

Multiculturalism, Terrorism, and Globalization: The Exchange of Parasitical Violence between America and the Middle East

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As America and the Middle East enter into further fast-paced encounters, issues of multiculturalism and globalization acquire, for both sides, renewed meanings and potency against the growing white-noise background of an almost “everyday practice” of terrorism. Terrorism as ideological and epistemological weapon of imploding meaning has formed the palimpsestic, parasitical writing which threatens the univocality of the “other”—be it America or the Middle East—in a relationship in which each side paradoxically calls for, resists, and exchanges identities with its counterpart. The dissemination of discourses that have attempted, in the last decades, to account for the shifting representations between East and West will be fruitfully seen as the exchange of rhizomatic information between two systems, two “bodies without organs” caught in a perpetual dialectical teleology, the scene of which is planetary globalization. Orientalism and its mirror image, Occidentalism, act as twins in a parasite-host relationship rotating around a center which remains late capitalism's ontological model of depthlessness and the loss of differentiation and, ultimately, the potential post-millenarian disappearance of the human in the full-fledged digitalization of memory and history.