GLOBALIZATION
THE HIDDEN AGENDA
DENNIS SMITH
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Preface and Acknowledgements

What processes are driving the world of globalized societies coming into existence? How will the West fit into this world it can no longer dominate? What dynamic forces are shaping national societies in Eurasia, America and Africa? This book is the latest instalment of an inquiry guided by these questions that has been under way for more than a quarter of a century.

This inquiry began with Conflict and Compromise and Barrington Moore, and continued with The Chicago School, The Rise of Historical Sociology and Capitalist Democracy on Trial. These books are mainly about how individuals and groups fit into national societies, especially in the West. In Zygmunt Bauman: Prophet of Postmodernity, and Norbert Elias and Modern Social Theory that focus continues but more attention is paid to how nation-states fit into globalizing international structures. Now, in Globalization: The Hidden Agenda, global issues are paramount. Nation-states, groups and individuals are considered within this larger context.

This book has benefited from a global fund of goodwill on which its author has drawn freely. It is time to thank Evelin Lindner (Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies), Johan Galtung (TRANSCEND), Huang Ping, Li Peilin, Luo Hongguang, Cher Xin, Guang Xia, Michael Han, Zheng Jing, Zhao Weihua, Ma Chunhua, Zhao Bin and Sun Xiaolong (Beijing), Gao Jianguo, Juren Lin, Fu You-de, Liming Fan, Li Qiyun, Qin Feng Ming, Lin Hong, Donghui Zhang, Zhongming Ge and Zhi YanPing (Jinan), Li Youmei, Wang Wei, Tao Feiya, Zhang Jinghua and Liu Yuzhao (Shanghai), Peter Baehr and Michael Bond (Hong Kong), Vladimir Pankratiev, Anatoli Khazanov,
‘This highly accessible, punchy book is well suited to undergraduate classes and more general reading. Not everyone will agree with Smith’s account, but they will nonetheless be attracted to the clarity and vigor with which he portrays the power–humiliation component of globalization. His arguments will provoke reflection and recognition, as well as controversy.’

Charles Tilly, Joseph L. Buttenwieser Professor of Social Science, Columbia University

‘In this provocative account of our global times Dennis Smith explains why globalization is a growing source of conflict in the world, producing and reproducing distinctive patterns of humiliation and domination. His analysis challenges much orthodox thinking about the global condition whilst his worrying conclusions demonstrate why we can no longer ignore the “hidden agenda” of contemporary globalization.’

Anthony McGrew, Professor of International Relations, Southampton University

In this exciting new book, Dennis Smith argues that we need to look afresh at globalization. So far, he argues, analysts have not properly explained religious extremism, the War on Terror, and the dynamics of fear, anger and resentment.

Against this background, Dennis Smith says that we should understand globalization from an altogether new perspective, one which takes into consideration long-term socio-political development, the dynamics of liberation, and the consequences of humiliation. He claims that if globalization does not change direction, and this hidden agenda is not properly addressed, the costs in terms of freedom and human rights will be devastating. Globalization is stirring up a tide of global resentment held back by fear of American military power. When that power falters, the revenge of the humiliated world will strike the West. As America’s influence wanes, and the global power balance alters, the crucial struggle is no longer between the West and ‘terrorism’, but within the West. Democracies could find themselves at war with each other.

Globalization: The Hidden Agenda gets inside the forces driving globalization, analyses the anger and fear, and finds the levers that must be pulled to avoid catastrophe. Smith’s compelling and provocative account of the crises facing the contemporary world will appeal to students and scholars alike, as well as the general reader.

Dennis Smith is Professor of Sociology at Loughborough University.

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