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Review of *The Architecture of Confinement: Incarceration of the Pacific War* by Anoma Pieris and Lynne Horiuchi

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Anoma Pieris and Lynne Horiuchi, *The Architecture of Confinement: Incarceration of the Pacific War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022. xxii + 374pp. ISBN 978-1316519189 (hardback). Price £90.00.

Anoma Pieris and Lynne Horiuchi's analysis of prisoner of war and civilian internee camps presents us with a fresh insight into the history of the Pacific War. The book uses the history of internment in the Pacific to highlight how social and cultural history impacts on military history and vice versa. The authors engage with the topic from a background in architecture and adding this expertise to the discussion on camp structures during the war and the construction of memorial sites and architectural continuities makes it an important contribution to Second World War Studies.

The book focuses on three main case studies to investigate the experience of internment in the Pacific: Oceania, the Japanese Empire, and North America. As the authors point out, studies of internment during the Second World War are neglected, at least in comparison to those on the Second World War in Europe. While single nation/empire studies have increased, such as Sarah Kovner's recent expert treatment of internment within the Japanese Empire, this book's advantage is its comparative framework. By taking a broad view of internment in the Pacific the authors highlight the tensions between imperialism and its colonial and subject populations, and the movement of prisoners and refugees between far-flung geographies. The comparative approach is particularly helpful in order to gain an understanding of the differing physical makeup of each camp environment in the various national sites explored. While comparison is the focus, each camp, or region is given ample space for analysis with three chapters dedicated to Australia and New Zealand, and two on Japan's south-east Asian camp network around Singapore. It then moves in to look at the internment of people of Japanese ancestry in North America.

The comparative approach to the study of internment in the Pacific War is illuminating from three aspects. Firstly, the book highlights the spatial legacies of camps (or carceral environments) used to house displaced populations across the Pacific Basin. From this legacy, similar forms of civic deprivation were reproduced and the authors make a clear connection to current refugee camps in the Pacific. Secondly, although camps were temporary holding facilities for transients, they began to resemble urban settlements, impacting not only the camp inmates but also neighbouring local communities and their resources in a myriad of ways. Thirdly, as with any urban community, incarcerated populations adapted their environments in order to salvage some measure of their undermined civility. Here we see military and social, cultural history interacting, the human reaction to and resilience to the dehumanizing

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pressures of a militarised physical environment gave a range of cultural capacities material form.

As well as geographical location, the authors map out the architectural history of their selected camps in four temporal periods. The first period covers the initial site selection, preparation, the provision of infrastructure and the labour involved in setting up camps. From this perspective, the reader can understand the vast variety of camp systems from the conversion of existing structures into concentration camps or new purpose made constructions. The second operative phase then is the arrival of the prisoners and their involvement in evolving the camps into living spaces. Prisoners developed spaces for recreation, education, and religion within the bounds of the camps. Here the book pays particular attention to the creation of gardens by Japanese internees in the USA. The third period, the repurposing that follows the decommissioning of camps, such as into military facilities, is dealt with briefly.

More important for the book's overall narrative is the final, fourth period. The authors' analyse the use of camps as commemorative spaces either officially through the interment of the war dead or unofficial channels such as the activities of former prisoners and their descendants. The camp at Cowra, Australia, being the standout example here. Beyond commemoration, the book also delves into how the spatial technology of camps have been redeployed in the present as places for the detention of asylum seekers and refugees.

The Second World War shifted large populations across the globe and between settler environments. Civilians were evacuated, refugee crises were created, and enemy nationals transported into hostile home-fronts, aggravating tensions around sovereign rights related to securing national borders. Indeed, as this book shows, Second World War camps in the Pacific area provide us with useful case studies, or prehistories, of the current border-camp phenomenon.

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