Democracy's Empire. Sovereignty, Law, and Violence. Journal of Law and Society Special Issues

Description: The essays in this volume take on the challenge of explaining the current formation of the relation between sovereignty, law and violence in what is termed Democracy's Empire. Democracy's Empire captures the co-appearance of the proliferation of democracy as the political formation that institutes and sustains freedom, equality and emancipation and along with it, the proliferation of death, destruction and the abject condition of life. A period of history where there was supposed to be some consensus about the legitimate source of authority and the legal structures that would administer such norms has turned out to be a time when war as a sovereign exception has been instituted in an ever increasing number of places. This volume contains a situated discussion of the institution of democracy and related juridico-political problems. From the death of politics in South Africa to the institution of a certain normalisation of death in the constitutional process taking place in Iraq, this thought-provoking volume poses the problem of violence and death at the heart of the institution of democracy.

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