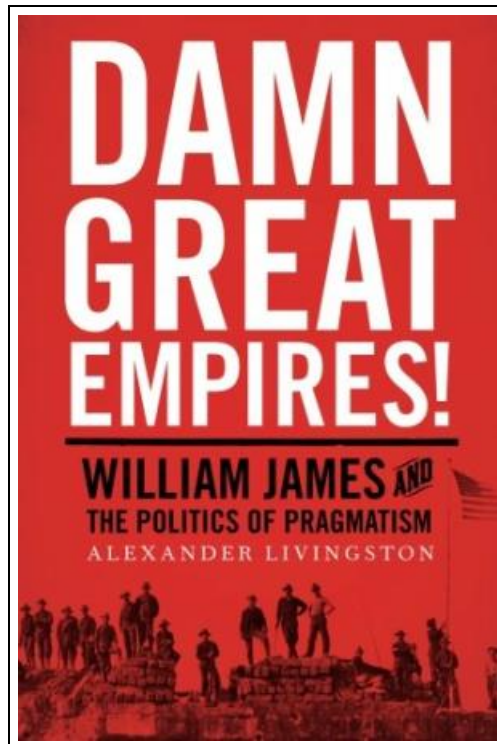


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DAMN GREAT EMPIRES!: WILLIAM JAMES AND THE POLITICS OF PRAGMATISM (PAPERBACK)



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Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Damn Great Empires! offers a new perspective on the works of William James by placing his encounter with American imperialism at the center of his philosophical vision. This book reconstructs James's overlooked political thought by treating his anti-imperialist Nachlass his speeches, essays, notes, and correspondence on the United States annexation of the Philippines as the key to unlocking the political significance of his celebrated writings on psychology, religion, and philosophy. It shows how James located a craving for authority at the heart of empire as a way of life, a craving he diagnosed and unsettled through his insistence on a modern world without ultimate foundations. Livingston explores the persistence of political questions in James's major works, from his writings on the self in *The Principles of Psychology* to the method of Pragmatism, the study of faith and conversion in *The Varieties of Religious Experience*, and the metaphysical inquiries in *A Pluralistic Universe*. Against the common view of James as a thinker who remained silent on questions of politics, this book places him in dialogue with champions and critics of American imperialism, such as Theodore Roosevelt and W. E. B. Du Bois, as well as a transatlantic critique of modernity, in order to excavate James's anarchistic political vision. Bringing the history of political thought into conversation with contemporary debates in political theory, *Damn Great Empires!* offers a fresh and original reexamination of the political consequences of pragmatism as a public philosophy.



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