

## INTERNATIONAL ORDER, WORLD ORDER AND HUMAN ORDER

This survey of security concerns outside the East-West arena not only suggests the positive potential for strengthening international order in this new era. Regrettably, it also suggests a huge potential for explosive disorder if the countries with the strongest position in the existing order fail to seize the new opportunities to widen its legitimacy and its base of support. The Cold War may have provided a rationale, and/or an excuse, for the relative neglect of a whole range of burning global issues, but the North as a whole, that is, the East and the West, now faces the real prospect that a great deal of conflict and alienation of an economic, religious, cultural, political and environmental kind could consolidate in the form of North-South confrontation. Some forewarning of this potential is found in Saddam Hussein's attempt to appropriate to himself the causes of Arab alienation, of Islamic alienation, of Third World alienation. Some courageous and skilful leaders in other parts of the Arab World and the Third World in general have resisted and refused to let him hijack the legitimate content of those causes. But those causes are real, and they are urgent.

In an era of global communications, the division of humanity between an unbelievably privileged quarter and an unbelievably deprived three-quarters can no longer be hidden. The ending of the Cold War removes the last of the great excuses for distraction and neglect, and the universal human values, long championed by the West, will again come under siege if they and their benefits are shown not to be universal in fact. There is a relatively short time for the current international system to begin addressing those issues in a serious way and to be seen to be doing so. If they continue to be neglected, the current order will be confirmed in the eyes of most of humanity merely as a protective cover for the privilege of the *status quo* – the consequences could well be cataclysmic.

Most of the discussion above has been focussed on questions of *international* order – the management of relations and conflicts among states, and in relation to the framework of rules of international law and the United Nations. These rules are premised on the primacy of state sovereignty and independence. They ultimately centre on issues