# Part 5: Politics, Power, and Violence

## Discussion Questions (Collated from the text)

1. What is important about Anite’s illness narrative? What does it reveal about Haitian ideas about biomedicine and about the social nature of illness? How does her narration—its content and the context of her telling it—differ from Western biomedical interactions between doctors and patients and the settings in which they interact?
2. What is the relationship between debt, trade, and HIV and tuberculosis?
3. Discuss the importance of situating what is ethnographically visible within that which is not visible. Apply the concept of structural violence in this response, using examples from the reading.
4. What is the relationship between U.S. imperialism and militarism and the Pulse massacre?
5. Review examples of legislation that reveals the “strange coupling of civil rights and national security.” Do you think these divergent types of legislation should be combined? Why or why not?
6. How has (post)colonialism contributed to rising numbers of Puerto Ricans migrating to the U.S.?
7. What is neoliberal multiculturalism and how does it shape use of space at Pulse nightclub.
8. Discuss and analyze the way in which the label “homegrown terrorist” is applied in the U.S. Who gets labeled as such and why?
9. Why do you think the idea that humans are biologically predetermined for war is such a popular belief? What evidence does Ferguson provide to refute this idea?
10. Explain how Ferguson’s approach to war is a modified version of cultural materialism.
11. War cannot happen without compliance from the masses and participation of those who directly order of fight in it. Why and how are people enlisted to comply?
12. Discuss Ferguson’s claim that “Leaders favor war because war favors leaders.” What privileges does war bring to the political elite? Consider this statement against contemporary wars.