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## THE RUBICON POINT

The Rubicon Point is that moment in a nation's history when the empire absorbs the republic. Once that point is reached, practices and policies developed for the borderland become acceptable in the homeland.

*The Digital Surveillance State*

by Renato Ocampo-Mendoza

Jack Adair opened his eyes, straining to focus in the lattice of sun and shade cast by the ragged weave of the wall.

He listened for the soothing sound of the surf—but the beat was too loud, its rhythm dissonant.

Then in the lull between the waves the cadence of the captain's stride and the faster pace of unfamiliar feet.

A firm hand parted the fronds that formed the door, and two men stepped into the shadows, their features masked by the glare of azure sky behind them. One of the men moved