



Revolution, Empire, and the Gothic Dream

By Richard Moore Jr.

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A very compelling read that examines the centrality of dreams in early British Gothic novels and the significant transformations of the Gothic dream later in Victorian novels and ultimately in Caribbean novels.

This monograph examines the centrality of dreams in early British Gothic novels and the significant transformations of the Gothic dream later in Victorian novels and ultimately in Caribbean novels. The Gothic arises at a time when Enlightenment philosophy and medical science are making dreams and nightmares exclusively internal phenomena, relegating them solely to the realm of the individual. This monograph argues that the Gothic counters this movement by reimagining dreams as social and political phenomena. They subsequently play vital roles in cultural responses to the profound questions of the eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries—namely, those concerning historiography, revolution, slavery, and empire. What we see is a vacillation between the sublime and the monstrous that reveals anxieties about British claims of progress and liberty. In the process, the Gothic dream comes to be a liminal space for the dramatisation of imperial fantasies and prophetic nightmares. In the twentieth century, postcolonial writers adapt the Gothic dream to subvert the teleology of imperialism.

Key selling points

- Posits dream and nightmare as defining features of the Gothic.
- Focuses on dreams as temporally charged and argues that dreams are social and political rather than just individual phenomena.
- Historicizes Gothic dreams and offers their history as a counter-narrative to the history of dreams.
- Will appeal to students and professors of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British literature, of the Gothic, of postcolonial studies, and by extension of postcolonial Gothic studies.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Richard W. Moore Jr. received his Ph.D. in English from Fordham University in May 2018. He is currently teaching in the English department in the College of Mount Saint Vincent in the Bronx, New York.

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Newgen Knowledge Works Pvt Ltd
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2/579, Singaravelan Street, Chinna Neelangarai,
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