

THE TIMES

Letters to the Editor

Our colonial history and guilt over empire

2 December 2017

Sir, Following the campaign against the journal *Third World Quarterly* to force it to retract Bruce Gilley's essay "In defence of colonialism", we are writing to extend our collective solidarity to the journal and its editor, Shahid Qadir, who was also subjected to death threats. Whatever one's views of Gilley's essay, we feel the withdrawal of this piece under such public pressure sets a dangerous precedent for academic freedom. We defend the right of editors, journals and presses to publish any work — however controversial — that, in their view, merits exposure and debate. We are deeply alarmed by the censorious attitudes embodied in the campaigns directed against the journal and Mr Qadir. We see this as part of a rising tide of intolerance on university campuses and within the academic profession, with certain scholars and students seeking to close down perspectives with which they disagree rather than debating them openly.

We need open, frank and vigorous debate more than ever. *Third World Quarterly* has been at the leading edge of debates on the developing world for nearly 40 years. We are determined it will continue to be so.

Dr Philip Cunliffe (Kent); Dr Lee Jones (Queen Mary University of London); Prof Thomas G. Weiss, (City University of New York and TWQ editorial board member); Prof David S.G. Goodman (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University and TWQ editorial board member); Prof Peter Uvin (Claremont McKenna College and TWQ editorial board member); Prof Anthony Payne (University of Sheffield and TWQ editorial board member); Prof Arturo Valenzuela, (Georgetown University and TWQ editorial board member); Prof Barry Gills (University of Helsinki and TWQ editorial board member); Prof Christopher Clapham (University of Cambridge and TWQ editorial board member); Prof Michael Klare (Hampshire College and TWQ editorial board member); Dr Nicolas Lemay-Hébert (University of Birmingham and editor, *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*); Prof Ami Pedahzur, (University of Texas at Austin and associate editor, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*); Prof M.L.R. Smith (King's College London and editorial board member, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*); Prof James Dreier (Brown University and associate editor, *Ethics*); Prof Randall Schweller, (Ohio State University and Editor-in-Chief, *Security Studies*); Prof Leigh Jenco (LSE and Associate Editor, *American Political Science Review*); Prof Anand Menon (Kings College London and Co-Editor, *West European Politics*); Prof Ken Booth (Aberystwyth University, co-editor, *International Relations*); Prof David Farrell (University College Dublin and co-editor, *Party Politics*); Prof Emeritus Eldon J. Eisenach (University of Tulsa and editorial board member, *Studies in American Political Development* and Consulting Editor, *History of Political Thought*); Prof Ramesh Thakur (Australian National University and Editor-in-Chief, *Global Governance*); Prof William J. FitzPatrick (University of Rochester and Associate Editor, *Ethics*); Prof Jeffrey Haynes (London Metropolitan University and Co-editor, *Democratization*); Prof Richard Bellamy (European University Institute and Editor, *Contemporary Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*); Prof Fabio Franchino (Università degli Studi di Milano and Editor, *Italian Political Science Review*); Prof Emeritus Conal Condren (University of Queensland and consulting editor, *History of Political Thought* and International Editorial Board

member, Parergon); Prof Shaun Breslin, (University of Warwick and Co-Editor, The Pacific Review); Prof Adam Fagan (Queen Mary University of London and co-editor, East European Politics); Prof Petr Kopecky (Leiden University and co-editor, East European Politics); Prof Christopher Kam (University of British Columbia and Co-Editor, Legislative Studies Quarterly); Prof Daniel H. Nexon (Georgetown University); Dr James Heartfield (independent scholar); Prof Erik Voeten (Georgetown University); Prof Dennis Hayes (University of Derby and Director, Academics For Academic Freedom); Dr Richard Heffernan (Open University); Dr Kevin Gray (University of Sussex); Dr Suke Wolton (University of Oxford); Dr. Samuele Dominioni (FIW Bonn); Dr Ruth Mieschbuehler (University of Derby); Dr Joanna Williams (University of Kent); Prof Peter Ramsay (London School of Economics); Dr Timothy Bradshaw University of Oxford); Dr Tara McCormack (University of Leicester); Dr Vanessa Pupavac (University of Nottingham); Richard Harris (formerly Director of Teacher Education, University of Hull); Dr Fabio Scarpello (independent scholar); Ralph Leighton (Canterbury Christ Church University); Courtney Hamilton (writer on race and anti-racism); Robin Oberg, (Exeter University); Prof William Bain (National University of Singapore and co-editor, International Relations); Prof Carole Pateman (UCLA and Associate Editor, Journal of Political Philosophy); Dr Shahar Hameiri (University of Queensland); Dr Nikos Sotirakopoulos (Loughborough University); Prof Charles Antaki (Loughborough University); Dr Eleni Tracada (University of Derby); Dr Tom Chodor (Monash University); Emeritus Professor Barry Carr (La Trobe University); Prof Stig Jarle Hansen (NMBU); Dr Enzo Rossi, (University of Amsterdam and co-editor, European Journal of Political Theory); Prof Philip Hammond (London South Bank University); Christopher Lynch (University of Warwick and associate editor, Convocamus); Natalie Dinham (The University of Gothenburg); Dr Christopher Bickerton (Cambridge University); Prof David Richards (University of Manchester); Robert A.E. Wilson (University of Kent); Dr Pak K. Lee (University of Kent); Dr Andrew Calcutt (University of East London); Prof Ismene Gizelis (University of Essex); Prof Kristian Skrede Gleditsch (University of Essex and co-editor, Research and Politics); Prof Matthew Goodwin (University of Kent); Emeritus Professor Chris Brown (LSE); Emeritus Prof Frank Furedi (University of Kent); Prof Patrick James (USC); Dr Maren Thom (Queen Mary University of London); Dr Christine Cheng (King's College London); Dr David Maher (University of Salford); Prof Andrea Ruggeri (University of Oxford); Prof Maria Grasso (University of Sheffield); Camille Merlen (University of Kent); Prof Alex Gourevitch (Brown University); Prof John Tomasi (Brown University); Prof Jeffrey C. Isaac (Indiana University, Bloomington)