

A Brilliant New Paradigm for a Dangerously Unpredictable New Global Order

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THE AGE OF THE UNTHINKABLE

WHY THE NEW GLOBAL ORDER
CONSTANTLY SURPRISES US
AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT



JOSHUA COOPER RAMO

The Age of the Unthinkable : Why the New Global Order Constantly Surprises Us and What To Do About It

Joshua Cooper Ramo

For decades, American foreign policy has been based on the seductive belief that there exists throughout the world a logical relationship between democracy and stability.

If only it were that simple.

As Joshua Cooper Ramo reveals in this provocative and fiercely intelligent book, the belief that globalization is harmonizing the planet has failed both tests of good science: it neither predicts nor explains our world. Our leaders and policymakers have misfired over and over again, failing to predict the World Trade Center attacks and the rise of al-Qaeda, overestimating the number of soldiers needed to depose the Taliban, underestimating the number needed to control Iraq, advocating global democracy—and then wondering what to do when it produces Ahmadinejad and groups like Hamas. Now, drawing upon history, economics, network theory, and his own extraordinary experiences, Ramo puts forth a radical new model for looking at the world, one that embraces its inherent unpredictability—and offers our best hope for dealing with problems and disasters as they emerge.

JOSHUA COOPER RAMO is the youngest partner in the history of Kissinger Associates, and was the youngest-ever Senior Editor, Foreign Editor, and Assistant Managing Editor of *Time*. He has also been a Crown Fellow of the Aspen Institute and a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Besides his print journalism experience, for five years Ramo served as an international affairs analyst for CNN and CNN International.

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