Spatial Alternatives and Counter-Sovereignties in Israel/Palestine

i) Sovereignty can be seen as fragmented (taking multiple, localized, and temporary forms); (ii) The state is not the only producer of fragmented sovereignty; (iii) One form of fragmentation is counter-sovereignties—opposing claims as well as approaches to state fragmented sovereignty; iv) These counter-sovereignties can be articulated in the different uses and codings of specific spaces by individuals and groups. v) They frame the terms and possibilities of everyday life in and through space, thereby forming what is termed as social sovereignties.

State-sponsored Vigilantism: Jewish Settlers’ Violence in the West Bank

i) The ambiguity surrounding the formal status of the Israeli control in the West Bank creates a governmental void; ii) It filled, inter alia, by greater freedom of action of the settlers, who, in effect, act as informal agents of the state, taking the law into their own hands; iii) It brings Israeli dominance to areas with a scarce presence of military forces, generating ad hoc ‘effective control’ over Palestinians; iv) The interplay and dialectics of lawfulness and unlawfulness, as represented in the settlers’ attacks, generates a continuous ‘state of exception’ (Agamben 1998).
