
Reviewer: Raphael D. Jackson

Academic Repression: Reflections from the Academic Industrial Complex is a collection of essays contributed by professors and academics, many of whom have had first-hand experience as the victims of academic censorship. These experiences range from denial of tenure to being barred from entering the country.

As the title suggests the academy is not an exception from being implicated in the Industrial military complex president Eisenhower foretold in 1961. The editor justifies this connection with the following introductory quotation. “As the boundary lines between universities, corporations, and military/warfare/social policing systems were dissolving, they no longer saw three separate, unrelated entities, but rather one gigantic industrial complex. The term “academic-military-industrial complex” is short hand for the intersection, overlapping, and implosion of universities, the corporate private sector, the Department of Defense and various armed forces services, and the security and regulatory apparatuses of the State...” In order to lay the groundwork for the book the editor provides definitions of state repression, political repression, and academic repression. An example of state repression is attacking labor unions. Political repression is coercion effected by protecting capitalist industries through suppression of political activity, and academic repression in the censorship of thought and speech by means of the very instruments that the academy has employed in order to guarantee free academic inquiry.

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