



# The Geopolitics of Emotion: How Cultures of Fear, Humiliation, and Hope are Reshaping the World

By Dominique Moïsi

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In the first book to investigate the far-reaching emotional impact of globalization, Dominique Moïsi shows how the geopolitics of today is characterized by a “clash of emotions.” The West, he argues, is dominated and divided by fear. For Muslims and Arabs, a culture of humiliation is quickly devolving into a culture of hatred. Asia, on the other hand, has been able to concentrate on building a better future, so it is creating a new culture of hope. Moïsi, a leading authority on international affairs, explains that in order to understand our changing world, we need to confront emotion. And as he makes his case, he deciphers the driving emotions behind our cultural differences, delineating a provocative and important new perspective on globalization.

*From the Trade Paperback edition.*

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By Dominique Moisi Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #366657 in eBooks
- Published on: 2009-04-25
- Released on: 2009-05-05
- Format: Kindle eBook



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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. An astonishingly creative response to Samuel Huntington's *The Clash of Civilizations*, this groundbreaking analysis examines political trends through the prism of emotion, arguing that fear, humiliation and hope might be as influential as the cultural, social and economic factors that breed political conflict. Shedding keen light on the limitations of the geographic and cultural determinism that currently dominates international relations discourse, Moïsi uses these definitions to remap the world's political regions. Dexterously avoiding cliché or sentimentality, Moïsi studies how emotions interact (e.g., fear is the absence of confidence; hope is the expression of confidence; humiliation is the loss of hope that results from wounded confidence) and plumbs the roots of Asia's culture of hope, the historical humiliation feeding Islamic extremism and the long-dominant emotions in the West: a fear of the other, confusion about national identity and an anxiety to maintain global relevance. This elegant thesis presents the very real consequences of the Clash of Emotions and concludes with well-reasoned if tentative conjecture about how these currents will shift in years to come. (*June*)

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### Review

“A terrific book. . . . Fascinating, really worth reading.”

—Fareed Zakaria, author of *The Post-American World* and host of CNN's *Fareed Zakaria GPS*

“Rich in intelligence and insight. . . . Today's reflex is to strive for simplicity. Dominique Moïsi performs the infinitely more valuable task of making sense of the cacophony of complexities that shape our world.”

—*Financial Times*

“Groundbreaking. . . . An astonishingly creative response to Samuel Huntington's *The Clash of Civilizations*.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“Compassionate. . . . A clear-sighted plea for understanding ‘the Other’ in the age of globalisation.”

—*The Observer* (London)

“This is Moisi at his best: original, challenging and full of elegance. This little book shows how globalization has forged a new world disorder defined as much by clashes of emotions, as divisions over interests and power.”

—Mark Leonard, author of *What Does China Think?*

“Human beings are not automata concerned solely with maximising wealth or power. They are bundles of emotions. In this scintillating essay, the French analyst, Dominique Moisi, explores the role of three potent emotions—hope, humiliation and fear—in shaping the world we live in today and might live in tomorrow.”

—Martin Wolf, author of *Fixing Global Finance*

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## About the Author

Dominique Moisi is a founder and now a senior adviser to the French Institute of International Affairs (IFRI) and a professor at the Institute of Political Studies in Paris. He writes a column for the Financial Times and contributes to Foreign Affairs and the Guardian. He lives in Paris.

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