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Sovereignty, e-mergency, authority: icons of dominance

In 1757 Lord Clive established his manly authority over the effeminate Bengalee, where the land was all water and the men all women. It all happened in Macaulay's Essay. Exactly a century later, the Angels of Albion were publicly stripped, violated and dismembered in the great insurrection of 1857; mothers, daughters, wives and bringers of Christianity. The worst violator of all was the notorious Rani of Jhansi, that wickedest of all things, a woman military leader. It all happened in the British press. In 1920, the bare-breasted women of the Red divisions threatened the downtrodden men of the Freikorps, the unemployed defeated troops of the Kaiser's war, with unmentionable degradation. Nowhere, of course, but in the Freikorps literature examined in Klaus Theweleit's masterly survey.

Emergency, the call for exceptional measures against the Tipton 3, David Hicks and many others in the racistly mispronounced *Guantanamo* (the location was stolen from the Cubans) is interestingly a feminine word, signifying a fluid revelation. Why does it appear as a symbol of machismo necessity in the photographs of Lyndie England or the arrival of Bush on a US carrier to announce the defeat of terrorism. Would William Gladstone have arrived in Cairo on a camel to announce the defeat of the Mahdi? Have the signs of gender changed?