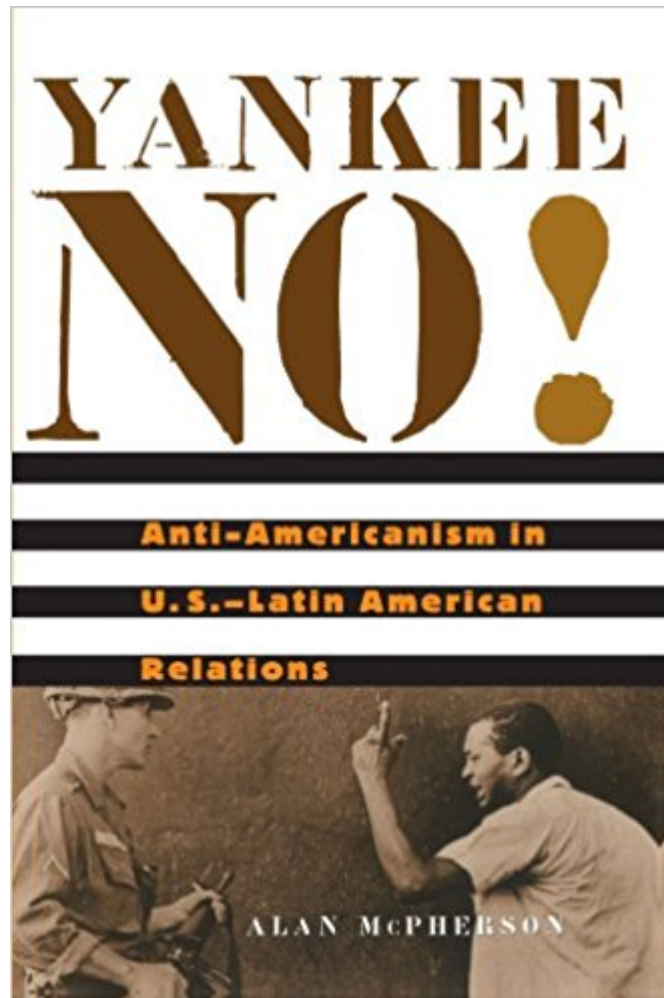




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Yankee No!: Anti-Americanism In U.S.-Latin American Relations



Synopsis

In 1958, angry Venezuelans attacked Vice President Richard Nixon in Caracas, opening a turbulent decade in Latin American-U.S. relations. In *Yankee No!* Alan McPherson sheds much-needed light on the controversial and pressing problem of anti-U.S. sentiment in the world. Examining the roots of anti-Americanism in Latin America, McPherson focuses on three major crises: the Cuban Revolution, the 1964 Panama riots, and U.S. intervention in the Dominican Republic. Deftly combining cultural and political analysis, he demonstrates the shifting and complex nature of anti-Americanism in each country and the love-hate ambivalence of most Latin Americans toward the United States. When rising panic over "Yankee hating" led Washington to try to contain foreign hostility, the government displayed a surprisingly coherent and consistent response, maintaining an ideological self-confidence that has outlasted a Latin American diplomacy torn between resentment and admiration of the United States. However, McPherson warns, U.S. leaders run a great risk if they continue to ignore the deeper causes of anti-Americanism. Written with dramatic flair, *Yankee No!* is a timely, compelling, and carefully researched contribution to international history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

McPherson's take on anti-Americanism (ie, "anti-USism") in the cold war Caribbean was written as an historical guide to the 9/11 era and its recurrent themes of "Why do they hate us?" and "How can they hate us?" He explores the wilful naivete behind the plaint by referring us to an earlier era which has merged almost seamlessly with the new. McPherson takes anti-USism as unique, but I disagree. There most certainly is an anti-Britishism (re: Ireland, India) and anti-Russianism (Poland, the Baltic

States.) There doubtless was an anti-Rome-ism too. Colin Powell's "Pottery Barn Rule" ("You break it, it's yours, you've bought it") is the historic norm. Great powers, by nature, inevitably act the bull in the global china shop and are as inevitably hated for it. Although more thoughtful policy makers are aware of this dilemma, such knowledge has little practical effect. McPherson's analysis of anti-Americanism in Venezuela, Cuba, Panama, and the Dominican Republic stresses the underdog resentment of America's neighbors, and suggests anti-Americanism is more an elite than a grass-roots phenomenon. His recounting of the US-Cuba rupture is his key point. In the need of the new revolutionary elite to consolidate sovereignty over their country, Fidel's early pragmatic "Menshevism" gave way to a radicalizing class war and anti-Americanism, both of which were only latent and needed considerable stoking to emerge as a mass force. This echoes the need of conservative elites to promote their own anti-Americanism, to keep the Colossus of the North from trampling their own turf, a problem too remote from the majority's daily struggle for survival.

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