

HANS-PETER MARTIN & HARALD SCHUMANN

*The*  
**Global**

**TRAP**

*Globalization & the Assault on Democracy & Prosperity*

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This remarkable book explores the spread of globalization and the likely consequences for jobs and democracy. Written by experienced journalists on *Der Spiegel*, it is informed, up-to-date, thought-provoking and compelling reading.

It opens at a private seminar attended by 500 chief executives of major corporations, leading politicians and intellectuals in San Francisco. Discussing the 21st century, the assessment of these worldshapers is devastating. The biggest manufacturers are not simply shifting production away from the industrial countries. They foresee a technological future in which only a fifth of the world's current work force will be needed. This is the 20:80 society, where 20 per cent of the population suffice to keep the world economy going and the unemployed 80 per cent are pacified by a diet of 'tittytainment' - the modern equivalent of bread and circuses.

The hitherto wealthy nations are approaching this frightening vision with alarming speed. Millions of unemployed, massive job insecurity, a growing gulf between the low paid and the well off. Globalization may be making the world one, but it is a world that is collapsing. As the managers of the multinationals checkmate nation states and politicians push ahead with deregulation, the rich hide in the security of their ghettos and the rest fear for their existence.

But, Martin and Schumann argue, we do not have to be mere cogs in a brutal global dynamic. Democratic power and economic prosperity do not have to give way to unstoppable technological and economic progress. The primacy of politics over the economy and the care of the state must, and can, be reasserted.

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