

“SOMETIMES THEY COME BACK”

THE LATEST BOOKS ON GLOBALISATION

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What happens to globalisation? This question lies – explicitly or implicitly – at the core of the latest books on globalisation. First the pandemic, then the war in Ukraine: these global phenomena seem to question the nature of globalisation and its processes. The idea of a crisis of globalisation is spreading, along with analyses which consider the world order in the light of a comeback of the nation (Guénaire 2022) or regional spaces in general. According to Shannon K. O’Neil (2022), the world has become more international but not nearly as global as the current scholarly literature argues. O’Neil seems to suggest a shift from “globalisation” to “regionalisation”, both empirically and theoretically. Could thinking within the frame of regions help us understand the “fractured world order” or, as in Paul Tucker’s words (2022), the “global discord”?

These inquiries represent the revival of a classic question which has accompanied the concept of globalisation since the beginning of global studies: what is the identity of the State within the processes of globalisation (Chambon, Raynal 2022)? Which relationship exists between the State and globalization? This question has become, once again, a fundamental one. More broadly, how can we consider the global events of the last three years? Many scholars argue that the global crisis we are now facing may be interpreted as a process of de-globalisation. Are they right? Or does the very fact the these are global processes indicate that we are on the verge of re-globalisation (Benedikter, Gruber, Kofler 2022) where globalisation changes, but the global dimension remains fundamental? Finally, how

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profound are the global legitimacy crises of our time (Sommerer, Agné, Zelli, Bes 2022)?

Only historical developments will answer to these and other similar questions. The fact that any answer to them must be addressed on a transnational level indicates that the global (both theoretically and empirically) is far from being removed from our perspective.

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R. Benedikter, M. Gruber, I. Kofler (eds.) (2022), *Re-Globalization. New Frontiers of Political, Economic and Social Globalization* (London: Routledge).

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Into the Black Box (2022), *Le frontiere del capitale: come la nuova organizzazione logistica e il potere degli algoritmi hanno cambiato il mondo* (Roma: Red Star Press).

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