

# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Department of Political Science

October 3, 2020

Joseph C. Parry  
Senior Acquisitions Editor  
Lexington Books  
Rowman & Littlefield  
4501 Forbes Blvd  
Lanham, MD 20706  
By email and mail: [jparry@rowman.com](mailto:jparry@rowman.com)

Cc by mail:

Jed Lyons, President & CEO, Rowman & Littlefield  
Julie E. Kirsch, Senior Vice President & Publisher, Rowman & Littlefield

Dear Mr. Parry,

I write to express my dismay at Lexington Books' cancellation of the publication of Bruce Gilley's book, *The Last Imperialist*.

I know Bruce Gilley as a respected scholar and, among other things, co-author with me of *China's New Rulers* (New York Review Books, 2003).

Book publishers are in the front line in defending academic freedom. This is a heavy responsibility for Rowman & Littlefield, which is correctly described on your website as “a leading independent publisher ... with strengths in academic publishing in the humanities and social sciences.”

I note that you have a publishing partnership with the Council on Foreign Relations, among other organizations. I'm especially conscious of the importance of your publishing decisions because I write the book review column on Asia and the Pacific for the Council's publication, *Foreign Affairs*.

When a publisher yields to pressure to reverse its decision to publish a book that has passed peer review and editorial review, it does great damage to the cause of academic freedom. I am sorry to say that I think you have done that in this case.

Sincerely,



Andrew J. Nathan

Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science