

*Imperial Debris* redirects critical focus from ruins as evidence of the past to “ruination” as the processes through which imperial power occupies the present. Ann Laura Stoler’s introduction is a manifesto, a compelling call for postcolonial studies to expand its analytical scope to address the toxic but less perceptible corrosions and violent accruals of colonial aftermaths, as well as their durable traces on the material environment and people’s bodies and minds. In their provocative, tightly focused responses to Stoler, the contributors explore subjects as seemingly diverse as villages submerged during the building of a massive dam in southern India, Palestinian children taught to envision and document ancestral homes razed by the Israeli military, and survival on the toxic edges of oil refineries and amid the remains of apartheid in Durban, South Africa. They consider the significance of Cold War imagery of a United States decimated by nuclear blast, perceptions of a swath of Argentina’s Gran Chaco as a barbarous void, and the enduring resonance, in contemporary sexual violence, of atrocities in King Leopold’s Congo. Reflecting on the physical destruction of Sri Lanka, Detroit as a colonial metropole to sites of ruination in the Amazon, and interactions near a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Brazilian state of Bahia, the contributors attend to present-day harms in the occluded, unexpected sites and situations where earlier imperial formations persist.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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heid Remains*.

JOHN COLLINS is an associate professor of anthropology at Queens College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. His *Revolt of the Saints: Memory and Redemption in the Twilight of Brazilian “Racial Democracy,”* a study of the making of a Brazilian World Heritage site in the ruins of the Portuguese South Atlantic, is forthcoming from Duke. He is currently conducting fieldwork for a new project on hunters of white-tailed deer in central New Jersey.

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GREG GRANDIN is a professor of history at New York University and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is the author of *Fordlandia* (2009), a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, and the National Book Critics Circle Award; *Empire's Workshop: The United States, Latin America, and the Rise of the New Imperialism* (2006); *The Last Colonial Massacre: Latin America in the Cold War* (2004); and *The Blood of Guatemala: A History of Race and Nation* (Duke, 2000), winner of the Latin American Studies Association's Bryce Wood Award. He is coeditor, with Gilbert Joseph, of *A Century of Revolution: Insurgent and Counterinsurgent Violence during Latin America's Long Cold War* (2010). He is currently writing a book on Herman Melville and free and unfree labor in the Americas during the Age of Revolution.

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