and emotions. Psychology seemed to offer portable and standardized forms of knowledge that could be applied to people everywhere. Yet it also unsettled basic assumptions of imperial rule. Some experiments undercut the racial hierarchies that propped up British dominance. Others failed to realize the orderly transformation of colonized societies that experts promised and officials hoped for. Challenging our assumptions about scientific knowledge and empire, Linstrum shows that psychology did more to expose the limits of imperial authority than to strengthen it.

Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire By Erik Linstrum Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #973618 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2016-01-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.10" h x 6.20" w x 9.30" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

 [Download Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Review

Challenging one-dimensional accounts that stress the unapologetic complicity of psychologists in the project of empire, he excels in unpicking the complexity and contradictions that bedeviled the encounter between science and colonial rule...Linstrum's deeply researched volume also contains a warning as pertinent now as it was in the age of pith helmets?that whatever the intentions of the researcher, and however much they qualify their conclusions, officials are often willing to co-opt knowledge to their own ends. (Duncan Bell *Times Literary Supplement* 2016-05-13)

Ruling Minds takes the reader through the largely forgotten history of how Great Britain tried to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its empire through the new 'mind sciences,' a broad category that included personality and intelligence testing as well as the theories of Jung and Freud. From Uganda to India to Burma, government bureaucrats, academics, missionaries, and anthropologists used tests like Porteus's [maze] to try to research, rationalize, and control the empire. (Jack Meserve *New York Magazine* 2016-02-16)

This book offers a compelling examination of the intersections between psychology, empire, and modernity. Linstrum deftly illuminates the ways in which psychology was harnessed and deployed in the making and remaking of imperial modernities, and this analytical concern allows him to press against the often narrow focus on the production of cultural difference that has characterized most recent scholarship on the history of colonial knowledge and empire building. There is no doubt that this is a sophisticated and significant work. (Tony Ballantyne, author of *Entanglements of Empire*)

Linstrum's deft and fascinating study of imperial psychology reveals the ever-present tension between the radical possibilities of psychology and the requirements of the colonial state. In seeking to reconcile human diversity with a universalist model of the mind, psychologists ran up against the assumptions and prejudices that fed imperial rule, as well as the needs of colonial regimes. This is a groundbreaking work of considerable depth, that speaks as much to contemporary concerns as it does to the history of the British Empire. A tour de force. (Philippa Levine, author of *The British Empire: Sunrise to Sunset*)

A tough and sophisticated account of how the 'science of mind' was deployed in the British Empire in surprising ways?to shore up empire, to critique it, to modernize it. Linstrum's own psychological acumen is applied to the personnel, instruments, and subjects of imperial psychology to reveal the multiple potentials?but also, ultimately, the frailty?of expertise in the global power politics of the twentieth century. (Peter Mandler, author of *Return from the Natives*)

Linstrum has written a rich, captivating, and well-researched study of how British authorities used psychology as a global system of knowledge and practice informing, bolstering, and, conversely, undermining the political projects of British imperialism in the 20th century...This reviewer has difficulty imagining a future history of modernist psychology that will be the equal of Linstrum's impressive foundational study. An indispensable read for anyone interested in history, psychology, and political science?particularly their intersection. (M. Uebel *Choice* 2016-06-01)

Wide-ranging, evenhanded, and very well written...Linstrum's book marks a significant revision in our understanding of his subject. He carries this out with such sensitivity and aplomb that it sometimes takes a moment of reflection and a flick to the literature cited in his notes to reveal just how powerful and, possibly

controversial, an intervention he is making. (Freddy Foks *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 2016-07-01)

This is an excellent book: smart, elegantly written, well researched and ambitious in scope. (Mathew Thomson *British Journal of the History of Science* 2016-12-01)

Linstrum argues that rather than providing answers and resolution, psychology's enormous and ambiguous promise bought it a consistent place in the British colonial world, even as individuals and their research exposed unexpected conclusions and challenges to existing thinking. Across changing circumstances, this book highlights a consistent but contradictory discourse underlying the late British Empire.

(Catherine Coombs *Canadian Journal of History* 2016-12-01)

[Linstrum] has conducted a vast survey of primary and secondary source material to knit together this fascinating study. Perhaps the term page-turner should never be applied to a nonfiction monograph, but *Ruling Minds* comes close. It manages to both take in the macro view and offer good illustrations of specific events and key individuals...Good history is not just intended to answer questions, though. It is also about opening new avenues of inquiry, and *Ruling Minds* has undoubtedly done that. For this and the other points noted above, it is difficult not to be impressed with Linstrom's efforts. Decades from now, this book may very well be known as the grand, old required reading for any serious student of psychology and empire.

(Roger Pauly *History* 2017-01-01)

About the Author

Erik Linstrom is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Virginia.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Milton Jones:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite book and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled *Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire*. Try to the actual book *Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire* as your close friend. It means that it can to get your friend when you truly feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortuned for yourself. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , we should make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

Peter Mullins:

As people who live in the modest era should be revise about what going on or data even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era which is always change and progress. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire* is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and want in this era.

Clifford Stoner:

Do you one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt if you are in the book store? Attempt to pick one book that you never know the inside because don't ascertain book by its deal with may doesn't work is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not since fantastic as in the outside appearance likes. Maybe you answer might be Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire why because the excellent cover that make you consider in regards to the content will not disappoint you. The inside or content is actually fantastic as the outside or maybe cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly show you to pick up this book.

Rigoberto Adams:

Do you like reading a e-book? Confuse to looking for your best book? Or your book had been rare? Why so many question for the book? But virtually any people feel that they enjoy to get reading. Some people likes examining, not only science book and also novel and Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire as well as others sources were given information for you. After you know how the truly amazing a book, you feel would like to read more and more. Science book was created for teacher or perhaps students especially. Those textbooks are helping them to bring their knowledge. In additional case, beside science book, any other book likes Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire to make your spare time a lot more colorful. Many types of book like this.

Download and Read Online Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire By Erik Linstrum #3UZNB5MR6PD

Read Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire By Erik Linstrum for online ebook

Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire By Erik Linstrum Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire By Erik Linstrum books to read online.

Online Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire By Erik Linstrum ebook PDF download

Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire By Erik Linstrum Doc

Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire By Erik Linstrum MobiPocket

Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire By Erik Linstrum EPub