
Alternatives

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Abstracts

The Politics of Dispossession, Belonging, and Hope: Remembering Edward W. Said

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This article develops a critical appreciation of the work of Edward Said. It seeks to disentangle some of the most important themes in his work in relation to the dilemmas and contradictions of his life, and to assess their political implications. **KEYWORDS:** Orientalism, dislocation, representation, self-determination, political intellectual.

Arms over AIDS in South Africa: Why the Boys Had to Have Their Toys

Janis van der Westhuizen*

This article attempts to find a rationale for South Africa's multi-billion-dollar arms deal given the absence of any conventional military threat and despite the overwhelming need to manage the HIV/AIDS pandemic as a far more salient threat to both South African and regional security. Culture, identity, and norms help to illustrate the compulsion to acquire weapons as a demonstration of a state's symbolic power, and as an important pursuit of foreign policy. In as much as Pretoria sought to gain status and prestige from the arms deal, the strategy is disappointingly conventional and therefore with limited ultimate effect. **KEYWORDS:** South African foreign policy, symbolic power, AIDS, weapons as status symbols, gender and warfare

Power/Knowledge in International Peacebuilding: The Case of the EU Police Mission in Bosnia

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and Rasa Ostrauskaite*

This article develops the argument that peacebuilding brings into play microphysical and nonsovereign forms of power that circulate through opaque capillaries that link foreign peacebuilders and indigenous populations. It examines the governmentality of liberal peacebuilding and the practices of “unfreedom” it licenses; brings into focus the constellation of social control that is effected by the EU’s efforts, in the context of its security and defense policy, to promote democratic policing in Bosnia; and shows how a normatively committed form of governmentality theory can be employed to limit the inevitable political pastorale in the international construction of liberal peace in posthostility societies. **KEYWORDS:** Bosnia, European Security and Defence Policy, Foucault, governmentality, peacebuilding, policing.

Recasting Neoliberal Dominance in the Global South? A Critique of the Monterrey Consensus

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The UN Financing for Development conference (FfD) was held in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002 to gain international financial and political support for the Millennium Development Goals. Various multilevel consultations were held with “equal stakeholders” ranging from the IMF and WTO to civil society organizations in order to forge a consensus-based framework for substantially reducing world poverty. However, despite the FfD’s seemingly novel attempts at inclusionary and multilateral forms of negotiation, this article suggests that the Monterrey consensus is, in the first instance, concerned with reproducing and thus legitimating the growing power of transnational capital. The consensus is not so much about reducing poverty as it is about managing the ever-increasing polarization of capitalist social relations in the South.

KEYWORDS: Monterrey consensus; Millennium Development Goals; development finance; IFIs; poverty

Theory and Society in the Shadow of Terror

Paul James*

Contemporary social theory has reached an impasse that expresses the contradictions of our time. The retreat from Grand Theory may have been necessary but there is need now to go back to basic questions about ontology, epistemology, and ethics. This article presents an alternative approach to method—an approach that allows us to map the tensions between tribalism, traditionalism, modernism, and postmodernism in this age of globalization, multiplying crises, and increasing insecurities. **KEYWORDS:** theory, methodology, crisis, abstraction, inquiry.