In this bold, sweeping book, David Day surveys the ways in which one nation or society has supplanted another, and then sought to justify its occupation - for example, the English in Australia and North America, the Normans in England, the Spanish in Mexico, the Japanese in Korea, the Chinese in Tibet. Human history has been marked by territorial aggression and expansion, an endless cycle of ownership claims by dominant cultures over territory occupied by peoples unable to resist their advance. Day outlines the strategies, violent and subtle, such dominant cultures have used to stake and bolster their claims - by redrawing maps, rewriting history, recourse to legal argument, creative renaming, use of foundation stories, tilling of the soil, colonization and of course outright subjugation and even genocide. In the end the claims they make reveal their own sense of identity and self-justifying place in the world. This will be an important book, an accessible and captivating macro-narrative about empire, expansion, and dispossession.

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My Personal Review:
Day’s book, Conquest, offers a new interpretation of what we would commonly call colonial settlement. Instead, Day offers the idea of supplanting societies, that seek to replace the current population and culture with one in their own image. Importantly, Day illustrates the process of supplanting through numerous cases and examples from around the globe. He is not limited to only to English or Spanish colonization, but spreads his net widely.

Day’s writing is clear and concise. His scholarship, as usual, is top notch. Anyone interested in colonialism, settlers and new societies would do well to read this book.
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Conquest: How Societies Overwhelm Others by David Day - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!