

Díaz-Andreu, M. forthcoming. *Nationalism, Imperialism and the Past. A World History of Archaeology in the Nineteenth Century*. Oxford University Press

This book offers a comprehensive history of global archaeology during the nineteenth century. It argues that archaeology's emergence as a professional discipline was connected to the appearance of nationalism as a political ideology in Europe. It also suggests that imperialism and colonialism were crucial for the development of archaeology beyond Europe, especially in areas under the direct control of the imperial Powers. This volume includes information about a wide range of topics, from human origins to the medieval period, and from antiquities found in China, South Africa, and Europe, to those of America and the Pacific. Archaeology was institutionalised in the learned society, the museum, the university, heritage administration and legislation. Institutionalisation, however, did not come first. Before it – and after it was underway – there were individuals whose concern for antiquities was driven by the belief that their research assisted the advancement of their nation and/or their empire. The political role played by most individuals involved in the study of antiquities was not the result of an imposition, but, on the contrary, they saw it as a responsibility. Archaeologists produced authorised versions of the past, which in time crystallised as public memory. This does not mean that there was only one account about the past, for the past constituted an arena of negotiation. Moreover, nineteenth-century archaeologists' views were a process in continuous flux throughout their lives and this helps to explain changes in archaeological thought and practice. Issues such as the effect on archaeology of racism, religion, hegemony and resistance are assessed in the book.