

White Domestic Terrorism, the State and Prospects for Social Justice

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Recent investigations and reports from US police departments and Homeland Security have identified far-Right domestic terrorism (expanding militia groups and frequent violence by radicalized individuals) as the most substantial political violence threat in the US. In spite of this growing threat, based on measurable increases in violent attacks in recent years, these groups have been relatively immune to effective state repression (especially when compared to various Left social justice movements).

This talk seeks to socially, politically, and historically situate far-Right domestic terror within the context of contemporary US racial formation, increasing dominated by a widespread (if empirically baseless) white political subjectivity that defines itself as an aggrieved and racialized victim. I seek to explain the socio-political forces that help produce white domestic terrorism, but also relatively insulate it from state investigation, disruption and preemptive prosecution. I am also seeking to outline the potential consequences of effective state repression of far-Right domestic terrorism, particularly the potential contradiction involved in the possible bolstering of state repression's legitimacy against the backdrop of the very real social and political threat these growing movements pose to the prospect of fostering social justice.