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Race War and the Pathology of Patriarchal White Sovereignty

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Moreton-Robinson, Aileen¹

Abstract: In June 2007, the Australian federal government sent military and police into Indigenous communities of the Northern Territory on the premise that the sexual abuse of children was rampant and a national crisis. This 'crisis' was constructed as something extraordinary and aberrant requiring new governmental measures. Agemben argues that this 'state of exception' is now the normal form of governance within democracies that 'establishes a hidden but fundamental relationship between law and the absence of law. It is a void, a blank and this empty space is constitutive of the legal system'. Guantanamo Bay has become the public face of the deployment of this state of exception where law and lawlessness exist in dealing with detainees as a response to the events of 9/11 but it is not exceptional. Other detainees are held in various locations such as Camp Bucca, Abu Ghraib and Camp Cropper and in these camps the USA has determined its own rules which are outside the law. In this sense exceptionalism is dispersed and not unified, but rather is a discursive formation that can only be partially known.



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