

LOCATING THE LIMITS OF SELF-DETERMINATION BEYOND SHADOW LINES OF NATION

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State? What is that? Well then, open your
Ears to me, for now I shall speak to you
about the *death of peoples*. *State is*
the name of the coldest of cold monsters.
Coldly, it tells lies too: lie grows out of its
Mouth. “I, the state, am the people.”

- Friedrich Nietzsche¹

ABSTRACT

Right to self-determination is one of the rights that transcends the on-going East-West debate of ‘Are Human Rights Western’? The first part of the article unravels the world politics behind the evolution of self-determination from a political principle to a right. In the second part it questions the confinement of self-determination to the colonial context, especially in the context of India’s reservation to Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The third and the fourth parts deal with the scope of self-determination, with the focus on carving space for a right to secede in some contexts.

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¹*The Portable Nietzsche* selected and translated by *Walter Kaufmann* 160 (1976).