

## Managing Mobility

Between 1840 and 1860 the British Empire expanded rapidly in scale, with rampant annexation of territory and ruthless suppression of rebellion. These decades also witnessed an unprecedented movement of people across the Empire and around the world, with over 2.6 million emigrants leaving Britain in the 1850s alone. *Managing Mobility* examines how the British imperial state facilitated the mass migration of its impoverished subjects as labour assets, shipped across vast expanses of ocean to contribute to the economy of the Empire. Philip Harling analyses the ideological framework that underpinned these interventions and discusses the journeys taken by emigrants across five continents, considering the varied outcomes of these significant projects of social engineering. In doing so, this study demonstrates how the British imperial state harnessed migration to ensure and maintain a racialised global economic order in the decades after Emancipation.

Philip Harling is Professor of History at the University of Miami, specialising in the modern history of Britain and the British Empire. He is the author of *The Waning of 'Old Corruption': The Politics of Economical Reform in Britain, 1779–1846* (1996) and *The Modern British State: An Historical Introduction* (2001).

*Managing Mobility* reconceptualises the role of the British state in pan-imperial emigration schemes in the middle of the nineteenth century. Philip Harling reveals rich and geographically expansive histories of state engineering that provide a new perspective on Victorian liberalism.

Clare Anderson, University of Leicester

Philip Harling's latest book is impressive for its incisive case studies of human mobilities and global migration. But it is also greater than the sum of its parts in reforging the ways we understand the British imperial state.

Richard Huzzey, Durham University

In this richly documented and detailed book, Philip Harling demonstrates how there was nothing absent minded, or laissez-faire about how the mid-Victorian state managed emigration to the empire.

Richard N. Price, University of Maryland, College Park

In the mid-nineteenth century the British government ambitiously moved masses of people far around the globe. Philip Harling re-vision's Victorian migration to show the British imperial state's large-scale social engineering.

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# Managing Mobility

*The British Imperial State and Global Migration,  
1840–1860*

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Philip Harling

*University of Miami*



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