

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910777920603321
Autore	Krishnan Sanjay
Titolo	Reading the global [[electronic resource]] : troubling perspectives on Britain's empire in Asia // Sanjay Krishnan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Columbia University Press, c2007
ISBN	1-283-00885-8 9786613008855 0-231-51174-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (255 p.)
Disciplina	820.9/3552
Soggetti	English literature - History and criticism Globalization in literature Imperialism in literature Capitalism in literature Great Britain Colonies Asia History 19th century Asia In literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [215]-229) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: How to Read the Global -- 1. Adam Smith and the Claims of Subsistence -- 2. Opium Confessions: Narcotic, Commodity, and the Malay Amuk -- 3. Native Agent: Abdullah bin Abdul Kadir's Global Perspective -- 4. Animality and the Global Subject in Conrad's Lord Jim -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The global is an instituted perspective, not just an empirical process. Adopted initially by the British in order to make sense of their polyglot territorial empire, the global perspective served to make heterogeneous spaces and nonwhite subjects "legible," and in effect produced the regions it sought merely to describe. The global was the dominant perspective from which the world was produced for representation and control. It also set the terms within which subjectivity and history came to be imagined by colonizers and modern anticolonial nationalists. In this book, Sanjay Krishnan demonstrates how ideas of the global took root in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century descriptions of Southeast

Asia. Krishnan turns to the works of Adam Smith, Thomas De Quincey, Abdullah bin Abdul Kadir, and Joseph Conrad, four authors who discuss the Malay Archipelago during the rise and consolidation of the British Empire. These works offer some of the most explicit and sophisticated discussions of the world as a single, interconnected entity, inducting their readers into comprehensive and objective descriptions of the world. The perspective organizing these authors' conception of the global—the frame or code through which the world came into view—is indebted to the material and discursive possibilities set in motion by European conquest. The global, therefore, is not just a peculiar mode of thematization; it is aligned to a conception of historical development unique to European colonial capitalism. Krishnan troubles this dominant perspective. Drawing on the poststructuralist and postcolonial approaches of Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, and challenging the recent historiography of empire and economic histories of globalization, he elaborates a bold new approach to the humanities in the age of globalization.
