

CHALLENGING

the Logics of Empire

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF
CULTURE & SOCIETY

Provost Lecture Series 2007

*How does the logic of empire function?
How are acts of empire justified and legitimized?
How can contemporary logics of empire be challenged?*

T. J. Jackson Lears **American Empire**



Senator J. William Fulbright and President Lyndon B. Johnson taken on July 28, 1965. Photograph by Yoichi Okamoto.

Thursday, March 29, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Room 206, BTSU (Theatre)

Reception to follow

Is the concept of American Empire home-grown or imported?

How do apologists reconcile empire with democracy and popular sovereignty?

While the (imperial) impulse to extend American Power beyond our borders has pervaded U.S. history, it has also remained an embarrassment even to the most fervid expansionists. Professor Lears contends that a lust for empire flies in the face of republican suspicion of concentrated power, democratic celebration of popular sovereignty, and religious faith. He outlines a powerful countertradition against empire using the works of William James, Randolph Bourne, and J. William Fulbright.

T.J. Jackson Lears is the Board of Governors Professor of History at Rutgers University and the editor of the distinguished *Journal Raritan*. Lears' research interests include U.S. cultural and intellectual history, comparative religious history, literature and the visual arts, folklore and folk beliefs. His books include *Something for Nothing: Luck in America*, *Fables of Abundance: A Cultural History of Advertising in America*, which won the Los Angeles Times book prize for history, and *No Place of Grace: Antimodernism and the Transformation of American Culture, 1880 - 1920*. He writes regularly for *The New Republic*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *The Los Angeles Times Book Review* and has been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and both the Rockefeller and Guggenheim Foundations.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society at (419) 372-0585 or mgeisbu@bgsu.edu