
Alternatives

Global, Local, Political

Volume 31 Number 3 July-Sept. 2006

Abstracts

Terrortory

Barry Hindess*

Contemporary usage presents an opposition between states and terrorism, as if to suggest that terrorism is not an instrument of the state but something that is used against it. Yet the two most influential foundational myths of the modern states system suggest that the state's capacity for terror is the source of peace and order within the territorial community. It also makes other states think twice about attacking its territory. The author examines the ramifications of these myths and shows how they underlie conventional accounts of what is at stake in the war on terror. **KEYWORDS:** terrorism, territory, state, states system, foundation myths

“Like a Dog!”: Humiliation and Shame in the War on Terror

Alex Danchev*

An examination of the disturbing practice of torture and abuse in the “global war on terror,” focusing on the methods and motivations of the United States. Proceeding from the imaginary yet all-too-real world of Kafka and the Kafkaesque, it highlights the themes of humiliation and shame in the waging of this war, noting that the damage so caused is reciprocal and indivisible: “Whoever degrades another degrades me.” **KEYWORDS:** war, terror, torture, humiliation, shame, intelligence.

The Duty of the Benevolent Master: From Sovereignty to Suzerainty and the Biopolitics of Intervention

Heriberto Cairo*

Recent claims about humanitarian intervention express forms of domination that are both geopolitical and increasingly constructed around a biopolitical duty to relieve the suffering of brutalized peoples. This paper examines this presumed duty in the context of tensions between juridical-institutional accounts of sovereignty and practices of suzerainty in which intervention “outside” is accompanied by intervention “inside.” **KEYWORDS:** intervention, sovereignty, suzerainty, biopolitics, imperialism.

The Smallest Army Imaginable

C. Douglas Lummis*

This article explores why it is so difficult to imagine a state without an army. It considers Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, conventional accounts of the sovereign state and the right to legitimate violence, Gandhi's concept of *satyagraha*, Gandhi's Constitution for a Free India, and Gandhi's understanding of the art of the possible. It concludes with a reading of Gandhi and the sacrificial politics of founding in India. **KEYWORDS:** nonviolence, state violence, Japanese Peace Constitution, Gandhi, *satyagraha*.

Disrupting Asian America: South Asian American Histories as Strategic Sites of Narration

Sridevi Menon*

This article elaborates a critical practice that interrogates the discursive protocols narrating the US nation's histories. It poses South Asian American genealogies as strategic sites from which the racial formation of the United States and Asian America may be explored. **KEYWORDS:** Asian America; South Asian American genealogies; immigrant histories; pan-ethnicity; identity politics.