

# Critical Anatomy of the New American Empire

An Interdisciplinary Conference

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF  
**Economy & Society**

Cornell University  
April 8-10, 2004



**Co-Sponsors:**  
Center for the Study of Economy and Society and The Society for the Humanities

**Chair of Organizing Committee:**  
Brett de Bary, (Director, Society for the Humanities; Asian Studies, Cornell)

**Organizing Committee:**  
Mabel Berezin, Salah Hassan, Dominick LaCapra, Richard Miller, Satya Mohanty, Victor Nee, David Strang



This conference will engage humanists and social scientists in critical analysis of contemporary American global power, including the relationship between globalization and American empire, the ethics of hegemony, new doctrines of war and preemption, and new political subjects of empire.

## DAY ONE

Thursday, April 8

Location: 200 Baker Hall (Chemistry Building)

4:30 Keynote Address and Clark Lecture:  
**“The United States: Empire or Super Nation-State?”**  
Lionel Jospin, Prime Minister of France, 1997-2002



**DAY TWO**

Friday, April 9

Location: Hollis E. Cornell Auditorium, Goldwin Smith Hall

2:30 Introduction to the Conference  
Brett de Bary (Director, Society for the Humanities)

**Session I: Globalization and Imperialism: Sociological and Economic Perspectives**

Co-Chairs: Victor Nee (Director, Center for the Study of Economy and Society)  
Mabel Berezin (Sociology, Cornell)

2: 45 “Political Action in an Imagined Global Society”  
John Meyer, (Sociology, Stanford University)

3: 15 “Empires Old and New? Western Colonial Imperialism and America in Iraq”  
David Strang, (Sociology, Cornell)  
Followed by Discussion

4:15 Coffee Break

4:30 “Irrational Imperialism”  
Mohammed Bamyeh, (International Studies, Macalester College)



5:00 “Blood for Oil: The Military Implications of the Bush-Cheney Energy Plan”  
Michael Klare (Peace and World Security Studies, Hampshire College; Defense Correspondent, *The Nation Magazine*)  
Followed by Discussion

Reception A.D. White House

**DAY THREE**  
**Saturday, April 10**

**Location:** Hollis E. Cornell Auditorium, Goldwin Smith Hall

**Session II: Ethics of Hegemony**

**Chair:** Steven Miller (Fellow, Society for the Humanities, Cornell)

9:30 "Hegemony and Human Rights"  
Charles Beitz (Politics, Princeton University)

10:00 "Mutual Preemption"  
Henry Shue (Politics, Oxford University)  
Followed by Discussion

11:00 Coffee Break

11:15 "The Ethics of Empire"  
Richard Miller (Philosophy, Cornell University)



**Session III: Empire and its New Political Subjects**

**Co-Chairs:** Salah Hassan (History of Art and Africana Studies, Cornell)  
Dominick LaCapra (History and Comparative Literature, Cornell)

2:00 "Identity Politics in the Age of Empire"  
Linda Alcoff (Philosophy, Syracuse University)

2:30 "Empire and European Identity: Is American Imperialism Good for Europe?"  
Max Pensky (Fellow, Society for the Humanities, Cornell; Philosophy, Binghamton University)  
Followed by Discussion

3:45 Coffee Break

4:00 "Politics of Empire: International Law and Cross Border Movement"  
Ratna Kapur (Center of Feminist Legal Research, New Delhi, India; Global Law School Program, NYU)

4:30 "Imperial Nationalism and the Meaning of Death"  
Naoki Sakai (Asian Studies and Comparative Literature, Cornell)  
Followed by Concluding Discussion