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The Absent-Minded Imperialists - Bernard Porter - Oxford

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Bernard Porter argues in "The Absent-Minded Imperialists" that most Britons were not bound to be imperialists, or to be interested in the empire, or even to be very much aware of it for most of the nineteenth century.

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The Absent-Minded Imperialists is a detailed analysis of 19th-century British society and as such reexamines the Empire's place in the everyday lives of Britons.

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Bernard Porter. The Absent-Minded Imperialists: Empire

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The Absent-Minded Imperialists: Empire, Society, and ...

The debate began when Porter's book *The Absent-Minded Imperialists* appeared in print in 2004. The book argued that Empire had very little influence on British popular culture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, arguing that this was the only explanation for the absence during a period of rapid imperial expansion. Porter argued that ordinary British people between 1800 and 1940 were largely indifferent to empire:

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Porter-MacKenzie debate - Wikipedia

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There can be no presumption that Britain was an essentially 'imperialist' nation in the 19th and 20th centuries. Of course she was, in the sense of acquiring and ruling an empire; but that empire might not have been as burdensome as it appeared. In any case, 'British society' is a highly questionable concept, which obscures the country's enormous social, political, and cultural ...

Empire and Society - Oxford Scholarship

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