
The tragic events of 9/11 caused serious reactions by governments and institutions around the world. Numerous defensive and offensive reactions appeared at both individual and institutional levels, resulting in local and global targets and victims. One such group of victims includes South Asian Muslim students in a New England high school. Maira (Asian American studies, Univ. of California, Davis) interviewed 67 South Asian youths on a range of issues, including race, education, repression, citizenship, and identity. She interrogated the impact of institutional measures used against this population after 9/11, and grounds their experiences in the imperial nature of the US. Based on ethnographic research and grounded in postcolonial theory, her critique focuses on the structural nature of the US as an empire. For Maira, the experiences of racism, discrimination, detentions, alienation, and humiliation by Muslim youth in the US after 9/11 are not simply isolated reactions to a horrific event, but built-in mechanisms of control and bias toward non-Western and marginalized populations by an empire, even when such a population is naturalized in the imperial homeland. Although some might view her conclusion with skepticism, this is a serious study on the contradictions of citizenship rights within an imperial homeland. Summing Up: Recommended. All levels/libraries.

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