

Leonardo Boff
Fundamentalism, Terrorism and the Future of Humanity
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In 65 brief pages, Leonardo Boff explains a variety of fundamentalisms: religious, political and scientific. The roles of religion, globalisation and trade markets are explored as they relate to creating a culture that promotes either peace or war.

This is a fresh left-wing take on world politics post 9/11. It will blow dust and cobwebs away, remind you of the days when you were more radical than now. According to Boff, market capitalism is not good, to put it mildly. To attain peace we need more co-operation and less competition. The market place is a war zone. Only 1% of our genetic make-up differs from that of gorillas - and it is what enables us to compete with one another.

You get the drift. OK, so some of us are getting richer, but at what cost to world peace and the environment?

Together with past colonialism and slavery, the globalised market has caused bitter resentment and the north-south divide. Fundamentalism has arisen to give the excluded an identity, and terrorism has erupted because politics has failed. In this book, St. Francis' meeting with the Sultan merits two pages, and Teilhard de Chardin's concept of noosphere explains where humanity is headed. The times they need to be a-changing, is the message, if we are to give peace a chance.

Amos SSF