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978-1-107-06747-9 - Global Capitalism and the Crisis of Humanity

William I. Robinson

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Global Capitalism and the Crisis of Humanity

This exciting new study provides an original and provocative exposé of the crisis of global capitalism in its multiple dimensions – economic, political, social, ecological, military, and cultural. Building on his earlier works on globalization, William I. Robinson discusses the nature of the new global capitalism, the rise of a globalized production and financial system, a transnational capitalist class, and a transnational state and warns of the rise of a global police state to contain the explosive contradictions of a global capitalist system that is crisis-ridden and out of control. Robinson concludes with an exploration of how diverse social and political forces are responding to the crisis and alternative scenarios for the future.

William I. Robinson is a professor of sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he is also affiliated with the Latin American and Iberian Studies Program and with the Global and International Studies Program. He has previously published seven books, including the award-winning *Promoting Polyarchy* (Cambridge University Press, 1996), *A Theory of Global Capitalism* (2004), and the award-winning *Latin America and Global Capitalism* (2008). He has published some fifty articles in academic journals such as *Sociological Forum*, *Theory and Society*, *International Studies Review*, *International Sociology*, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, *International Relations*, *Global Society*, *Globalizations*, *Race and Class*, *New Political Economy*, *Third World Quarterly*, and *Radical Philosophy* and hundreds of essays, book chapters, and articles in the popular press. He is a member of the editorial board of fifteen academic journals. In 2013 Robinson was elected chair of the Political Economy of the World-System section of the American Sociological Association (ASA). He is a member of the ASA, the Latin American Studies Association, the Global Studies Association, and the International Studies Association. He was a founding writer for and editor of *Pensamiento Propio*, a monthly journal of the Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales.

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Everyone recognizes beauty
 only because of ugliness
Everyone recognizes virtue
 only because of sin

Life and death are born together
Difficult and easy
Long and short
High and low –
 all these exist together
Sound and silence blend as one
Before and after arrive as one

Tao Te Ching, Verse 2

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WILLIAM I. ROBINSON

University of California, Santa Barbara



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Acronyms

ALEC	American Legislative Exchange Council
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa
CAFTA	Central American Free Trade Agreement
CCA	Corrections Corporation of America
CIT	computer and information technology
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
EU	European Union
G-7	Group of Seven, referring to the United States, Canada, England, Germany, Italy, France, and Japan (Russia is sometimes included in an expanded “Group of Eight” or G-8)
G-20	Group of Twenty, referring to Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IT	information technology
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MNC	multinational corporation
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
OECD	Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development
OWS	Occupy Wall Street
R&D	research and development
SB1070	Senate Bill 1070 (Arizona anti-immigrant law)
TCC	transnational capitalist class

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TNC	transnational corporation
TNS	transnational state
TRIPS	Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
WB	World Bank
WEF	World Economic Forum
WSF	World Social Forum
WTO	World Trade Organization