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Screening US Militarism
Quinn Slobodian
The Rebirth of the Author
TEU Response
The Political Economy of COVID-19
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Custodians of Literary Form
The Visibility of Prison Labour



Counterfutures is a multidisciplinary journal of Left research, thought, and strategy. It brings together work from across Aotearoa New Zealand's Left, aiming to intervene in, and inaugurate, debates about how to understand and influence our society, politics, culture, and environment.

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LEFT THOUGHT AND PRACTICE AOTEAROA

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Contents

INTERVIEW

- 10 (De-)Exceptionalising Palestine
YARA HAWARI

ARTICLES

- 26 The Ailing Body of Capital: Social Reproduction, Unhealthy Diets, and
Non-Communicable Disease
ANA RENKER-DARBY

- 45 On Alex Garland's *Civil War* and *Warfare*
DAVID JENKINS

INTERVIEW

- 54 The Twilight of Progressive Neoliberalism
QUINN SLOBODIAN

ARTICLES

- 72 (Never) Reveal Yourself: Killing the Author (Again) in the Age of
Personal Poetics
LYNLEY EDMAN

- 86 Towards a Member-Led Union: Organising a Way Out of Servicing
DANIEL BENSON-GUIU

- 98 The COVID-19 Pandemic and its Continuing Impact on New
Zealand Politics
BRIAN S. ROPER

REVIEWS

- 140 After Liberalism?
CHAMSY EL-OJEILI

- 154 Forms, Events, Treaties
NICHOLAS WRIGHT

- 168 Hard Labour, Prisoners, and the Building of New Zealand
JOHN PRATT

Contents Overview

(De-)Exceptionalising Palestine

YARA HAWARI

An interview with scholar and co-director of Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network that discusses the ongoing genocidal violence in Gaza, the settler occupations in the West Bank, and the role of Palestinian resistance in wider struggles for justice and freedom.

The Ailing Body of Capital: Social Reproduction, Unhealthy Diets, and Non-Communicable Diseases

ANA RENKER-DARBY

A Marxist analysis of food production in contemporary capitalist societies and how constraints on social reproduction have facilitated the rise of ultra-processed foods and the increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases in Aotearoa New Zealand.

On Alex Garland's *Civil War* and *Warfare*

DAVID JENKINS

A study of Alex Garland's recent films that considers whether *Civil War* and *Warfare*, which have been roundly critiqued on the left, might be subtextual critiques of US journalism and imperialism.

The Twilight of Progressive Neoliberalism

QUINN SLOBODIAN

An interview with the historian and public intellectual that touches on the historical significance of the 1990s, mutations of neoliberalism, the need to re-think the twin ruptures of Trump and Brexit, and the contemporary far right's obsession with IQ and gold.

(Never) Reveal Yourself: Killing the Author (Again) in the Age of Personal Poetics

LYNLEY EDMEADES

A meditation on the work of Aotearoa New Zealand poet Jackson McCarthy that reflects on the contemporary significance of Roland Barthes' concept of the 'death of the author' in an age where author-as-brand reigns supreme.

Towards a Member-Led Union: Organising a Way Out of Servicing

DANIEL BENSON-GUIU

A response by TEU Assistant National Secretary (Industrial) to the Left TEU Network's article in *Counterfutures* 15, in which he outlines the steps the TEU have taken to move towards an organising union.

The COVID-19 Pandemic and its Continuing Impact on New Zealand Politics

BRIAN S. ROPER

An overview of the social, economic, and political conditions that contributed to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the New Zealand Government's response to the pandemic, and its continuing political and economic impact in Aotearoa New Zealand.

After Liberalism?

CHAMSY EL-OJEILI

A review of Rita Abrahamsen and co-author's *The World of the Right: Radical Conservatism and the Global Order* – a study of the intellectual foundations of the contemporary global far right.

Forms, Events, Treaties

NICHOLAS WRIGHT

A review of Dougal McNeill's *Forms of Freedom: Marxist Essays in New Zealand and Australian Literature*, which questions what it means to think critically and imaginatively with the literary form.

Hard Labour, Prisoners, and the Building of New Zealand

JOHN PRATT

A review of Jared Davidson's *Blood and Dirt: Prison Labour and the Making of New Zealand*, which focuses on the role of prison labour in the building of Aotearoa New Zealand's infrastructure and industries and the history of prison labour's public visibility.

Author Biographies

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TEU's Te Pou Ahurei Takirua – Ahumahi | Assistant National Secretary – Industrial. He has a background in campaigning for student, union, community, and environmental causes, and he holds an MA from the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Otago.

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