To properly grasp the concept of pacification, we need to explore a nexus of ideas: war, police, accumulation. Taking up a problematic within contemporary debates about the meaning of war, this talk will argue that the concept of pacification enables a radical rethinking of war power as police power. It will do so through an analysis of air power. After first rethinking a key period in the history of air power (colonial bombing campaigns) as a police mechanism, and dealing with the impoverished conception of police in contemporary critical theory, the talk will turn to perhaps the most pressing issue in current air power debates, namely drones. In so doing it will suggest that a consideration of air power as police power helps us read drones as a continuation of the police logic inherent in air power since its inception. The drone is thus the next step in realizing the state’s dream of pacification.

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