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Nota di contenuto

Prologue: "A nasty business" in the public press -- Introduction: U.S. torture, prisons, police -- Anecdote : Abdul Hakim Murad and torture in four dimensions -- Rationale : the refashioning of colonial violence- Roger Trinquier, Jean Larteguy, and Edward Lansdale -- Archetype : mistaking the plurals of torture -- Technique : the waterboard spectacle -- Perpetrators : Sabrina Harman, Tony Lagouranis, and crafted confession -- Networks : deploying the Salvador Option -- Epilogue: Complicity.

Sommario/riassunto

Reassessing the role of torture in the context of police violence, mass incarceration, and racial capitalism At the midpoint of a century of imperial expansion, marked on one end by the Philippine-American War of 1899-1902 and on the other by post-9/11 debates over waterboarding, the United States embraced a vision of "national security torture," one contrived to cut ties with domestic torture and mass racial terror and to promote torture instead as a minimalist interrogation tool. Torture in the National Security Imagination argues that dispelling this vision requires a new set of questions about the everyday work that torture does for U.S. society. Stephanie Athey describes the role of torture in the proliferation of a U.S. national security stance and imagination: as U.S. domestic tortures were refined in the Philippines at the turn of the twentieth century, then in mid-century counterinsurgency theory and the networks that brought it home in the form of law-and-order policing and mass incarceration. Drawing on examples from news to military reports, legal writing, and activist media, Athey shows that torture must be seen as a colonial legacy with a corporate future, highlighting the centrality of torture to the American empire--including its role in colonial settlement, American Indian boarding schools, and police violence. She brings to the fore the spectators and commentators, the communal energy of violence, and the teams and target groups necessary to a mass undertaking (equipment suppliers, contractors, bureaucrats, university researchers, and profiteers) to demonstrate that, at base, torture is propelled by local social functions, conducted by networked professional collaborations, and publicly supported by a durable social imaginary.