The sources of social power

VOLUME 4

Globalizations, 1945–2011

Distinguishing four sources of power – ideological, economic, military, and political – this series traces their interrelations throughout human history. This fourth volume of Michael Mann’s analytical history of social power covers the period from 1945 to the present, focusing on the three major pillars of postwar global order: capitalism, the nation-state system, and the sole remaining empire of the world, the United States. In the course of this period, capitalism, nation-states, and empires interacted with one another and were transformed. Mann’s key argument is that globalization is not just a single process, because there are globalizations of all four sources of social power, each of which has a different rhythm of development. Topics include the rise and beginnings of decline of the American empire, the fall or transformation of communism (respectively, the Soviet Union and China), the shift from neo-Keynesianism to neoliberalism, and the three great crises emerging in this period – nuclear weapons, the great recession, and climate change.

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## Contents

1. Globalizations  
2. The postwar global order  
3. America in war and cold war, 1945–1970: Class conflicts  
4. U.S. civil rights and identity struggles  
5. American empire during the cold war, 1945–1980  
7. The fall of the Soviet alternative  
8. The Maoist alternative reformed  
9. A theory of revolution  
10. American empire at the turn of the twenty-first century  
11. Global crisis: The great neoliberal recession  
12. Global crisis: Climate change  
13. Conclusion  

*Biography*  
*Index*