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978-1-107-02020-7 - The Eurocentric Conception of World Politics: Western International Theory, 1760–2010

John M. Hobson

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THE EUROCENTRIC CONCEPTION OF WORLD POLITICS

John Hobson claims that throughout its history most international theory has been embedded within various forms of Eurocentrism. Rather than producing value-free and universalist theories of inter-state relations, international theory instead provides provincial analyses that celebrate and defend Western civilization as the subject of, and ideal normative referent in, world politics. Hobson also provides a sympathetic critique of Edward Said's conception of Eurocentrism and Orientalism, revealing how Eurocentrism takes different forms, which can be imperialist or anti-imperialist, and showing how these have played out in international theory since 1760. The book thus speaks to scholars of International Relations, but also to all those interested in understanding Eurocentrism in the disciplines of political science/political theory, political economy/international political economy, geography, cultural and literary studies, sociology and, not least, anthropology.

JOHN M. HOBSON is Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Sheffield. His publications include *Everyday Politics of the World Economy* (2007), co-edited with Leonard Seabrooke; *The Eastern Origins of Western Civilisation* (2004); *Historical Sociology of International Relations* (2002), co-edited with Steve Hobden and *The State and International Relations* (2000).

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John M. Hobson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

	<i>List of figures</i>	<i>page</i> ix
	<i>List of tables</i>	x
	<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
1	Introduction: constructing Eurocentrism and international theory as Eurocentric construct	1
I	1760–1914: Manifest Eurocentrism and scientific racism in international theory	31
2	Eurocentric imperialism: liberalism and Marxism, c. 1830–1914	33
3	Eurocentric anti-imperialism: liberalism, c. 1760–1800	59
4	Racist anti-imperialism: classical liberalism and cultural-realism, c. 1850–1914	84
5	Racist imperialism: racist-realism, liberalism and socialism, 1860–1914	106
II	1914–1945: The high tide of manifest Eurocentrism and the climax of scientific racism	131
6	Anti-imperialism and the myths of 1919: Marxist Eurocentrism and racist cultural-realism, 1914–1945	133
7	Racist and Eurocentric imperialism: racist-realism, racist-liberalism and ‘progressive’ Eurocentric liberalism/Fabianism, 1919–1945	150
III	1945–1989: Subliminal Eurocentrism in international theory	183
8	Orthodox subliminal Eurocentrism: from classical realism to neorealism, 1945–1989	185

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-02020-7 - The Eurocentric Conception of World Politics: Western International Theory, 1760–2010

John M. Hobson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

CONTENTS

9	Orthodox subliminal Eurocentrism: neoliberal institutionalism and the English School, c. 1966–1989	214
10	Critical subliminal Eurocentrism: Gramscianism and world-systems theory, c. 1967–1989	234
IV	1989–2010: Back to the future of manifest ‘Eurocentrism’ in mainstream international theory	255
11	Imperialist and anti-imperialist Eurocentrism: post-1989 ‘Western realism’ and the spiritual return to post-1889 racist-realism	257
12	Imperialist Eurocentrism: post-1989 ‘Western-liberalism’ and the return to post-1830 liberal paternalist Eurocentrism	285
V	Conclusion: Mapping the promiscuous architecture of Eurocentrism in international theory, 1760–2010	311
13	Constructing civilization: global hierarchy, ‘graded sovereignty’ and globalization in international theory, 1760–2010	313
	<i>References</i>	345
	<i>Index</i>	376

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-02020-7 - The Eurocentric Conception of World Politics: Western International Theory, 1760–2010

John M. Hobson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

FIGURES

1.1 The definitional continuum of imperialism, past and present	<i>page</i> 24
2.1 Paternalist Eurocentrism and the imperial civilizing mission, c. 1830–1913	34
3.1 Anti-paternalist Eurocentrism and the critique of imperialism, c. 1760–1800	61
4.1 Defensive racism and the critique of empire, c. 1850–1914	85
5.1 Offensive racist conceptions of imperialism, 1889–1914	109
6.1 Defensive racism and critical subliminal Eurocentrism in the critique of imperialism, 1914–45	137
7.1 Racist-realist conceptions of imperialist world politics, 1889–1945	152
7.2 Offensive racist and paternalist Eurocentrism in liberal and Fabian interwar ‘international imperialism’, c. 1900–45	153
8.1 Subliminal Eurocentrism in classical realism and neorealism, c. 1945–89	187
9.1 Subliminal Eurocentrism in liberal international theory, post-1945	215
10.1 Subliminal anti-paternalist Eurocentrism in neo-Marxist IR theory, c. 1967–2010	235
11.1 Post-1989 IR theory as promoter and defender of Western civilization	260
13.1 The conventional ahistorical ‘great narrative’ of liberal international theory	328
13.2 Alternative ‘polymorphous/protean’ career of anti-imperialist liberalism	329
13.3 Alternative ‘polymorphous/protean’ career of paternalist-imperial liberalism	330
13.4 Alternative ‘polymorphous/protean’ career of realism	332
13.5 Alternative ‘polymorphous/protean’ career of Marxism	333
13.6 Civilizational hierarchies and gradated sovereignties in the Eurocentric and scientific racist mirrors	336

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-02020-7 - The Eurocentric Conception of World Politics: Western International
Theory, 1760–2010

John M. Hobson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TABLES

1.1 Alternative conceptions of Orientalism/Eurocentrism	<i>page</i> 4
1.2 The four variants of generic Eurocentrism in international theory	5
11.1 Back to the future of post-1889 racist-realism/racist cultural-realism	259
12.1 Back to the future of post-1830 paternalist-Eurocentrism	286
13.1 Mapping the changing architecture of 'Eurocentrism' in international theory, 1760–2010	314

Cambridge University Press

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John M. Hobson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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978-1-107-02020-7 - The Eurocentric Conception of World Politics: Western International Theory, 1760–2010

John M. Hobson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

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