

**Elimination/Deracination: Colonial Terror, La Matanza, and  
The 1930s Race Laws in El Salvador [ABSTRACT]**

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This article explores the long arc of colonial terror in 1930s El Salvador through the establishing of Race Laws that both expelled and prohibited the migration of visibly African-descended peoples into the country whilst the state embarked on the systematic murdering of indigenous peoples as part of an anti-communist crusade. This essay investigates the effect of the Race Laws and 1932s *La Matanza* massacre of indigenous bodies through a settler colonial optic focused on the biopolitics of colonial terror as a mode of social control. The piece concludes with a reflection on the efficacy of settler colonialism as an analytic for reevaluating Central American history.

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