

Peace Corps fantasies: How development shaped the global sixties.

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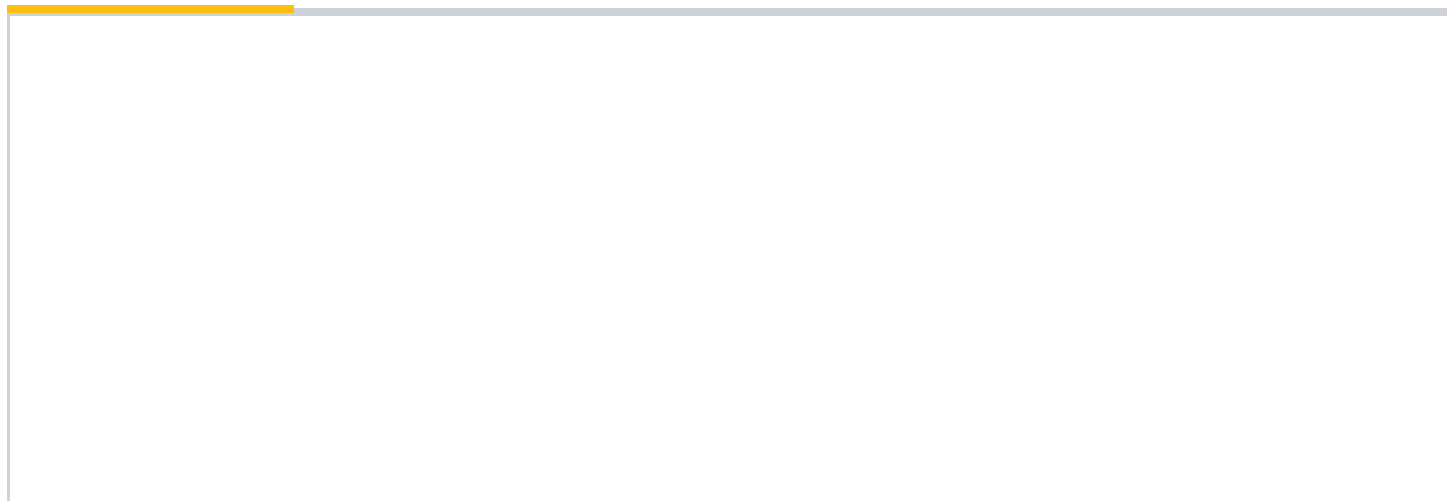
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Peace Corps Fantasies: How Development Shaped the Global Sixties



In this Book





Peace Corps Fantasies: How Development Shaped the Global Sixties

Molly Geidel

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SUMMARY

To tens of thousands of volunteers in its first decade, the Peace Corps was “the toughest job you’ll ever love.” In the United States’ popular imagination to this day, it is a symbol of selfless altruism and the most successful program of John F. Kennedy’s presidency. But in her provocative new cultural history of the 1960s Peace Corps, Molly Geidel argues that the agency’s representative development ventures also legitimated the violent exercise of American power around the world and the destruction of indigenous ways of life.

In the 1960s, the practice of development work, embodied by iconic Peace Corps volunteers, allowed U.S. policy makers to manage global inequality while assuaging their own gendered anxieties about postwar

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