

Title: Manhunting and the Right of Hot Pursuit
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Abstract

This paper explores a legal doctrine which has not been subject to much critical analysis: the right of hot pursuit. The focus on hot pursuit in the paper is based on three prior assumptions, which I have recently argued for at greater length elsewhere. The first is that bourgeois order has historically been forged through the manhunt: the hunt for vagabonds, beggars, blacks, Indians, enemies, criminals, terrorists. The second is that the long history of the hunt as constitutive of bourgeois order operates through the combined powers of war and police. The third is that this combined power of war and police in the manhunt has recently come to the fore as an explicit feature of geopolitical and social formation. The paper uses these points as a springboard for analysing the legal doctrine of the right of hot pursuit. Hot pursuit has a long history, and it is a history in which the legal is pushed up against the geographical: the law of hot pursuit is a law which simultaneously reinforces and challenges territorial integrity. The tensions that this generates have been exacerbated in the use of 'hot pursuit' in the 'war on terror', and the paper will explore what this means for our understanding of the geographies of law.