Democracy and Empire

Democracy and Empire theorizes the material bases of popular sovereignty via the Black radical tradition. Popular sovereignty contains an affective attachment to wealth, secured through collective agreements to dominate others, that is, self-and-other-determination. Inés Valdez expands on racial capitalism by theorizing its Anglo-European-based popular politics, which authorize capital accumulation enabled by empire and legitimated by racial ideologies. Such accumulation stunts political projects in the Global South. Valdez masterfully outlines how racialized others who sacrifice families and communities provide social reproduction, and how political alienation from nature in wealthy polities is mediated by technology and enabled by a joint devaluation of nature and racialized manual labor. The book also theorizes anti-imperial popular sovereignty, also drawing on Indigenous political thought's accounts of nature-encompassing political relations. This title is part of the Flip it Open Programme and may also be available Open Access. Check our website Cambridge Core for details.

Inés Valdez is a political theorist and Associate Professor at Johns Hopkins University. Her research on critical theory and racial capitalism approaches politics transnationally and historically. Her award-winning work appears in the *American Political Science Review, Political Theory*, and other outlets. She is the author of *Transnational Cosmopolitanism* (2019).

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Labor, Nature, and the Reproduction of Capitalism

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