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NEW BOOK ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION by Canadian economist Rodrigue TREMBLAY*:

THE NEW AMERICAN EMPIRE: causes and consequences for the United States and for the world

by Rodrigue TREMBLAY, Ph.D.

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INTERNATIONALLY-RENOWNED CANADIAN ECONOMIST AND FORMER QUEBEC MINISTER

RODRIGUE TREMBLAY has just published a book that analyses the causes and consequences of the political shift taking place presently in the United States. With Canada exporting close to 50 percent of its output to the United States, it is of utmost importance for Canadians to closely monitor what is going in the American political arena.

In his book, available in the U.S., in Canada and in France (L'Harmattan), Dr. TREMBLAY discusses, from an international viewpoint, the reasons for the U.S.-led war in Iraq and why the United States now feels compelled to repudiate fifty years of multilateral cooperation in favor of a supremacist and unilateral approach to world affairs.

The author critically explains the fundamental shift that foreign and domestic policies have taken under George W. Bush, since September 11, 2001. In a clear and direct style, he deplores the direction taken by the Bush administration, behaving as a 19th Century empire, disregarding existing international law and ignoring the multilateral institutions which have been created since World War II. Professor TREMBLAY adopts the humanist approach to analyse the morality of empires and of wars. In particular, he singles out religion as one factor in the decision to engage in wars of aggression.

His greatest fear is to see the long and uninterrupted march—since 1945—towards multilateral international cooperation and world economic interdependence, being replaced by unilateral imperial initiatives, accompanied by a widespread suspicion of the United States, as many countries refuse to accept an overt American hegemony.

Dr. TREMBLAY observes that at the beginning of this century, the United States finds itself in the same position as Great Britain was at the beginning of the 19th Century, after its 1815 victory at Waterloo, with no competing power capable of preventing it from imposing its imperial hegemony. Thus, the true question according to him is not whether the U.S. can build a new world empire—it can—but whether it should. Should a great democratic republic become an empire without ceasing being democratic? That is the question he attempts to answer in his provocative book.

Rodrigue TREMBLAY believes that, sooner or later, the American people will have to decide whether they want a president or an emperor: they are incompatible. A country cannot simultaneously be a democracy and an empire. One requires a decentralization of power; the other, a concentration of power in a supreme monarch. These two philosophies are competing presently in the U.S. political arena. On the one side, there is the supremacist neo-conservative movement, presently in power in Washington, within the Bush administration. Its adherents firmly believe that the use of military power and the subjugation of foreign populations is the safest way to ensure the security of the United States and the world. It is a philosophy froth with unilateralism and a disrespect of other countries and of international law. On the other side, there is the traditional American commitment to the ideals of democracy, of international law and of multilateral international cooperation, and a rejection of imperialism and colonialism as an international political order. This is a political philosophy that encompasses the democratic ideals of Adams, Jefferson, Franklin, Washington...., and which traces its roots deep into the writings of the Founding Fathers of the republic and to the U.S. Constitution.

Besides attempting to focus a critical light on the new international geopolitical situation against the backdrop of the war in Iraq, the book embraces the larger perspective of the evolution of Western civilization over the last five and a half centuries, that is, since the fall of Constantinople in 1453.

The book also considers such topics as "Religion and politics" (pp 41-55);- "The ideological foundation of the new U.S. imperial doctrine" (pp 65-66);- Parallels between "Iraq and Kosovo" (pp 118-119);- "The Just War Theory" (pp 124-131);- "Bush and international law" (pp 165-179);- "The Project for the New American Century" and the neo-conservative agenda (pp 134-135);- "Parallel between the Bush Doctrine and the (1968) Brezhnev Doctrine (pp 152-155); - "Leaders against war" (pp 174-178);- "The 600-year megacycle of empires" (pp 228-230);- "Religion and Western civilization" (pp 231-233) ...etc.

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* RODRIGUE TREMBLAY is a prominent Canadian-born economist with a Ph.D. from Stanford University. He is a former Woodrow Wilson fellow and a Ford International Fellow. He is now professor emeritus at the University of Montreal, after having occupied the positions of full professor of economics at the University of Montreal, president of the North Economics and Finance Association, president of the Canadian Economics Society, and advisor to numerous organizations. From 1976 to 1979, he was minister of Industry and Commerce in the Quebec government. He is presently vice-president of the International Association of French-speaking Economists.

He has written 25 books dealing with economics and finance, some also tackling moral and political issues. Dr. Tremblay has traveled extensively in Europe, in the Middle-East, in North Africa and in sub-Sahara Africa.

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by Rodrigue Tremblay, Ph.D.

*A Serious Humanist Book

*A Tremendously Powerful and
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*Required Reading by Anyone Who
Questions Empires and Wars

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