

No single invention of the last half century has changed the way we live now as much as the Internet. Alexander Klimburg was a member of the generation for whom it was a utopian ideal turned reality: a place where ideas, information, and knowledge could be shared and new freedoms found and enjoyed. Two decades later, the future isn't as bright—increasingly, the Internet is used as a weapon and a means of domination by states eager to exploit or curtail global connectivity in order to further their national interests.

Klimburg is a leading voice in the conversation on the implications of this dangerous shift, and in *The Darkening Web*, he explains the consequences of states' ambitions to project power in cyberspace, and why we underestimate them at our peril. Hacking and cyber operations have fundamentally changed the nature of political conflict, and the rise of covert influencing and information warfare has enabled these same global powers to create and disseminate their own distorted versions of reality, in which anything is possible. At stake are not only our personal data or the electrical grid, but the Internet as we know it today—and with it the very existence of open and democratic societies.

Blending anecdote with argument, Klimburg brings us face-to-face with the range of threats present in the struggle for cyberspace, revealing the extent to which the battle for control of the Internet is as complex and perilous as the one that surrounded nuclear weapons during the Cold War—and quite possibly just as dangerous for humanity as a whole.

Authoritative, thought-provoking, and compellingly argued, *The Darkening Web* makes clear that the debate about the different aspirations for cyberspace is nothing short of a war over our global values.

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