

## Book Reviews

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*Trump, the Alt-right and Public Pedagogies of Hate and for Fascism—What is to be Done?*  
Mike Cole, London, Routledge, 2019

*Theresa May, The Hostile Environment and the Public Pedagogies of Hate and Threat—the Case for a Future Without Borders*  
Mike Cole, London, Routledge, 2020

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In *Trump, the Alt-right and Public Pedagogies of Hate and for Fascism—What is to be Done?* and *Theresa May, The Hostile Environment and the Public Pedagogies of Hate and Threat—the Case for a Future Without Borders*, Mike Cole alerts us to the dangers of our times. While in of itself these dangers have been given widespread attention, these two books offer a systematic interrogation.

Both Donald Trump and Theresa May are the personification of a politics of Othering. Much has been written about the appeal of Trump, probably less so about May. Yet both leaders have galvanised the so called ‘forgotten people’ or the ‘silent majority’. In an Australian context we have heard the euphemism the ‘quiet Australians’ from our current Prime Minister. To who this so called re-dress is directed to is largely unspecified but vagueness is an essential element of how this populism works. Implicit and at times explicit in this rhetoric leaves us in no doubt as to who is not included.

In (2019) *Trump, the Alt-right and Public Pedagogies of Hate and for Fascism—What is to be Done?* Cole reads Trump within the political contours of fascism. However, he stops short of declaring him a fascist. There is in Trump a call to what could be described as ‘his people’. Written prior to this year’s election this book is attentive to what may be coming to pass in the continued questioning by Trump as to the validity of voting in the forthcoming election. This book examines the reality of the US that Cole argues is in stark contrast to the Trump rhetoric encapsulated in the heading of Chapter 1: ‘One glorious destiny in one shared home that belongs to us.’ Of course, the all too familiar reality is the divisiveness in instances such as ‘the wall’ between the US and Mexico, travel bans, islamophobia, misogyny and the failure to provide any real economic benefit to American workers. Cole reminds us of the concentration of capital in the hands of the few and thus one of the real reasons for engendering hate. However, this book is not without hope as Cole charts the sustained resistance within sections of the American public such as Antifa, Black Lives Matter and the Me Too movements to name but a few.

In *Theresa May, The Hostile Environment and the Public Pedagogies of Hate and Threat—the Case for a Future Without Borders* published in 2020 Cole interrogates the environment created by May as Home Secretary and then Prime Minister. He describes this environment as hostile because in both rhetoric and policy the message is anti-immigration and anti EU. Both are seen as responsible for the demise of a prior United Kingdom, not quite a return to arcadia but nevertheless back to something that is imagined, as though contemporary inceptions of a diverse population represent the United Kingdom’s demise. This is encapsulated by Cole’s (2020 p. 34) quote of Jeremy Cameron in his time as Prime Minister, “A Britain that everyone is proud to call home’ Relating this to immigration he referred to ‘...getting our own people fit for work...controlled borders and an immigration system that puts the British people first’”. This mandate was continued by May in her time in office.

The collation and analysis of how hate and threat is harnessed for political gain during this period in Britain is well handled. However, this is not the first instance of racism un-

der the guise of immigration used for political gain—there is a history of ambivalence and sometimes hate toward those countries that make up the Commonwealth. Specifically, those immigrants who came from the Caribbean and the Indian sub-continent post World War II. The rhetoric used by May has echoes of her predecessors and the book could have also attended to this legacy. Having said that, the power of this book lies in the case studies that illuminate the implementation and lived experience of this anti-immigration and racist rhetoric. These are powerful vignettes. Cole leaves us with a socialist framework for the future that provides a radical counterpoint to where we are now.