

## IMPERIALIST KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION: THE UNITED STATES AND THE SCHOOL AND RURAL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA

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This paper attempts to historicize the efforts made by the United States' government, private and non-for-profit organizations during the Cold War to sponsor school and rural library developments in Asia with a specific focus on library development programs during 1960s and 1970s in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Egypt. With the rise of literacy programs in 'developing countries' in early 1960s, the production and distribution of textbook, children and supplementary-reading books for rural library development and school use became an essential part of the 'cultural diplomacy' of the United States. Through archival study and textual analysis, this paper studies how such library development programs were financed, the role of the Asian states in facilitating such efforts, the role of U.S. libraries and librarians in such programs, the types of books selected, the process and languages of translation and the methods and extent of book distribution. Contextualizing the rural and school library developments in the international educational and cultural battle over 'minds and hearts' between Socialist and Capitalist blocs, this paper analyzes Cold War library development programs through a discussion on the relation between Imperialism, state and knowledge production.