



The Second World: How Emerging Powers Are Redefining Global Competition in the Twenty-first Century

By Parag Khanna

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In *The Second World*, scholar Parag Khanna, chosen as one of *Esquire*'s 75 Most Influential People of the Twenty-First Century, reveals how America's future depends on its ability to compete with the European Union and China to forge relationships with the Second World, the pivotal regions of Eastern Europe, Central Asia, South America, the Middle East, and East Asia that are growing in influence and economic strength.

Informed, witty, and armed with a traveler's intuition for blending into diverse cultures, Khanna depicts second-world societies from the inside out, observing how globalization divides them into winners and losers—and shows how China, Europe, and America use their unique imperial gravities to pull the second-world countries into their orbits. Along the way, Khanna explains how Arabism and Islamism compete for the Arab soul, reveals how Iran and Saudi Arabia play the superpowers against one another, unmasks Singapore's inspirational role in East Asia, and psychoanalyzes the second-world leaders whose decisions are reshaping the balance of power.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Khanna, a widely recognized expert on global politics, offers an study of the 21st century's emerging geopolitical marketplace dominated by three first world superpowers, the U.S., Europe and China. Each competes to lead the new century, pursuing that goal in the third world: select eastern European countries, east and central Asia, the Middle East Latin America, and North Africa. The U.S. offers military protection and aid. Europe offers deep reform and economic association. China offers full-service, condition-free relationships. Each can be appealing; none has obvious advantages. The key to Khanna's analysis, however, is his depiction of a second world: countries in transition. They range in size and population from heavily peopled states like Brazil and Indonesia to smaller ones such as Malaysia. Khanna interprets the coming years as being shaped by the race to win the second world—and in the case of the U.S., to avoid becoming a second-world country itself. The final pages of his book warn eloquently of the risks of imperial overstretch combined with declining economic dominance and deteriorating quality of life. By themselves those pages are worth the price of a book that from beginning to end inspires reflection. (*Mar. 11*)

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Review

“A fascinating, colorful, and always intelligent tour through a new world.”

—**Fareed Zakaria**

“A savvy, streetwise primer on dozens of individual countries that adds up to a coherent theory of global politics.”

—**Robert D. Kaplan**

“Confident in his predictions and bold in his recommendations . . . Khanna’s book is written with ambition, scope, and verve that sets it apart from the usual foreign policy tome.”

—**Andrei Cherny, *The New York Sun***

“A panoramic overview that boldly addresses the dilemmas of the world that our next president will confront.”

—**Zbigniew Brzezinski**

“Khanna is something of a foreign policy whiz kid.”

—**Raymond Bonner, *The New York Times Book Review***

“[A] sweeping, often audacious survey of contemporary geopolitics . . . moves at lightning speed.”

—**William Grimes, *The New York Times***

About the Author

Parag Khanna directs the Global Governance Initiative in the American Strategy Program of the New America Foundation. He has been a fellow at the Brookings Institution and worked for the World Economic Forum and the Council on Foreign Relations. During 2007, he was a senior geopolitical advisor to U.S. Special Operations Command. Born in India, Khanna was raised in the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and Germany. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and is completing his Ph.D. at the London School of Economics. He has written for

major global publications such as *The New York Times* and *Financial Times* and appeared on CNN and other television media around the world. Having traveled in close to one hundred countries. He is a member of the Explorers Club.

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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