

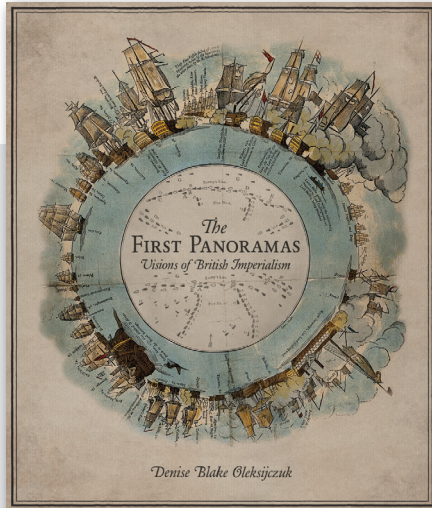
# The First Panoramas

## *Visions of British Imperialism*

Denise Blake  
Oleksijczuk

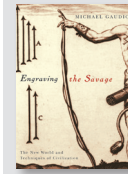
Denise Blake Oleksijczuk demonstrates the complexity of the panoramas' history and cultural impact, exploring specific exhibits: *View of Edinburgh and the Adjacent Country from the Calton Hill* (1788), *View of London from the Roof of the Albion Mill* (1791), *View of the Grand Fleet Moored at Spithead* (1793), and the two different versions of *View of Constantinople* (1801). Using the surviving evidence, much of it never published before, on the early exhibitions of these massive installations, Oleksijczuk reconstructs the relationships between specific paintings, their accompanying printed guides, and the collective experiences of different audiences. She argues that by transporting its spectators to increasingly distant locations, the panorama created a spatial and temporal disjunction between "here" and "there" that helped to forge new national and social identities.

"During the last decade the new field of panorama studies has achieved a great deal, though many accounts of this important and elusive form of visual representation are still marked by misleading generalizations. Denise Blake Oleksijczuk's impressive *The First Panoramas* carries panorama research to a new level of material and historical specificity." —**Jonathan Crary**, Columbia University



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