

Detention as a ‘value threat’ to Democracy.

With the British there is also the infamous situation that it was they during the Boer War that concentration camps first came into modern existence with the rounding up of Boer civilians so as to break up home support to the Boers fighting the British. Many thousands would die in the harsh conditions of these camps. Perhaps not ‘terrorism’ *per se* but it is still a deliberate oppressive act that victimized non-combatants.

South African concentration camps. NZ History.

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/south-african-concentration-camps>

Women and Children in White Concentration Camps during the Anglo-Boer War, 1900-1902. South Africa History Online.

<https://www.sahistory.org.za/article/women-and-children-white-concentration-camps-during-anglo-boer-war-1900-1902>

One also thinks of the strategic hamlets policy inflicted on Guatemala’s rural population to deny left-wing guerrillas civilian support.

Guatemala Builds Strategic Hamlets. Washington Post. (1984).

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1984/12/21/guatemala-builds-strategic-hamlets/06a25c75-54cd-442d-9eb4-29870afcc314/>

Of course, there are the many victims of authoritarian states and to individual terror groups but I have chosen to highlight the British as it is meant to be a liberal democracy (although many of those from its former colonies may question that description as well as within Northern Ireland) where within its own bounds much like Ancient Athens its citizens would not expect to be badly treated in the same way as has been the case in its overseas territories. (I suppose it can also be argued that there is a concentration camp ethos/mentality in regards to the reservations originally set up in colonial times for North American Indians i.e. U.S.A and Canada as well as for Aboriginal peoples in Australia). It is one of the troubling aspects of post- ‘9/11’ that along with the secret rendition of terror suspects to so call black hole sites (often, as it turns out, there have been many innocents caught up in such security swoops and to even end up at Guantanamo Bay’s detention sites with many years of their lives wasted away) which is not validated by international law is also the spate of domestic national security laws that can have citizens arbitrarily treated in the same anti-democratic fashion.

20 Extraordinary Facts about CIA Extraordinary Rendition and Secret Detention. Open Society Justice Initiative. (2013).

<https://www.justiceinitiative.org/voices/20-extraordinary-facts-about-cia-extraordinary-rendition-and-secret-detention>