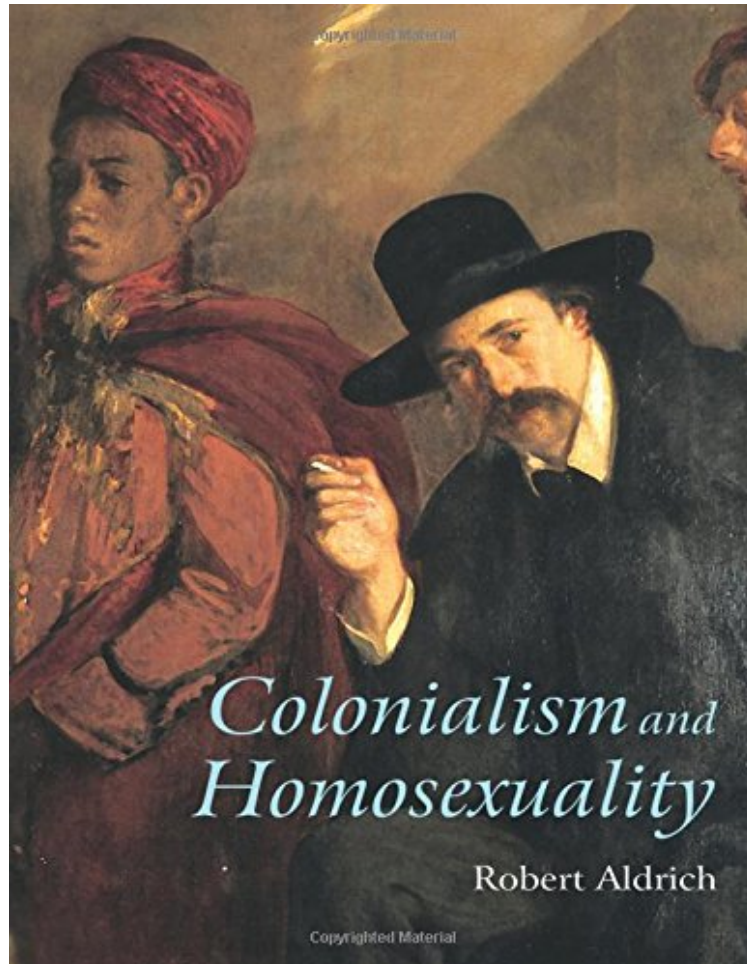


Colonialism and Homosexuality

Robert Aldrich

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#1816673 in Books Robert Aldrich 2002-12-25 2002-11-21 Original language: English PDF # 1 11.00 x 1.05 x 8.50l, 1.57 #File Name: 0415196167464 pages Colonialism and homosexuality | File size: 61.Mb

Robert Aldrich : Colonialism and Homosexuality before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Colonialism and Homosexuality:

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great essays! By Jose Zavala This book is so fascinating to be read! First, I learn a lot of how to improve my way to compose academic texts. Second, I learn lots of History, and how supposed-to-be-gay-explorers did their best to create a better world (or help to understand it). Third, I see how the concept of homosexuality is so complex and exciting! Highly recommended! 7 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Over Priced - Lot's of Conjecture By Student77 This book is completely overpriced for the content. This book contains far too much postulating based from here say and observation of homoerotic writings. My expectation was that I was going to read about something more concrete and learn some interesting information and facts about Homosexuality in the Colonial era. Not so here. This book should be priced at \$10 or less. I cannot give it anything higher as it doesn't reveal anything important. 45 of 53 people found the following review helpful. Argh! Someone

stole my idea for a dissertation!By Jeffery MingoIt's about time someone wrote this book. In this historical text, an Australian scholar details how colonial travels affected what we would now call gay men and how gay men affected colonialism. In the first half of the book, Robert Aldrich how this phenomenon occurred for painters, poets, businessmen, and political activists, and men in other professions. In the latter half of the book, he discusses this phenomenon region by region (Papua New Guinea, North Africa, South Asia, etc). Included in this book is a whole chapter dedicated to the ultimate gay European colonizer, E. M. Forster.This book is a stellar example of gay studies and historical research coming together. It is immediately obvious to the reader how much work the author had to put into writing this. As a large history text, this book takes FOREVER to read! Undergraduate students assigned this book could get away with just reading the first two chapters and the conclusions, as the author's point becomes obvious and may feel repetitive to some readers after awhile. Still, given that this book is much-needed and superb, all will benefit from reading it cover to cover.For gay activists who mention famous historical figures who were gay as a way of combating homophobia, this book will be a useful tool. Just as Marjorie Garber in "Vice Versa" demonstrated how many of these figures who are labeled gay could more accurately be labeled bisexual, Aldrich shows that many famous gay Westerners either came out, had their first homosexual experience in, or were influenced by the developing world. This book will be a certain wake-up call for those who falsely assume that Stonewall is the be-all to end-all of gay history.To be honest, I think many straight readers will be frustrated at how speculative some of Aldrich's allegations about famous Westerners are. However, the author is fair-minded in stating his claims. For readers of all sexual orientations, the discussions about taboo topics like rape, pedophilia, incest, etc. mentioned in this book may be unsettling. Still, even for gay readers, the discussions of famous gays who hated themselves, chose celibacy, or married women to whom they were not attracted will feel sad as well.Most importantly, this book was very disturbing, at times, for me to read as a gay man of color. It comes as no surprise that for centuries, some white men have had sexual fetishes for men of color. No one really has to read an academic work to find out that myths about black men's sexual organs, Asian men's submissiveness, or Arab men's exotic sexual activities are nothing new. In the interracial sexual affairs detailed here, the perspectives of men of color consistently are marginalized to that of white men's feelings. Further, the author admits that many of these Westerners who had sex with men of color abused them, degraded them, or acted in other racist fashions. Still, the author could only work with the historical evidence available to him, most often the writings of the white men. Additionally, this book does mention that it took traveling outside of the West that allowed many Westerners who only got involved with other Westerners to explore their gay desires. The author mentioned that he wrote a book on how Northern European gay men have treated Southern Europeans, paralleling the First World-Third World dynamic. In fairness, the author also spells out how tolerance to homosexuality outside of the West encouraged some white men to fight imperialism. Some anti-imperialists were subjected to homophobia solely because others wanted to silence their anti-colonial protests.Aldrich does a fantastic job of discussing how Australian white men played a part in this history. Not only were Australians colonized by Britain, but also they had a colonial relationship with New Guinea. Being that most gay books focus on Europe and Anglo-America, this was quite novel. Still, I find it odd that while Aldrich conducted extensive research on Africa, Asia, and Oceania, he hardly mentions Latin America. Garcia Lorca's autobiographer stated that the poet become more openly gay after visiting Latin America, so there is much reason to include this region in the analysis. It's obvious that the author speaks many languages, so I am sure that not knowing Spanish or lacking a Spanish translator could not have been a barrier for him. I think this must illustrate how Americans think of Latin America as strongly black and Native and part of their Third World whereas Europeans and Australians think of it as an extension of Spain and therefore highly Westernized. (For that matter, the author never discussed how gay white Americans were influenced by Native American tribes that tolerated same-sex activities or gender-fluid individuals.)Along these lines, the author labels the last part of the book, "The End of Empire," yet the chapter here is nothing more than another discussion of French gay men in North Africa just like the chapter before it. Aldrich mentions that some post-colonial governments had a backlash against what they viewed as Western perverted corruption. (I'm thinking of Cuba as an example and this is another reason why a discussion on Latin America would have been helpful to the book.) I wish he had expanded upon that idea. The fact is, several men in the developing world have cited homophobic persecution as a reason for seeking political asylum in the developed world, including Australia. Thus, nowadays, the phenomenon that Aldrich details is occurring in reverse, though he makes little note of it. Perhaps by giving more attention to men of color he could have achieved that.Despite my critiques, I enjoyed this book thoroughly. Robert Aldrich should receive as much praise as George Chauncey has for his book "Gay New York." This text was a vital addition to gay history and gay studies.

Colonialism and Homosexuality is a thorough investigation of the connections of homosexuality and imperialism from the late 1800s - the era of 'new imperialism' - until the era of decolonization. Robert Aldrich reconstructs the context of a number of liaisons, including those of famous men such as Cecil Rhodes, E.M. Forster or Andr Gide, and the historical situations which produced both the Europeans and their non-Western lovers. Colonial lands, which in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century included most of Africa, South and Southeast Asia and the islands of the

Pacific and Indian Oceans and the Caribbean, provided a haven for many Europeans whose sexual inclinations did not fit neatly into the constraints of European society. Each of the case-studies is a micro-history of a particular colonial situation, a sexual encounter, and its wider implications for cultural and political life. Students both of colonial history, and of gender and queer studies, will find this an informative read.

"Fascinating... this growing body of scholarship should prompt fresh interpretation of empire and colonialism's interaction with gender and sexuality... Excellent bibliography.."-Choice "Combining extensive scholarly research with the kind of solid storytelling that marks the most interesting historical writing, Aldrich examines the complex roles homosexual relationships played during colonialist expansion.."-Lambda Book Report, January 2004 "Aldrich does make the important point, though, that the outlook of homosexual and homosocial administrators had a direct impact on colonial policy."-"Geist About the Author Robert Aldrich teaches at the Department of Economic History at the University of Sydney. He is the author of *The Seduction of the Mediterranean* and co-editor of *Who's Who in Gay and Lesbian History* (2000).