

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13899-5 - Race and Imperial Defence in the British World, 1870–1914

John C. Mitcham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Race and Imperial Defence in the British World, 1870–1914

This book is the first comprehensive account of the cultural and racial origins of the imperial security partnership among Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. Drawing on research from every corner of the globe, John C. Mitcham merges studies of diplomacy, defense strategy, and politics with a wider analysis of society and popular culture, and in doing so, poses important questions about race, British identity, and the idea of empire. The book examines diverse subjects such as the South African War, the Anglo-German naval arms race, Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, and the birth of the Boy Scout Movement, and positions them within the larger phenomenon of British race patriotism that permeated the *fin de siècle*. Most importantly, Mitcham demonstrates how this shared concept of "Britishness" gradually led to closer relations between the self-governing states of the empire, and ultimately resulted in a remarkably unified effort during the First World War.

JOHN C. MITCHAM is an assistant professor in the Department of History at Duquesne University.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13899-5 - Race and Imperial Defence in the British World, 1870–1914

John C. Mitcham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13899-5 - Race and Imperial Defence in the British World, 1870–1914

John C. Mitcham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Race and Imperial Defence in the British World, 1870–1914

John C. Mitcham

Duquesne University



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13899-5 - Race and Imperial Defence in the British World, 1870–1914

John C. Mitcham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781316503959

© John C. Mitcham 2016

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2016

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Names: Mitcham, John C., author.

Title: Race and imperial defence in the British world, 1870–1914 / John C. Mitcham, Duquesne University.

Description: New York : Cambridge University Press, 2016. |

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2015040742 | ISBN 9781107138995 (hardback) | ISBN 9781316503959 (paperback)

Subjects: LCSH: Great Britain – Military policy – Social aspects. |

National characteristics, British – History. | Group identity –

Great Britain – History. | Nationalism – Great Britain – History. |

British – Ethnic identity. | Imperialism.

Classification: LCC UA647.M58 2016 | DDC 355/.03354109034–dc23

LC record available at <http://lcn.loc.gov/2015040742>

ISBN 978-1-107-13899-5 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-316-50395-9 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13899-5 - Race and Imperial Defence in the British World, 1870–1914

John C. Mitcham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	page vi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	vii
Introduction	1
1 Imperial Britons: Race, Identity, and Greater Britain	11
2 Defending Greater Britain: Race and the Evolution of Victorian Imperial Defense	37
3 Imperial Unity, Masculinity, and the South African War	67
4 The Empire on Parade: Public Representations of Greater Britain	97
5 “Sea League of All the Britons”: Race, Navalism, and Empire	129
6 A Young Briton’s Duty: Youth, Militarism, and Empire	158
7 “A Britannic Alliance”: The Dominions and Imperial Defense Policy, 1900–1914	191
Conclusion: The “Call of the Blood”: The Empire and the Outbreak of the Great War	217
<i>Select Bibliography</i>	233
<i>Index</i>	257

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13899-5 - Race and Imperial Defence in the British World, 1870–1914

John C. Mitcham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Figures

1	<i>New Zealand Graphic and Ladies Magazine</i> , July 10, 1897	page 38
2	<i>Punch</i> , February 28, 1885	55
3	<i>The Lantern</i> , February 28, 1885	56
4	<i>Punch</i> , October 18, 1899	77
5	<i>Illustrated London News</i> , February 10, 1900	88
6	<i>Punch</i> , June 26, 1897	112
7	Members of the Canadian Contingent to the Diamond Jubilee at the Chelsea Barracks, 1897. Reproduced Courtesy of the Council of the National Army Museum, London	122
8	<i>Punch</i> , December 18, 1912	147
9	<i>Auckland Weekly News</i> , April 1, 1909. Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries AWNS-19090401-11-1. Reproduced by kind permission of the Auckland Libraries	148
10	<i>Melbourne Punch</i> , March 25, 1909	149
11	“Britons” Recruiting Poster, 1914, Imperial War Museum PST 2734. Reproduced by kind permission of the Imperial War Museum	224
12	Canadian Recruiting Poster, Date Unknown, Imperial War Museum PST 12440. Reproduced by kind permission of the Imperial War Museum	225
13	Australian Recruiting Poster, 1915, Imperial War Museum PST 12251. Reproduced by kind permission of the Imperial War Museum	226
14	<i>Auckland Weekly News</i> , August 20, 1914, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries AWNS-19140820-38-4. Reproduced by kind permission of the Auckland Libraries	229
15	“The Empire Needs Men” Recruiting Poster, 1915, Imperial War Museum PST 5110. Reproduced by kind permission of the Imperial War Museum	230

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13899-5 - Race and Imperial Defence in the British World, 1870–1914

John C. Mitcham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgments

Research for this project was made possible by generous financial support from the Australian Army Historical Unit, the National Museum of the Royal Navy, and the University of Alabama's Department of History, Graduate School, and Graduate Student Services. The Department of History at Duquesne University provided funds to help offset the costs of image reproductions.

I could not have completed this book without assistance from a host of individuals. I wish to thank the archivists and librarians at the National Archives at Kew, the British Library, the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, the National Maritime Museum, the Scout Association Archives of the United Kingdom, the National Army Museum, the Imperial War Museum, the Bodleian Library, the Churchill College Archives, the Parliamentary Archives of the United Kingdom, the Liddell Hart Centre at King's College, the Library and Archives of Canada, the Archives of Ontario, the National Library of New Zealand, the National Archives of Australia, the National Library of Australia, the Australian War Memorial, the National Scouting Museum of the United States, and the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas. Paul van Herpt and his team of volunteers at the National Scouting Museum of New Zealand graciously conducted research for me on the early years of the New Zealand Scouting Movement. At the University of Alabama's Gorgas Library, Brett Spencer and Patricia Causey expended considerable energy tracking down obscure periodicals or purchasing important materials that saved crucial time on overseas research trips. I thank Scott Erb, Matt Pritchett, and Annalise Devries for technical guidance on editing images. My graduate assistant at Duquesne University, Andrew Spate, helped with preparing the index.

Numerous colleagues offered advice, commentary, and criticism on various sections of this book. I am grateful to Holly Grout, Harold Selesky, Jan Rüger, Duncan Redford, Jesse Tumblin, Andrew Lambert, Ginger Frost, Steve Marti, Mike McConnell, Annalise Devries, John Connor,

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13899-5 - Race and Imperial Defence in the British World, 1870–1914

John C. Mitcham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii Acknowledgements

Matthew Seligmann, Sam May, John Hutcheson, Margaret Peacock, Christopher Bell, the members of the University of Alabama's European History workshop, and the three anonymous reviewers for Cambridge University Press for their insight and suggestions. Several individuals deserve particular praise for reading the full manuscript on more than one occasion. My colleague and friend, Erin Mauldin, applied her keen editorial eye and patiently explained to me what I was actually trying to say. Daniel Riches went through several drafts during the arduous dissertation process, and each time posed difficult questions that forced me to reexamine my ideas. Although he was not my primary advisor, I greatly benefited from his "open door policy" during my time at the University of Alabama. The greatest note of thanks is to my doctoral advisor, John Beeler, who has been a beloved mentor and friend for the past decade. I will always be in his debt.

The staff at Cambridge University Press have been enormously supportive. Senior Editor Michael Watson kindly took time out of his busy schedule to meet a visiting American in a Cambridge coffee shop and listen to his ideas. He saw promise in my book and guided me through the peer review stages. Similarly, Rosalyn Scott assisted with the production process and graciously fielded questions from a first-time author. I thank them both.

I have been sustained by the kind words and love of my friends and family over the past few years. These individuals include Jensen Branscombe, Kris Teters, Michael Wood, Becky Bruce, Colin Chapell, Stephanie Chalifoux, Megan Bever, David McRae, Steve Bunker, Sharony Green, Carlos Alemán, Erin Mauldin, Brickey Lequire, Bing Lingle, Joe Ybarra, Brenna Skeen, Elizabeth Shope, Scott and Ashley Erb, and Hillary and Matt Moore. I thank my parents, Mike and Kathy Mitcham, for their many years of sacrifice. I am also grateful to my brother, David Mitcham and his wife Amy, and my in-laws, Dave and Nancy Gowens, for their encouragement. My daughter Eleanor, born in the midst of this project, has introduced an inexpressible sense of joy to my life. Finally, no mere words can convey my deep appreciation for a special person who has long shared the burden of "Britons" and "Britishness." Her patience, kindness, and perseverance encapsulate all the admirable qualities I wish I possessed. It is to my loving wife, Nichole, that I dedicate this book.