

**Carl Schmitt, Franz Fanon and Michel Foucault: An Imagined Conversation
about the ‘Global Civil War’ as (Neo)Colonial Global Order**

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Dr. Eric Wilson, Monash University, Australia)*

Given Carl Schmitt’s intellectual location, it is often assumed that his work is of a singularly Eurocentric nature. However, his analysis of the rise and demise of the *jus publicum Europaeum* and his broader concerns with the collapse of ‘Westphalian’ international order may well offer a contrary perspective. This paper illustrates this by examining a neglected aspect of Schmitt’s work, that of the notion of ‘global civil war’, a constellation of ordering practices that Schmitt associates with the rise of ‘US global pan interventionism’ in the early to mid twentieth century. What emerges out of a proper consideration of this part of his corpus is an account of the collapse of the inside/outside distinction in international praxis and the colonial reorganisation of politics. The paper, moreover, considers the contemporary trajectory of this political impulse, highlighted in summary terms by Schmitt, by investigating the (neo)colonial ensemble of practices that constitutes the ‘global civil war’. It does so with the aid of two thinkers – Franz Fanon and Michel Foucault. Both enable the recasting of such practices away from purely interstate behaviour and towards an emphasis on the subject. Fanon illustrates how colonialism and, for our purposes the neo-colonial endeavour, requires the *epidermalisation* of oppression, the wearing of colonial subjectivity as a skin, crudely put, thus adequately introducing the racial dimension of global civil war, rendering conspicuous its North/South character. Foucault clarifies the rise of neoliberal governmentality and extends the insight that the North-West is not itself immune from this colonial endeavour, having experienced it firsthand by being the primary and initial site of producing the neoliberal subject, which predicates and thus makes possible the spread of neoliberal order. This imagined conversation amongst these three thinkers about the parameters of ‘global civil war’ thus both examines what is a little-analysed concept in Schmitt and also shows it to be of interest to contemporary concerns with neo-colonial politics.

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