

Abstract

The Endgame of globalization

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The war in Iraq is broadly explained as a "war on terrorism" by its supporters and detractors alike. I argue that instead, once we put the war into geographical and historical context, a very different picture emerges. When we take into account the political geography of Iraq's creation and the episodic history of US global ambition, it becomes increasingly clear that this war represents an attempt to complete the work of globalization, a vision of global power first announced in the late 1970s. If this vision emanates primarily from New York and Washington it is nonetheless itself global. The war in Iraq explicitly targets an alternative global vision emanating from the Middle East -- a triumphalist sense of the endgame of globalization. Against the backdrop of earlier efforts at US global ambition, when nationalism combined with political opposition to become in different ways fatal to that ambition, failure in Iraq suggests that the endgame of globalization may come to pass in a much more negative way.