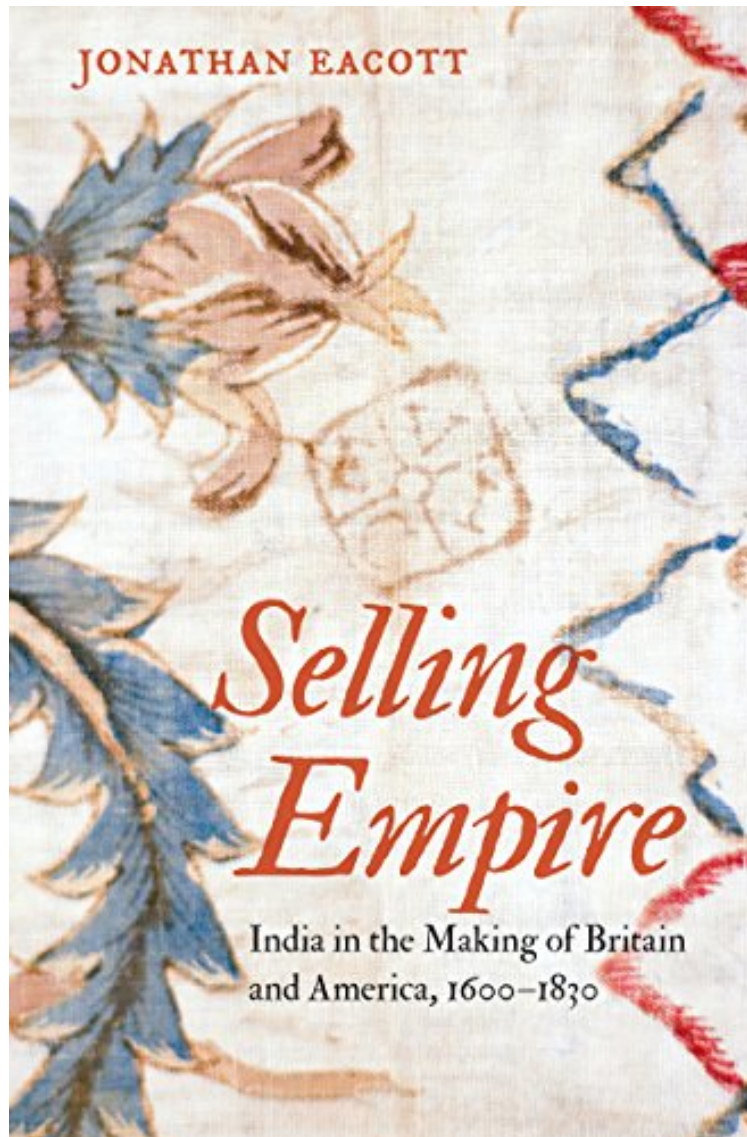


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Selling Empire: India in the Making of Britain and America, 1600-1830 (Published by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and the University of North Carolina Press)

Jonathan Eacott

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Jonathan Eacott : *Selling Empire: India in the Making of Britain and America, 1600-1830* (Published by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and the University of North Carolina Press) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Selling Empire: India*

in the Making of Britain and America, 1600-1830 (Published by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and the University of North Carolina Press):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Before I get into a review of the book, ...By LarSinger29Before I get into a review of the book, I want to lodge a complaint about the kindle version. There are no page options in this version, and that's really disappointing and aggravating. The kindle technology has been around long enough, there's no reason why this feature is not included in a book published in 2016. And considering the price of the kindle version, this feature should DEFINITELY be included. Or, at the VERY LEAST, clearly stated in the information page so that someone ordering it would know they weren't able to go by page numbers (especially important when discussing in a class or book club setting).The book itself is a really interesting and provocative piece of scholarship. Connecting the British relationship to India to Britain's relationship with the Atlantic colonies (particularly the American colonies that would become the U.S.) raises many questions, and the author strives to explore the ramification and interconnections between these two areas of the British Empire. Making use of a variety of sources, and tracing the path of ideas and material goods, Eacott shows the influence of India on the relationship between Britain and her colonies. It's an interesting concept, and one worth considering in terms of how American independence should be understood.

Linking four continents over three centuries, *Selling Empire* demonstrates the centrality of India--both as an idea and a place--to the making of a global British imperial system. In the seventeenth century, Britain was economically, politically, and militarily weaker than India, but Britons increasingly made use of India's strengths to build their own empire in both America and Asia. Early English colonial promoters first envisioned America as a potential India, hoping that the nascent Atlantic colonies could produce Asian raw materials. When this vision failed to materialize, Britain's circulation of Indian manufactured goods--from umbrellas to cottons--to Africa, Europe, and America then established an empire of goods and the supposed good of empire. Eacott recasts the British empire's chronology and geography by situating the development of consumer culture, the American Revolution, and British industrialization in the commercial intersections linking the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. From the seventeenth into the nineteenth century and beyond, the evolving networks, ideas, and fashions that bound India, Britain, and America shaped persisting global structures of economic and cultural interdependence.

Should rank high on the required reading lists of all those interested in the history of the early modern world, economics, material culture, early America, and the British Empire.--William and Mary QuarterlyA fascinating foray into the entangled histories of consumption and production in India, colonial America, and Britain.--Diplomatic HistoryA work of extraordinary scope based upon a remarkable amount of archival and library research. . . . Reveal[s] fresh ways of thinking about the growth of the international economy, as well as the interconnected histories of Britain, India, and the United States.--Journal of Interdisciplinary History Recognizing the significance of ideas as well as goods, *Selling Empire* demonstrates how the British experience in India furthered imperial expansion in America. In this wide-ranging study that connects imperial ambitions in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, Eacott analyzes the global development of the British empire in a fresh way.--Kariann Akemi Yokota, University of Colorado DenverEngagingly written, deeply researched, and cleverly conceived, *Selling Empire* reveals just how much 'India' as an abstract idea, a political issue, and a wide range of commodities, from calicoes to elephants circulated through the Atlantic world. Eacott's work is a shining exemplar of early America's global turn and will no doubt prove to be critical reading for those interested in colonial and imperial history as well as early modern political and material culture.--Philip J. Stern, Duke UniversityDismantling the old notion of a swing to the east (India) after the American Revolution in favor of an earlier imperial system, *Selling Empire* will come to stand as one of the most articulate arguments about the integrated nature of Britain's global empire in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.--Tillman Nechtman, Skidmore CollegeAbout the AuthorJonathan Eacott is assistant professor of history at the University of California, Riverside.