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**A Postcolonial Border Fluctuating in the Euro–Mediterranean:
Forms of “Confinement” of Excessive Mobility
in the Island of Lampedusa, Italy**

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The purpose of this paper is to analyze forms to confine arriving immigrants at the Island of Lampedusa and then is to raise (post)colonial violence translated in contemporary Europe to the surface.

Recently a number of studies have been made upon the formation of the European border regime. These studies, focusing upon the issue of governing mobility, have chosen as a focal point the externalization of European borders toward neighboring countries. We need to relocate, however, such externalizing processes in postcolonial conditions particularly in the case of the Euro–Mediterranean space. Postcolonial conditions mean that a colonial governmental method of confinement in the past impacts the border regime of present Europe. Rather it is no exaggeration to say that such governmental violence has constituted postcolonial Europe.

From this perspective, Lampedusa, which is located at an European geographical border facing excessive mobility from the southern shore of the Mediterranean, can be defined as a postcolonial border. We can suppose that the camp on the island, which confines immigrants, has embodied postcolonial bordering. Hence we clarify functions of the camp at Lampedusa in each two period as follows.

In the first period from 2002 to 2005, on the one hand, the camp was a space dominated by security and policing rationales in which rights were suspended and then the classification processes of immigrants for identification were sometimes rendered meaningless. The camp in the second

period from 2006 to 2008, on the other hand, was a humanitarian space to some extent. Under the Praesidium project, human rights organizations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and Save the Children began to operate in the camp and to cooperate with police in order to realize quicker and exacter identification through classifying immigrants into various categories like asylum seekers, economic migrants, vulnerable persons and so on.

In conclusion, we can say with some certainty that historically the two types of security and humanitarian confinement at Lampedusa incarnate (post)colonial violence in the Euro–Mediterranean space.