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Sommario/riassunto	In Taming Cannibals, Patrick Brantlinger unravels contradictions embedded in the racist and imperialist ideology of the British Empire. For many Victorians, the idea of taming cannibals or civilizing savages was oxymoronic: civilization was a goal that the nonwhite peoples of

the world could not attain or, at best, could only approximate, yet the "civilizing mission" was viewed as the ultimate justification for imperialism. Similarly, the supposedly unshakeable certainty of Anglo-Saxon racial superiority was routinely undercut by widespread fears about racial degeneration through contact with "lesser" races or concerns that Anglo-Saxons might be superseded by something superior-an even "fitter" or "higher" race or species. Brantlinger traces the development of those fears through close readings of a wide range of texts-including *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe, *Fiji and the Fijians* by Thomas Williams, *Daily Life and Origin of the Tasmanians* by James Bonwick, *The Descent of Man* by Charles Darwin, *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad, *Culture and Anarchy* by Matthew Arnold, *She* by H. Rider Haggard, and *The War of the Worlds* by H. G. Wells. Throughout the wide-ranging, capacious, and rich *Taming Cannibals*, Brantlinger combines the study of literature with sociopolitical history and postcolonial theory in novel ways.

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