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The Spirit Of Terrorism (Radical Thinkers)



Synopsis

Baudrillard sees the power of the terrorists as lying in the symbolism of slaughterâ "not merely the reality of death, but in a sacrifice that challenges the whole system. Where previously the old revolutionary sought to conduct a struggle between real forces in the context of ideology and politics, the new terrorist mounts a powerful symbolic challenge which, when combined with high-tech resources, constitutes an unprecedented assault on an over-sophisticated and vulnerable West. This new edition is up-dated with the essays âœHypotheses on Terrorismâ •Â and âœViolence of the Global.â •From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Jean Baudrillard, perhaps the most aphoristic and clear writing (if not necessarily the most profound) of the postmodernists here wields his phallic pen to cut to the core of the twin tower destruction at the hands of Bin Laden's terrorists. He argues, straightforwardly and convincingly, that the power of terrorism is not contained by its Islamic wielders, but is also a kind of global self-destruction of the globalized American superpower. Anyone could recognize that media and

imagery were at the heart of the terror in Manhattan; -that part of the terror was the effective use, far out of proportion to the expenditure made, of commandeering the media to call attention (e.g., the police prefix date, 911) to itself and the helplessness of a crisis for which there is no effective solution. As Baudrillard points out, calling the suicides "cowards" only underscored the inability to answer this realized desire to humiliate "civilization" (what has become of civilization) on the part of those who were willing to put their own death into play. Baudrillard cites Nietzsche with regard to martyrdom being the enemy of truth but in the same breath demonstrates that the terrorists' goal is not a final solution via biological or nuclear warfare so much as a confrontation, a dual that will make the west lose face. He suggests that WW III indeed already happened: it was the cold war. And that now we are in the midst of WW IV which is an antibody-like reaction of Orwellian globalization against itself. He identifies terror with evil which he suggests tends to exist precisely in the fading of the boundaries between good and evil. An interesting analysis that never mentions, but links to the concept of "enantiodromia"; -adopting the enemies tactics to defeat them.

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