

institutions in non-European states. Therefore international security in the post-Cold War era, despite promising a liberating new world order, may prove to be nothing more than new clothes for the same old dominating Emperor.

In sum, the post-Cold War discourse of global insecurity, and the peacekeeping developments that have accompanied it, have a vast potential to do no more than re-privilege and re-legitimate dominating forms of global power and a world order that continues to rely on hierarchical constructions of gender, race and other diversities. The cooperative endeavours of the unchecked self-interest of the Security Council to authorize the collective use of force in response to an expanding catalogue of potential threats to international peace and security, the extension of the legitimate use of force in international law, the corresponding intensification of the militarized character of the global order, and the neocolonial overtones of peacebuilding mandates, lay the foundations for a protective, rather than liberating, approach to global security.

Reimagining Peacekeeping as a Liberating Strategy

At the same time as having the ability to reinforce the power of global elites, the increased mobilization and expanding functions of peacekeeping forces have some potentially transformative effects. This potential lies largely in the different attitude and approach that peacekeeping requires of military personnel at all levels of the military hierarchy in conducting "operations other than war". Second, it also lies in complementary shifts and blurrings of the archetypal gender roles, traditionally associated with militarism, by the increasing number of women and openly gay men employed in the armed forces, at least in the West. And third, the liberatory potential

⁶³ Edward Said, *Orientalism* (1978/1995).