ENEMIES
OF CIVILIZATION

Attitudes toward Foreigners
in Ancient Mesopotamia,
Egypt, and China
Mu-chou Poo

Looks at how foreigners were regarded
in three ancient civilizations, finding that
cultural, not biophysical, differences were key in distinguishing
"us" from "them."

Enemies of Civilization is a work of comparative history and cultural
consciousness that discusses how "others" were perceived in three
ancient civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, and China. Each civil-
ization was the dominant culture in its part of the world, and each
developed a mind-set that regarded itself as culturally superior
to its neighbors. Mu-chou Poo compares these societies' attitudes
toward other cultures and finds differences and similarities
that reveal the self-perceptions of each society.

Notably, this work shows that in contrast to modern racism based
on biophysical features, such prejudice did not exist in these
ancient societies. It was culture rather than biophysical nature that
was the most important criterion for distinguishing us from them.

By examining how societies conceive their prejudices, this book
breaks new ground in the study of ancient history and opens new
ways to look at human society, both ancient and modern.

"Poo is a discerning and skillful historian who, by critically using
his sources, has forged a highly readable and persuasive comparative
exposition on the perception and conception of 'otherness'
in the ancient world. He shows us how a cross-cultural narrative
may be woven." — On-cho Ng, author of Cheng-Zhu Confucianism
in the Early Qing: Li Guangdi (1642–1718) and Qing Learning

Mu-chou Poo is Professor and Research Fellow in the Institute
of History and Philology at Academia Sinica in Taiwan. He is the
author of several books, including In Search of Personal Welfare: A View
of Ancient Chinese Religion, also published by SUNY Press.

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Roger T. Ames, editor

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REDREAMING
AMERICA

Toward a Bilingual
American Culture
Debra A. Castillo

Pursues an inquiry into the cultural
and linguistic dissonances that Spanish
creates in the United States.

What would American literature look like in languages other than
English, and what would Latin American literature look like if we
understood the United States to be a Latin American country
and took seriously the work by U.S. Latinos/as in Spanish?
Debra A. Castillo explores these questions by highlighting
the contributions of Latinos/as writing in Spanish and Spanglish.
Beginning with the anonymously published 1826 novel Izcótil and
ending with fiction published at the turn of the twenty-first
century, the book details both the characters' and authors' struggles
with how to define an American self. Writers from Cuba, Puerto Rico,
and Mexico are featured prominently, alongside
a sampling of other Latin American heritages
(Peru, Colombia, Chile). Castillo concludes by offering some
thoughts on U.S. curricular practice.

"The range of authors she analyzes is impressive—from inter-
nationally known writers like Carlos Fuentes, Ana Lydia Vega,
and Ariel Dorfman, to established writers in their individual
countries like Gustavo Sainz, to Rolando Hinojosa-Smith
and Dlores Prida, to up-and-coming authors like Giannina Braschi."
— Rolando J. Romero, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Debra A. Castillo is Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow
and Professor of Romance Studies and of Comparative Literature
at Cornell University and the coauthor (with
Maria-Socorro Tabuenca Cordoba) of Border Women: Writing from
La Frontera.

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LINKING
THE AMERICAS
Race, Hybrid Discourses,
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of Feminine Identity
Lesley Feracho

Provides a comparative look at women's
texts across the Americas.

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texts across the Americas?

Lesley Feracho answers these questions through
a comparative look at texts by four women writers from across
the Americas—Zora Neale Hurston, Julieta Campos,
Carolina Maria de Jesús, and Clarice Lispector. She explores how
their writing reformulates identity as an intricate connection
of the historical, sociocultural, and discursive, and also reveals new
understandings of feminine writing as a hybrid discourse in and
of itself.

"The author frames the book with two underclass black women—
de Jesús (Brazil) and Hurston (United States)—and the central
chapters focus on two privileged white women from countries that
are famously African-inflected in their cultures—Lispector
(Brazil) and Campos (Cuba). Feracho is subtle about playing
the race card, but this is perhaps the most interesting and innovative
part of the book, which will inevitably be read in the context
of the growing field of Afro-Hispanic literary studies. I applaud
the prominence she gives to Brazil, too often left out of,
or marginalized in, Latin American literary studies."
—Debra A. Castillo, author of Redreaming America: Toward a Bilingual
American Culture

"I like the comparative approach to the literature of writers
separated by time, space, and culture. Notwithstanding color
and ethnicity, Campos, de Jesús, Hurston, and Lispector are united by
‘feminine writing.’"—Marvin A. Lewis, author of Afro-Uruguayan Literature: Postcolonial Perspectives

Lesley Feracho is Assistant Professor of Spanish at the University
of Georgia.

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THE ROLE OF HISTORY
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Argues that there are original positions
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of Latin American philosophers.

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and Eduardo Rabossi. They argue that Spanish is not a philosophi-
cally irrelevant language and that there are
original positions to be found in the work
of Latin American philosophers.

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of philosophy has not developed in Latin
America. A range of theoretical issues are
explored, each focusing on specific problems
that have hindered the development of a solid
history. Part II details the complex task
of writing a history of philosophy for a region
still haunted by the specter of colonialism.

Elizabeth Millán-Zaibert is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at DePaul University
and the coeditor (with Jorge J. E. Gracia) of Latin American Philosophy for the 21st Century:
The Human Condition, Values, and the Search for Identity. Arleen Salles is Assistant Professor in
the Department of Art, Music, and Philosophy at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, The City University of
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