

Global Civil War-scapes: Communitas and Exploitation within Logistical Warfare

Elliott Prasse-Freeman and Francesco Buscemi

Abstract

Warscapes are often understood as producing spaces suffused by arrangements and logics of violence, in which sociality is defined by instrumental reason, hierarchy, and domination. Using ethnography from several locations within Myanmar's on-going civil war, this article describes, additionally, how beneath the penumbra of domination, relationships defined by *communitas* (solidaristic giving without expectation of return) also emerge and even flourish, producing spatial effects of their own - including new nascent political communities that seek to dissolve structures of exclusion. The simultaneous co-presence and intercalation of these two logics - solidarity/*communitas* with domestication/exploitation - appears necessary, given that spaces of extraction and logistical control (and hence domination and hierarchy) in warscapes enable resources to be transformed into violence-enabling gifts for revolutionary resistance movements. Further, as revolutionaries must mimic their enemy's politics of extraversion (in which, for example in Myanmar, military-state regimes aggrandize resource rents on global markets and enjoy military support from imperialist patrons), all struggles become dependent on scalar linkages, even to the global level. But, as this scalar expansion occurs, incentives for defection and revolutionary betrayal increase. Theories of logistics assist in elaborating the dual tendencies of expansion/combination and contraction/severance of revolutionary communities and their spatial formations in imperialist milieus.