



The Rise of the Global Imaginary: Political Ideologies from the French Revolution to the Global War on Terror

By Manfred B. Steger

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Neoliberalism. Neoconservatism. Postmarxism. Postmodernism. Is there really something genuinely new about today's isms? Have we moved past our traditional ideological landscape? Combining political history, philosophical interpretation, and good old-fashioned story-telling, Manfred B. Steger traces ideology's remarkable journey from Count Destutt de Tracy's Enlightenment "science of ideas" to President George W. Bush's "imperial globalism." Rejecting futile attempts to "update" modern political belief systems by adorning them with prefixes, the author offers instead a highly original explanation for their novelty—their increasing ability to articulate deep-seated understandings of community in global rather than national terms. This growing awareness of globality fuels the visions of social elites who reside in the privileged spaces of our global cities. It erupts in the hopes and demands of migrants who traverse national boundaries in search of their piece of the global promise. Stoked by cross-cultural encounters, technological change, and scientific innovation, the rising global imaginary has destabilized the grand political ideologies codified during the national age. The national is slowly losing its grip on people's minds, but the global has not yet ascended to the commanding heights once occupied by its predecessor. Still, the first rays of the rising global imaginary have provided enough light to capture the contours of a profoundly altered ideological landscape. Pointing in this direction, the book ends with a timely interpretation of the apparent convergence of ideology and religion in the dawning global age—a broad phenomenon that extends beyond the obvious cases of Christian fundamentalism and Islamic jihadism.

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Editorial Review

Review

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"If you want to know how we are likely to be affected by the greatest intellectual struggle of our time--between the death-throes of nationalism and the birth-pangs of globalization--Manfred Steger's *The Rise of the Global Imaginary* is the best guide yet. Written in flinty, accessible prose and rich in its grasp of history, politics, and culture, this book will appeal equally to the specialist scholar and the general reader. One cannot read its intelligent dissections of destabilizing nationalisms, competing ideological globalisms, and the pervasive reach of our new cultural imaginings without experiencing shivers of admiration, apprehension, and hope. Globalization studies will never be the same."--Iain McCalman AO, Professor of History and Federation Fellow, University of Sydney

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About the Author

Manfred B. Steger is Professor of Global Studies and Academic Director of the Globalism Institute at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. He is also a Senior Research Fellow at the Globalization Research Center at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa. His academic fields of expertise include global studies, political and social theory, peace studies, and international politics. He has served as consultant on globalization for the US State Department and he has been an adviser for the 2005 US PBS television series, "Heaven on Earth: The Rise and Fall of Socialism." He has presented dozens of invited lectures and keynote addresses on globalization in Australia, Asia, North America, and Europe. His most recent publications include *Globalism Market Ideology Meets Terrorism*, 2nd ed. (2005); *Judging Nonviolence: The Dispute Between Realists and Idealists* (2003); *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP, 2003).

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