



By *Thomas Reifer*
Managing Editor

This issue of *JWSR* brings together a very important mini-symposium around Peter Gowan's challenge to one of the long-held tenets among many world-systems analysts: the distinction between the capitalist world-economy and world-empires. Gowan poses the question as to whether there might be another possibility, that of a capitalist world-empire. He analyzes the United States as a contemporary example of this phenomenon.

The essay by Gowan, as well as the articles by Terry Boswell and John Gulick, critically examine these issues, including larger questions about the role and trajectory of U.S. hegemony in the contemporary world. Giovanni Arrighi's piece, while not directly written in response to Gowan, is included here, as it addresses questions germane to the issues raised by Gowan, including David Harvey's recent work on "the new imperialism." This mini-symposium is intended to contribute to the contemporary debate about these important issues.

ERRATA

Volume X, Number 2, Summer 2004

A pagination error caused a gap between pp. 435–470. Thomas Reifer's introduction to the *JWSR* Mini-Symposium has been repaginated to p. 471. No other modifications have been made to the text or pagination.

January 17, 2005

JOURNAL OF WORLD-SYSTEMS RESEARCH, X, 2, SUMMER 2004, 471–539

<http://jwsr.ucr.edu/>

ISSN 1076–156X

© 2004 Thomas Reifer