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OF IMPERIALISM:  
Critical Appraisals**

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# **THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF IMPERIALISM:**

**Critical Appraisals**

*edited by*

**Ronald M. Chilcote**

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## PREFACE

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This book brings together important essays by distinguished scholars who have devoted past attention to the study of imperialism and development. It complements an anthology of previously published essays that brings together important theoretical perspectives around the issues and debates on these themes; this volume will be published by Humanity Press (forthcoming). Both projects relate to a lengthy chapter "Theories of Imperialism," which will be published in my book *Theories of Comparative Political Economy* (Forthcoming). These projects represent a culmination of many years of teaching in both economics and political science. During that time I taught two political science courses on development and underdevelopment, but I was unable to convince my colleagues of the usefulness of a course on imperialism that linked historical issues and debates with the more recent developmental literature. When in 1990 I was welcomed into economics, my colleagues endorsed a graduate seminar on the political economy of imperialism. Thus, this volume evolved out of that experience in an effort to encourage new analysis that reflects retrospectively on past contributions as well as the prospects for imperialism and development in the contemporary world.

I appreciate the support of colleagues who understood the usefulness of this approach and especially the students who participated in the seminars, confronted the material, and became sensitive to the issues and debates through weekly discussion and position papers and whose comprehension in turn led to some modest theoretical breakthroughs. I also would like to thank Elvia Ramiriz, a graduate student in sociology at the University of California, Riverside, for her assistance in the initial phase of organizing this volume. I am also grateful for the dedicated efforts of Krista Eissfeldt, presently a graduate student at Indiana University, who ultimately brought this project to rest. Finally, my wife, Frances, stepped in to assist with coordination of the final proofs, especially bibliographical references. I should also like to thank Warren Samuels and William Darity, Editors of the Series in Economic Thought of Kluwer Academic Publishers, and Zachary Rolnik, Editor, for their encouragement and for ensuring this project through publication. Finally, I acknowledge the modest financial support of the Research Committee of the UCR Academic Senate.

Ronald H. Chilcote