

Review Essays

indecision and delay. The place for political debate is in politics. Presidents need to be able to select their advisors and design a command-and-control system that works. They can then be judged by voters and historians on the decisions that only the president can make.

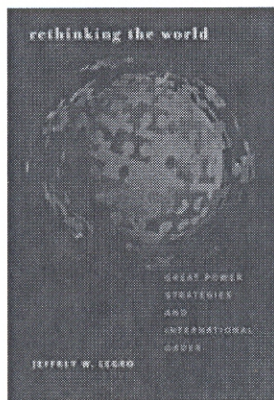
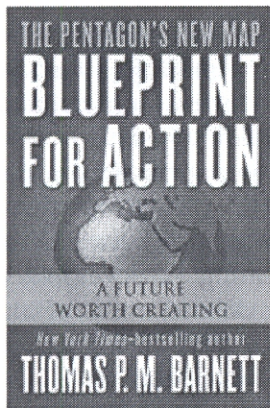


Are Great-Power Politics Extinct?
by Justin Logan

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Thomas P.M. Barnett, *The Pentagon's New Map* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2004); 435 pp., \$26.95, paper \$16; and *Blueprint for Action: A Future Worth Creating* (New York: Putnam's, 2005). 440 pp., \$26.95.

Jeffrey W. Legro, *Rethinking the World: Great Power Strategies and International Order* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2005). 253 pp., \$39.95.



The past decade has seen a sustained assault on traditional theories of international politics. Political realism, practiced by Metternich and Kennan and refined by Morgenthau and Waltz, has been the victim of most of the attacks. By 2000, the criticism of realism had become so frequent and widespread that Waltz replied to the chorus of critics in the pages of *International Security*.¹

During the Clinton years, much of the battle was fought between liberal institutionalists and realists. Clinton acolytes claimed that the cynicism and pessimism of realism could be largely overcome by rallying international cooperation around American power after the end of the Cold War. Indeed,

¹ Kenneth N. Waltz, "Structural Realism after the Cold War," *International Security*, Summer 2000.

