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978-1-107-06607-6 - Masculinity and the New Imperialism: Rewriting Manhood in
British Popular Literature, 1870–1914

Bradley Deane

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MASCULINITY AND THE NEW IMPERIALISM

At the end of the nineteenth century, the zenith of its imperial chauvinism and jingoistic fervor, Britain's empire was bolstered by a surprising new ideal of manliness, one that seemed less English than foreign, less concerned with moral development than perpetual competition, less civilized than savage. This study examines the revision of manly ideals in relation to an ideological upheaval whereby the liberal imperialism of Gladstone was eclipsed by the New Imperialism of Disraeli and his successors. Analyzing such popular genres as lost-world novels, school stories, and early science fiction, it charts the decline of mid-century ideals of manly self-control and the rise of new dreams of gamesmanship and frank brutality. It reveals, moreover, the dependence of imperial masculinity on real and imagined exchanges between men of different nations and races, so that visions of hybrid masculinities and honorable rivalries energized Britain's sense of its New Imperialist destiny.

BRADLEY DEANE is Associate Professor of English and Morse-Alumi Distinguished University Teaching Professor at the University of Minnesota, Morris. He is author of *The Making of the Victorian Novelist* (2003). Work for this book was supported by a grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities.

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