

In the absence of a global balance of power, the concept of “terrorism” has become part of an ideology of hegemonial rule and has been used to legitimize a far-reaching unilateral effort – outside the framework of the United Nations Organization – that is aimed at politically remodeling the Middle East and “reinventing” an entire civilization according to criteria defined elsewhere. The facts underlying the global threat perception by which this strategy is justified have never been fully disclosed nor have the causes of major terrorist events been comprehensively and consistently documented. The events of September 11, 2001 (of which there still exists no verifiable and undisputed account) triggered a chain of events that have actually intensified the terrorist threat which the “global war on terror” supposedly sets out to prevent or contain.

(From the preface)

The texts published in this volume were presented in December 2007 at a roundtable conference at *Universiti Sains Malaysia* (Malaysia Science University) in Penang. Scholars from Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Turkey analyze the notion of “terrorism” in the contexts of political and social science as well as international law and explore the implications of the so-called “global war on terror” for the relations between the Muslim world and the West and the international system in general. The chapters deal, *inter alia*, with terrorism and international power politics, terrorism and extremist ideology, and regional perspectives of the “global war on terror.”

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