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# Culture and Imperialism

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An internationally renowned literary and cultural critic, Edward W. Said was University Professor at Columbia University and the author of more than twenty books, including *Orientalism*, which was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award. He died in 2003.

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CULTURE  
AND  
IMPERIALISM

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*Edward W. Said*



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**For**  
**Eqbal Ahmad**

The conquest of the earth, which mostly means the taking it away from those who have a different complexion or slightly flatter noses than ourselves, is not a pretty thing when you look into it too much. What redeems it is the idea only. An idea at the back of it; not a sentimental pretence but an idea; and an unselfish belief in the idea—something you can set up, and bow down before, and offer a sacrifice to....

JOSEPH CONRAD, *Heart of Darkness*

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