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Cosmopolitan Domesticity: Importing the American Dream, 1865–1920

KRISTIN HOGANSON

CONFRONTED BY THE GLOBALIZING DEVELOPMENTS of our time, historians of the United States have become increasingly aware that the self-centered, exceptionalist scholarship all too common in their field has provided an inadequate framework for understanding the historical roots of contemporary transnationalism. Just as significantly, historians of the United States—particularly cultural and social historians—have been waking up to the ways in which the nation-centered historiographical tradition has obscured the importance of empire in shaping U.S. history. Although Americanists, true to their exceptionalist heritage, have held themselves particularly accountable for nationally bounded histories, their internationalizing project has relevance for all historians who have framed their research projects in national terms, and indeed, historians with other geographical specialties have raised similar doubts about the historiographical dominance of the nation state.¹

The efforts of U.S. and other historians to shed their provincialism for a more international perspective have coincided with another significant historiographical trend, this one among historians of international relations. Influenced by the methods, findings, and underlying assumptions of social and cultural history, international relations historians also have started to rethink their domain. Tired of being dismissed as the methodological troglodytes of the historical profession and conscious of cultural and social historians' encroachments on their field, they have

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¹ Ian Tyrrell, "American Exceptionalism in an Age of International History," *AHR* 96 (October 1991): 1031–72; Amy Kaplan, "'Left Alone with America': The Absence of Empire in the Study of American Culture," *Cultures of United States Imperialism*, Amy Kaplan and Donald E. Pease, eds. (Durham, N.C., 1993), 3–21; Jane C. Desmond and Virginia R. Domínguez, "Resituating American Studies in a Critical Internationalism," *American Quarterly* 48 (September 1996): 475–90; Gesa Mackenthun, "Adding Empire to the Study of American Culture," *Journal of American Studies* 30 (August 1996): 263–69; John Carlos Rowe, "Post-Nationalism, Globalism, and the New American Studies," *Cultural Critique* 40 (Fall 1998): 11–28; the special issue of the *Journal of American History* 86 (December 1999); Thomas Bender, *The La Pietra Report: A Report to the Profession* (Bloomington, Ind., 2000); Akira Iriye, "The Internationalizing of History," *AHR* 94 (February 1989): 1–10. The December 1999 issue of the *Journal of American History* (vol. 86) contains examples of recent scholarship on the internationalizing impulse.

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