

**Reembodying Our Occupied Geographies:  
Boyd Cothran's *Remembering the Modoc War*, Benjamin Madley's *An American Genocide*, and the Future of Native American Studies [Abstract]**

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Narratives of innocence are stories born of the dispossession of bodies from lands that continue to serve as vectors of violence, reenacting the scene that created them. The term was introduced by Boyd Cothran to describe the cunning afterlife of conflicts between settler states and indigenous peoples: state violence yields stories that reiterate erasure, weaponizing memory to forget the lessons of colonization. In a situation of violence that produces silence, names resonate as instruments of clarity, cutting through erasure. Genocide is a name historians are now using to describe a process of erasure that created modern California, a process indigenous people have long discussed that narratives of innocence have silenced. Through a reading of Cothran's book *Remembering the Modoc War* and Benjamin Madley's book *An American Genocide* against an older literary genre on violence ranging from Dee Brown's *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* to Cormac McCarthy's *Blood Meridian*, I take California as an emblem of a profound alteration in the way the United States processes the trace memory of indigenous erasure. A historical reckoning is now underway as indigenous people reembody their occupied geographies, returning their stories to the land and, in the process, reconfiguring the national narrative.

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