



10-2010

From the Singing Tree to the Hanging Tree: Structural Violence and Death within the Yaqui Landscape

Ventura R. Perez

University of Massachusetts - Amherst, vrperez@anthro.umass.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.umass.edu/lov>

Recommended Citation

Perez, Ventura R. (2010) "From the Singing Tree to the Hanging Tree: Structural Violence and Death within the Yaqui Landscape," *Landscapes of Violence*: Vol. 1 : No. 1 , Article 9.

Available at: <http://scholarworks.umass.edu/lov/vol1/iss1/9>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst at ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. It has been accepted for inclusion in Landscapes of Violence by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. For more information, please contact scholarworks@library.umass.edu.

From the Singing Tree to the Hanging Tree: Structural Violence and Death within the Yaqui Landscape

Abstract

The military events in Sonora, Mexico involving Yaquis during the last quarter of the nineteenth century seemed to most Mexicans at the time as necessary forcible measures for civilizing a recalcitrant, semi-savage people and resolving the Yaqui “problem”. On the morning of June 8, 1902, more than 124 men, women, and children were massacred by troops under the command of General Luis Torres in the Ubalam Valley of the Sierra Mazatan mountain range in Sonora, Mexico. Three weeks after the massacre of the Yaqui at Sierra Mazatan, Aleš Hrdlička, the father of Physical Anthropology and the founder of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, traveled to the Yaqui massacre site and collected the heads of twelve individuals along with some miscellaneous human bones and artifacts and brought them back to the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York City. The structural violence inherent in the oppressive Mexican policies towards the Yaqui can help us understand how the heads of twelve men came to sit on the shelves of the American Museum of Natural History.

This article is temporarily unavailable and will appear in a later volume. This decision is based on our commitment to equitable and ethical standards of publishing wherein all the parties who are represented in, and contributed to, this article are informed about its immanent publication and are given a chance to assess its content and the implications of having it publicly available. We recognize and respect the different rights that exist in this work and, given the sensitivity of this material, we are waiting until final community consultations are concluded and appropriate clearance for publication is given. We appreciate your support for this process.

Sincerely,

Ventura R. Pérez, Ph.D.

Editor-in-Chief - Landscapes of Violence

University of Massachusetts Amherst