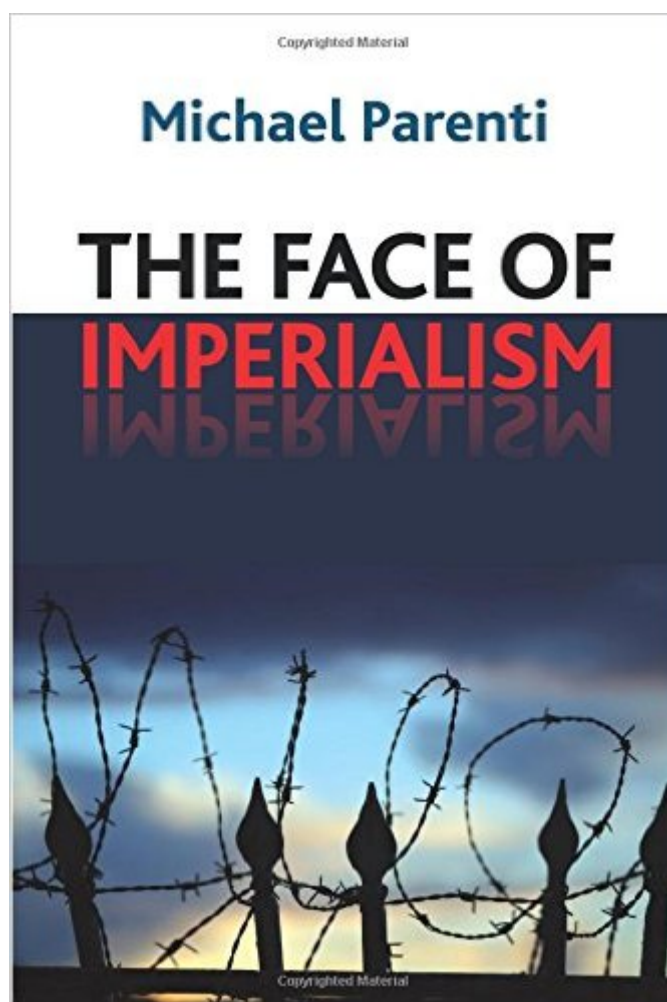


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# Face Of Imperialism



## Synopsis

The relationship between US economic and military power is not often considered within mainstream commentary. Similarly the connection between US military interventions overseas and US domestic problems is rarely considered in any detail. In this brilliant new book, Michael Parenti reveals the true face of US imperialism. He documents how it promotes unjust policies across the globe including expropriation of natural resources, privatisation, debt burdens and suppression of democratic movements. He then demonstrates how this feeds into deteriorating living standards in the US itself, leading to increased poverty, decaying infrastructure and impending ecological disaster. *The Face of Imperialism* redefines empire and imperialism and connects the crisis in the US with its military escapades across the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Michael Parenti does it again. He takes a complex and vital subject and presents it to us with clarity and insight. He writes clearly and engagingly. He shows how U.S. foreign policy is neither inept nor confused. U.S. imperial policy is consistent and successful in serving the interests of the rich and powerful, in keeping the world safe for the transnational corporations, in making sure that most of the world remains weak, poor, compliant, so that the plutocracy remains strong, rich, and dominant. Parenti always goes that extra step. He doesn't backpedal or say less than he sees. He doesn't worry about keeping close to the "respectable opinions" handed out by the media and the

White House. After reading this book, we come away knowing much more about the world and much more about what the U.S. empire really is doing to us and everyone else. We come to understand why U.S. leaders (be they Democrats or Republicans) support certain kinds of dictators and "democracies" while opposing other kinds. I find this book very handy in helping me understand what is happening in the Arab world.

An easy read yet typical of Dr. Parenti's writing full of important facts, the Face of Imperialism is a brilliant exegesis of America's imperialistic policies vis a vis many countries around the world, including Cuba, Venezuela, Libya, and other important sites. In his usual tempered and carefully crafted style, including a bit of his usual dry wit, he helps the reader to understand many current issues which are not usually noticed in mainstream media, or if they are, with very little instructive or deep analysis. Extremely important to any student of international affairs or even just those who are curious about seemingly "inexplicable" responses of so many countries to US policy. Most importantly, Dr. Parenti offers the facts that are so desperately missing in most political writing and even in books--uncovering a wealth of information that helps the reader understand better the foreign policy of this unprecedented imperialistic power in the history of the world. Brief but a powerhouse of information.

This book is another wonderful exercise in rational thinking by Michael Parenti. The Imperialism he writes about is NOT the old fashioned type, where a country is conquered and plundered, then becomes a satellite of the conquering nation. This is the Imperialism that governments practice by supporting immoral regimes that favor the business interests of their country, be it oil, bananas, or automobiles. Our country's business interests become more important than our ideals. America (and other countries) have supported dictatorships and murderous regimes that are friendly to businesses and investors. Many of us have been distraught by our governments past immoral choices. (Pinochet, anybody?) Mr. Parenti does extensive research and writes clearly and incisively. You may occasionally disagree with him, but his writing will open your mind to seeing the issues in a fresh way. We all need to question our long held beliefs, and Mr. Parenti is excellent at making us delve into and question them. This book is a fast and insightful read for all of you who are interested in the political and the moral ramifications of our government's interaction with countries of our world.

The book is very incisive and covers some of the issues of American foreign policy, especially those

that the media rarely covers. If you have read a lot of Parenti before this it may be a little repetitive but it provides updates and speaks to the fact that Obama's foreign and domestic policy has been a whole lot of more of the same. If you have not read any Parenti, this is a quick read and a good start, although Contrary Notions is probably more thorough.

I will be brief. At this point, there are five other five-star reviews with which I entirely agree. I only wish to add that this is a book that, for its concision and accuracy regarding matters of vital importance to citizens of the world, deserves to be translated into as many languages, and to be disseminated and read, by as many as possible as soon as possible. The American empire has become a juggernaut of planetary coercion and brutality. If it is ever to be contained, people must be able first and foremost to see and think their way through the torrents, the walls, of American propaganda and mythology, and this book cuts away the mortar of those walls. Buy several copies and give them as gifts.

This splendid book is a well-informed and well-written study of imperialism today. Empires, like wars, are not made by accident. They are built on the denial of the democratic right of nations to self-determination. They are imposed and maintained by force and fraud, through a variety of economic, political, military and cultural institutions and arrangements. Parenti points out empires depend on the countries they run: the poor countries in the world are not so much under-developed as over-exploited. He notes an October 1970 cable to CIA operatives in Chile from Kissinger's 'Track Two' group (released more than 30 years later) said, "It is firm and continuing policy that Allende be overthrown by a coup ... We are to continue to generate maximum pressure toward this end utilizing every appropriate resource. It is imperative that these actions be implemented clandestinely and securely so that the USG [United States Government] and American hand be well hidden." This combination of violence and denial is all too typical of imperial behaviour and is a pattern repeated today. The US state regularly denounces Cuba as a dictatorship, but Parenti observes that Fidel Castro promised to open Cuba's press to counter-revolutionaries when the US state allowed American communists regular exposure in the USA's major media. And even the US Interests Section had to admit that Cuba's 'human rights groups' "lack demonstrable evidence of persecution ... Almost none show proof of house searches, interrogations, detention, or arrest."

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