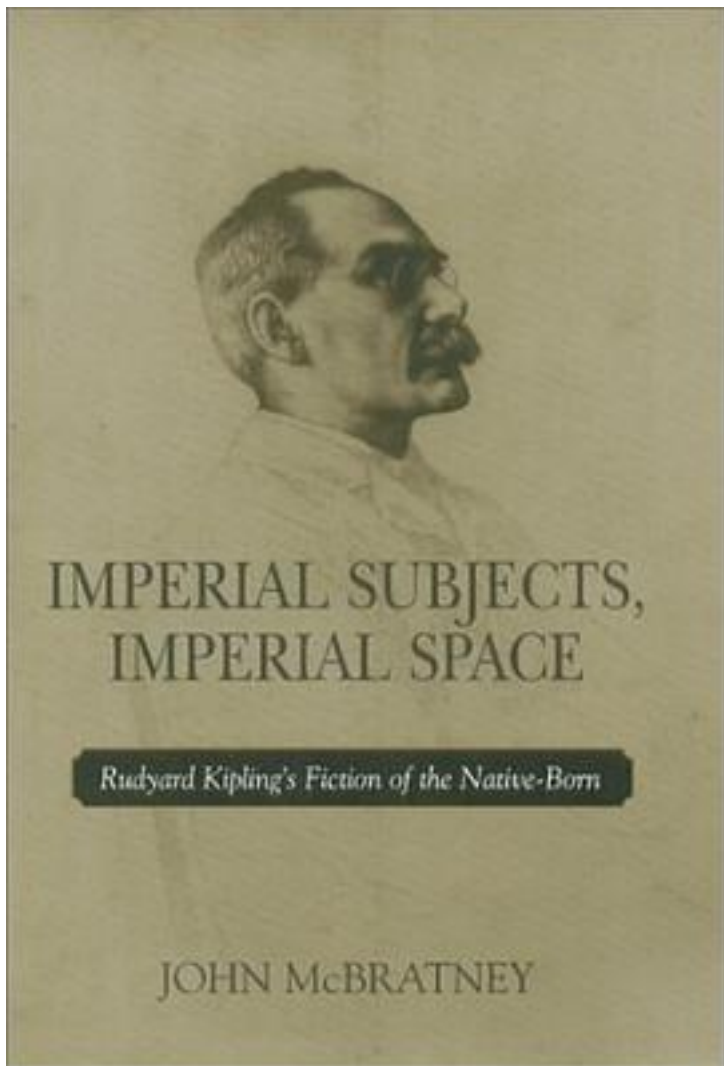


Imperial Subjects Imperial Space



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Why was Rudyard Kipling so drawn in his fiction to the figure of the foreign-born Briton--what Kipling called the "native-born"? The answer lies in McBratney's "Imperial Subjects, Imperial Space, the first full-length study of a figure central to Kipling's major imperial fiction: the "native-born." In these narratives Kipling sees the native-born fulfilling two important roles: model imperial servant and ideal imperial citizen. The special abilities that allow the native-born to play these roles derive from his identity as neither exclusively British nor simply "native." This study also provides the most thorough analysis of that figure's hybrid, "casteless" selfhood in relation to shifting attitudes toward racial identity during Britain's "New Imperialism." In its endeavor to place the liminal subject within a particular moment in British discourses about race and nation, this book illuminates both the complexities of subject construction in the late Victorian and Edwardian periods and the struggles today over identity formation in the postcolonial world.

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