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of the Earth and space that fall outside national jurisdictions and to which all nations are supposed to have access. The authors explore many of the ideas they first proposed in a 1998 RAND Corporation report titled The Emergence of the Noosphere. Toward an American Information Strategy, in which they described the emergence of a new global-computer- networking noosphere. The authors explain that Earth first developed a geosphere, a geological mantle, and then a biosphere, consisting of plant and animal life. Third to develop will be the noosphere, a global “thinking circuit” and “realm of the mind”—a collective electronic-social apparatus that will, in time, be capable of monitoring the state of the Earth and space that fall outside national jurisdictions and to which all nations are supposed to have access.

The realist argument is that the world is a competitive system of power politics, for which no institution like the United Nations or the International Criminal Court can change. An international order cannot be imposed; it can only be achieved through the establishment of a new balance of power. The very process of trying to establish an international order, the realists argue, will only increase the instability and conflict of the world.

The liberal argument is that the world is a cooperative system, with markets and ideas flowing across national borders. An international order can be established through the creation of institutions like the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, which can help to resolve conflicts and prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The post-Cold War world order was characterized by a unipolar system in which the United States was the dominant power. The American foreign policy establishment believed that the unipolar system would ensure peace and stability, and that the United States could use its power to impose its values on the rest of the world.

The second half of the twentieth century was marked by the end of the Cold War and the rise of globalization. The United States continued to be the dominant superpower, but its global influence was challenged by the rise of new power centers such as China and Russia.

The world order of the twenty-first century is characterized by the rise of multipolarity, with several major powers vying for influence. The United States is still the most powerful country, but it faces challenges from China, Russia, and other rising powers.

China has become a major player on the global stage, and it has used its wealth and influence to promote its own interests. China has invested heavily in infrastructure projects in countries around the world, and it has used its economic power to gain influence in international organizations.

Russia has also become a major player in the global arena, and it has used its military power to assert its influence in areas such as Syria and Ukraine. Russia has also been critical of Western policies, such as the NATO expansion, and it has used its influence to support authoritarian regimes.

The United States continues to be the dominant superpower, but it faces challenges from China, Russia, and other rising powers. The American foreign policy establishment is divided over how to respond to these challenges, and there is no consensus among the major actors about the rules and limits guiding this process or its ultimate destination.

Grounded in Kissinger’s deep study of history and his experience as national security advisor and secretary of state, World Order guides readers through crucial episodes in recent world history. Kissinger offers a unique glimpse into the inner deliberations of the Nixon administration’s negotiations with China, the leadership of the Soviet Union during the Brezhnev era, the aftermath of the Vietnam War, and the end of the Cold War. The result is a book that offers a unique recording of the latest dialogues in the inter-regional and inter-cultural dialogue.

Henry Kissinger offers in World Order a deep meditation on the roots of international harmony and global disorder. Drawing on his experience as one of the foremost statesmen of the twentieth century, Kissinger offers a unique glimpse into the inner deliberations of the Nixon administration’s negotiations with China, the leadership of the Soviet Union during the Brezhnev era, the aftermath of the Vietnam War, and the end of the Cold War. The result is a book that offers a unique recording of the latest dialogues in the inter-regional and inter-cultural dialogue.

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