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**"Homeland Security": A Genealogy**

The term "homeland security" had little currency before September 11, but has saturated political discourse in its aftermath. Critiques of the so-called "security state"—its technologies of surveillance, repression, and torture—abound, but in such accounts the word "security" itself is largely taken for granted, as a normative good and foundational precept of the political. The opening part of our presentation will undertake a genealogy of "security"—its integral place in Western political theory; its constitutive role in the genesis of the modern state; its intellectual and political history in the twentieth-century United States. Of particular concern to the latter is the transition from what we might term the "social security state" to the "homeland security state," a displacement which has coincided with the extension of neoliberal policy and rationality, and which has both occasioned and garnered legitimacy from a resurgent nativism.