

ANTH/SOCI 398-B, (De)Globalization & the Nation
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Reading Questions for Session 7

Neil Smith, "Liberalism and the Roots of American Globalism"

1. Note the competing understandings of "liberalism" at the opening of this chapter. Which one is most relevant to the concerns of this course?
2. What makes neoliberalism and neoconservatism alike?
3. Neil Smith is making the argument that globalism is originally and fundamentally US globalism: how does he try to make that argument work?
4. It may seem knotted and confusing, but what is the connection between liberalism, Americanism, and liberal internationalism?
5. By the 1990s, what was the position of neoliberals and neoconservatives on the subject of American empire?
6. What are some of the shared qualities between the liberal imperialism of today and that of 19th-century Britain?
7. How can "Americanism" be both nationalist and universalist at the same time?
8. What does liberalism have to do with globalization?
9. What does Smith think of claims that we have a post-imperial, deterritorialized, globalized world?

Leo Panitch & Sam Gindin, "Planning the New American Empire"

1. How does "the American Proposal" signal a role for the US to expand free market principles internationally?
2. What is the "new imperialism"?
3. What measures did the US take to create a regulated international order following WWII? How did these measures favour the development of a transnational capitalist class?
4. How did national capitalists in the US benefit from WWII? What power did they achieve in terms of formulating government policy?