**JPM717: Presentation Handout**

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Reading’s Title: Geographies of Camp

**1. Summary of the Reading**

***What is the reading about? What is the author’s main thesis and conclusions?***

Camp is initially described as a modern institution and ass a spatial biopolitical technologies (technologies of control and exploitation that the author associates with Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia). Camps have a ’biolpolitical imperative at their core’; camps aim to control mobility and utilize coercion and violence to govern life. It is presented to the public as preservation of health and saftey of the state which allows exceptional treatment (that outside of our judicial legislation). It exists in a state of exception that seems to be weaponized by the state. The main thesis is both an admonishment and a questioning of ‘camp thinking’ and its prevalence in everyday life – Minca asks, what mechanisms are in place that allowed the ideology to become normalized? In the end, there’s a distinct lack of conclusion to that main question, mostly due to its rhetorical nature, but the author leaves the reader with recommendations to think critically about refugees, their state of limbo, and the unfair treatment they receive, due to their not deserving the status of being in camps but in reality having no other choice but to exist in one.

**2. Critical Analysis**

***What are the strong and weak points of the argument?***

The author criticizes the state apparatus (no specific one, just the state in general) for using the excuses of health and national security to control the mobility of migrants. This is an ignorant perspective in modern times given associated rises in crime and disease (COVID) associated with mass migrations that leaves a western government at the will of their publics looking for solutions. It is a paper of theory, without much thought given to practical applications. Yes, the ideology of the camps are not the best, but please Minca, provide an alternative instead of incessantly critiquing.

**3. Relation to the Main Reading**

***How does the argument relate to, and/or expand the argument of the main reading to which it is linked in the syllabus?***

This reading relates to the Butler reading in that the detainees and those in camps exist in similar states – that of indefinie suspension. Butler’s piece, while full of theory, explores the practical side of government’s ability to operate outside of the law without questioning.