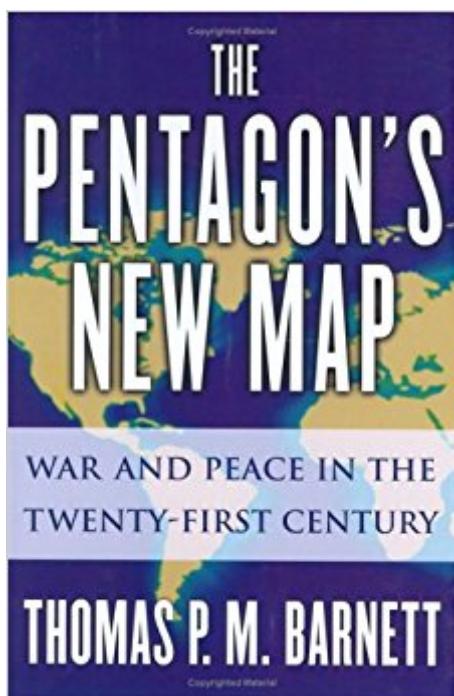


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The Pentagon's New Map: War And Peace In The Twenty-First Century



Synopsis

Since the end of the Cold War, America's national security establishment has been searching for a new operating theory to explain how this seemingly "chaotic" world actually works. Gone is the clash of blocs, but replaced by what? Thomas Barnett has the answers. A senior military analyst with the U.S. Naval War College, he has given a constant stream of briefings over the past few years, and particularly since 9/11, to the highest of high-level civilian and military policymakers-and now he gives it to you. The Pentagon's New Map is a cutting-edge approach to globalization that combines security, economic, political, and cultural factors to do no less than predict and explain the nature of war and peace in the twenty-first century. Building on the works of Friedman, Huntington, and Fukuyama, and then taking a leap beyond, Barnett crystallizes recent American military history and strategy, sets the parameters for where our forces will likely be headed in the future, outlines the unique role that America can and will play in establishing international stability-and provides much-needed hope at a crucial yet uncertain time in world history. For anyone seeking to understand the Iraqs, Afghanistans, and Liberias of the present and future, the intimate new links between foreign policy and national security, and the operational realities of the world as it exists today, The Pentagon's New Map is a template, a Rosetta stone. Agree with it, disagree with it, argue with it-there is no book more essential for 2004 and beyond.

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Customer Reviews

This bold and important book strives to be a practical "strategy for a Second American Century." In

this brilliantly argued work, Thomas Barnett calls globalization "this country's gift to history" and explains why its wide dissemination is critical to the security of not only America but the entire world. As a senior military analyst for the U.S. Naval War College, Barnett is intimately familiar with the culture of the Pentagon and the State Department (both of which he believes are due for significant overhauls). He explains how the Pentagon, still in shock at the rapid dissolution of the once evil empire, spent the 1990s grasping for a long-term strategy to replace containment. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Barnett argues, revealed the gap between an outdated Cold War-era military and a radically different one needed to deal with emerging threats. He believes that America is the prime mover in developing a "future worth creating" not because of its unrivaled capacity to wage war, but due to its ability to ensure security around the world. Further, he believes that the U.S. has a moral responsibility to create a better world and the way he proposes to do that is by bringing all nations into the fold of globalization, or what he calls connectedness. Eradicating disconnectedness, therefore, is "the defining security task of our age." His stunning predictions of a U.S. annexation of much of Latin America and Canada within 50 years as well as an end to war in the foreseeable future guarantee that the book will be controversial. And that's good. The Pentagon's New Map deserves to be widely discussed. Ultimately, however, the most impressive aspects of the book is not its revolutionary ideas but its overwhelming optimism. Barnett wants the U.S. to pursue the dream of global peace with the same zeal that was applied to preventing global nuclear war with the former Soviet Union. High-level civilian policy makers and top military leaders are already familiar with his vision of the future; this book is a briefing for the rest of us and it cannot be ignored. --Shawn Carkonen --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Barnett, professor at the U.S. Naval War College, takes a global perspective that integrates political, economic and military elements in a model for the post-September 11 world. Barnett argues that terrorism and globalization have combined to end the great-power model of war that has developed over 400 years, since the Thirty Years War. Instead, he divides the world along binary lines. An increasingly expanding "Functioning Core" of economically developed, politically stable states integrated into global systems is juxtaposed to a "Non-Integrating Gap," the most likely source of threats to U.S. and international security. The "gap" incorporates Andean South America, the Caribbean, sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia and much of southwest Asia. According to Barnett, these regions are dangerous because they are not yet integrated into globalism's "core." Until that process is complete, they will continue to lash out. Barnett calls for a

division of the U.S. armed forces into two separate parts. One will be a quick-strike military, focused on suppressing hostile governments and nongovernment entities. The other will be administratively oriented and assume responsibility for facilitating the transition of "gap" systems into the "core." Barnett takes pains to deny that implementing the new policy will establish America either as a global policeman or an imperial power. Instead, he says the policy reflects that the U.S. is the source of, and model for, globalization. We cannot, he argues, abandon our creation without risking chaos. Barnett writes well, and one of the book's most compelling aspects is its description of the negotiating, infighting and backbiting required to get a hearing for unconventional ideas in the national security establishment. Unfortunately, marketing the concepts generates a certain tunnel vision. In particular, Barnett, like his intellectual models Thomas Friedman and Francis Fukuyama, tends to accept the universality of rational-actor models constructed on Western lines. There is little room in Barnett's structures for the apocalyptic religious enthusiasm that has been contemporary terrorism's driving wheel and that to date has been indifferent to economic and political factors. That makes his analytical structure incomplete and more useful as an intellectual exercise than as the guide to policy described in the book's promotional literature. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is a bit dated but it has some good material concerning the proper use of power for the purpose of really alleviating poverty and tyranny in the world. The author has a good review comparing where in the world outside military force has been used and superimposing that over a map of where the poorest nations are. The maps are very close. He also outlines that keeping people poor and ignorant is a technique of bad actors for enhancing their own wealth and power. He makes a good case that if the prosperous in the world really want to make a difference, then in some places taking out bad actors is an important first step. There are many ways to do that, not just military force. But the next step is introducing law and order, ending corruption, increasing transparency and removing barriers to free enterprise. Other steps of enhancing education and freedom are important, but need these things to flourish. That requires a long term commitment to security and peace-keeping.

I realize I am reviewing this a few years after the book's life cycle has pretty much ended, but I thought well enough of it when I read it to chime in with this late but semi-positive review. Other reviewers have laid out the basic premise of cultural and economic divisions and confrontations

between cultures, which I won't repeat. I can't argue with the author's basic idea, but the book is WAY overwritten and not edited that well. Some of the jargon ("Non-integrating gap") made my eyes roll, but apparently there is a market among national leaders for insight summaries that can be reduced to bumper-sticker length. There is probably enough meat here for a single long article in Foreign Policy or, more likely, the New York Times Magazine, but at book length it becomes repetitious and annoying. There is a really good section on the "briefing culture" of the Pentagon that would have made a great article in its own right. Whether you believe the premise of the book or not, you ought to be familiar with it because most of Washington's policy makers think this way. Four stars for basic message, two stars for presentation and editing: three on average.

The Pentagon's new map relies on the concept and importance of connectedness (aka globalization) as the key to world stability. Barnett defines two 'camps' in the world: 'core' nations who follow the rules of civilization, and 'gap' countries who are focused on disconnecting civilization for their own gain. He explains that connectedness is facilitated and preserved by free movement of people, energy, investments, and security (I would add ideas/information and technology to these 4 but one could argue that 'they're in there'). This elegant model has roots in history and with considered thinking does not appear overly simplistic as some reviewers have suggested. It is appealing to portray the world as so complex that nothing can be accomplished (Barnett alludes to this) but solutions that work are generally the simplest (Sir William of Occam). One of the alarming messages from the book is the low quality of thinking and decision processes prevalent in the defense establishment. It is commendable that Barnett took the uncommon action of connecting to business/economics thinkers but if defense analysts are not routinely tapping into the private sector for information, tools and processes, they are in the dark relative to what is happening in the world. The descriptions of what passes for problem solving and decision making processes in the Pentagon sound third rate. The only problem with this book is it is about 3-5 times longer than it needs to be, saying the same things over and over with slightly different nuances. The saving grace is Barnett is a good story teller and it is very readable. However, it can be a 'tough slog' to absorb all the tidbits in support of the major thesis. It would be easy to lower the rating to 4 stars just on the basis of writing style and verbosity. Barnett may be a good brief writer but he's a wordy guy. He would have a tougher time 'making it' in a cutting edge business because he wouldn't have enough time to get his message out.

ok

Mr. Barnett's book is a critical source for serious individuals who feel the need to view current events in a larger context. This book creates the sense of context that the media and, frankly, our government should but does not provide. There is consistent food for thought and serious analysis of where we are and how we got there in terms of global security issues and our capabilities to address them. This is not a Democratic/Republican, left/right piece of work. This book does create new understandings of the geopolitical challenges and opportunities we face as a nation and creates a significant focus on what we have to do and why we have to do it.

Makes me wonder what the author would say today, after all that's happened since this book was written.

For school

I was dialing around cable at my parent's house one day a couple of years ago and ran across the most incredible power point presentation being given by a dude from the Naval War College on CSPAN about how the U.S. should think about security threats in the future. Basically his point was that those alienated from global capitalism are those we need to be most worried about and that places like Central Africa will soon join Afghanistan as geographical locations from which threats will arise. That presentation became this book and it is seriously worth reading. Barnett makes his living predicting bad stuff for the U.S. government (and now, I believe, also for big corporations) and he is very good at what he does. Obviously sites of threats to the U.S. are also sites for new modes of positive resistance (those these things are not interchangeable) and also sights for economic development, so this book struck really close to a lot of my interests. Interesting ideas and an interesting book. It's a couple of years old now, but still worth picking up.

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