



# The Struggle for the World: Liberation Movements for the 21st Century

By Charles Lindholm, José Pedro Zúquete

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What do Mexico's Zapatistas, the French National Front, Slow Food, rave subculture, and al-Qaeda all have in common? From right-wing to left-wing to no-wing, they all proudly proclaim their mission to defend their distinctive identities against modernity's homogenizing processes. This controversial book establishes fundamental similarities between anti-globalization "aurora" movements that aim to destroy the modern world and bring a radiant new dawn to humankind. While these groups often despise one another, they nonetheless share many fundamental characteristics, goals, and attitudes. Drawing on the original writings and actions of various anti-globalist groups, the authors reveal a common tendency toward charismatic leadership, good versus evil worldviews, the quest for authentic identity, concern with ritual, and unbending demands for total commitment. These movements, however they pursue world transformation and personal transcendence, are a prominent and continuing aspect of our present condition. This book is a strong reminder that, no matter what the cause, revolution is not a thing of the past and the fervent search for another world continues.

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## Editorial Review

### Review

"*The Struggle for the World* is an ambitious, transdisciplinary study that succeeds admirably in illuminating the political, ideational, and spiritual dynamics involving the major opponents of market globalism. Lindholm and Zúquete make a convincing case that these alter-globalization movements on both the Left and Right have begun to articulate the rising global imaginary in powerful grand narratives. A vital addition to the growing literature in global studies!" —Manfred B. Steger, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

"*The Struggle for the World* is excellent. Lindholm and Zúquete deal with an issue of the age from a novel angle and with interesting cases. For all their similarities, the movements in question are different, and this difference is part of the pleasure and interest of the book. I have no doubt this superbly written work will garner considerable attention." —John A. Hall, McGill University

"The Struggle for the World offers a creative look at the many social and political movements that share apocalyptic understandings of globalizing capitalism. In their analysis of the rhetoric and actions of the movements themselves, Lindholm and Zúquete creatively and subtly demonstrate the complexity of these movements own ideas and provide a keen insight into the alternative narratives, rituals, and broad cultural goals the movements have proposed as solutions to the perceived evils of contemporary globalization."

—Marc Howard Ross, Bryn Mawr College

"A powerful, challenging book exploring global movements against political oppression and cultural destruction, it offers a wide-ranging critical analysis of the McDonaldization of everything. Against these alter-globalization movements and their charismatic leaders, Lindholm and Zúquete remain skeptical towards any immediate eruption of a post-global, post-modern Paradise." — Bryan S. Turner, Wellesley College

"From alter-globalization to the New Right to Jihadism, this timely book demonstrates that world-transforming movements, thought to have disappeared after the decline of the Left in the late 70s, have reappeared in different forms. As the first of its kind to assemble major contemporary 'global' movements in one place, this book will definitely prove crucial reading for anyone interested in the dynamics of social movements today." —Jonathan Friedman, University of California, San Diego

### About the Author

Charles Lindholm is University Professor of Anthropology at Boston University. He is the author of seven books, including *Culture and Authenticity* (2008) and *Is America Breaking Apart?* (1999). His original fieldwork was in Swat, Northern Pakistan. José Pedro Zúquete is a researcher in political science at the Social Sciences Institute, in Lisbon, and a research associate of the Globalism Research Center, at RMIT University, in Melbourne. His research focuses on comparative politics, leadership studies and globalization studies. He is the author of *Missionary Politics in Contemporary Europe* (2007).

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