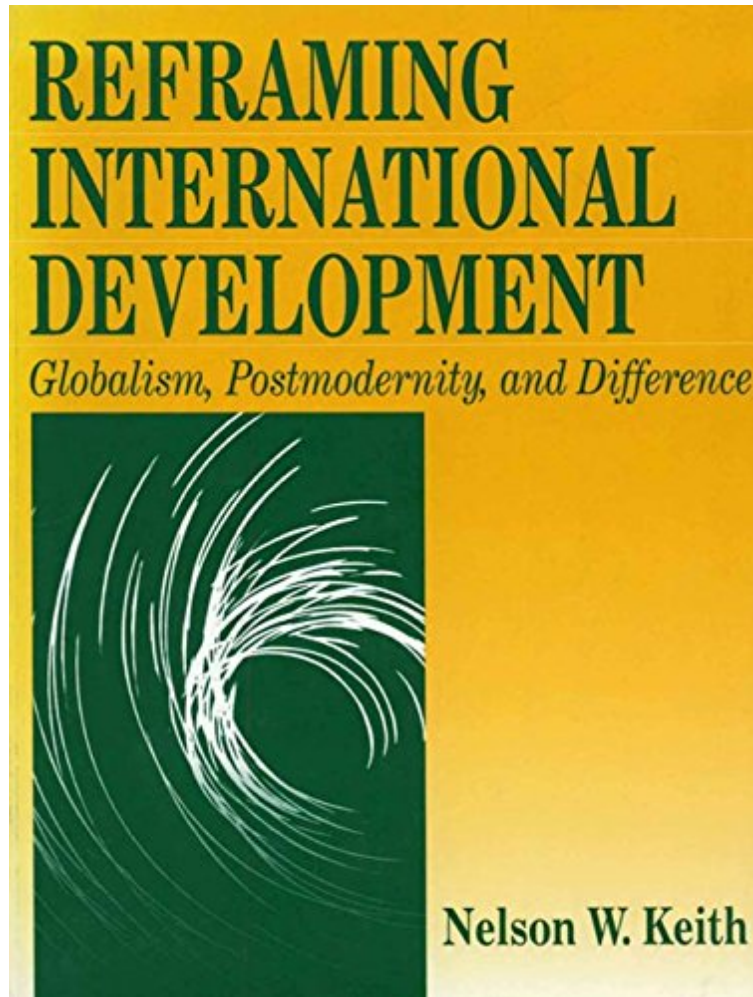


# Reframing International Development: Globalism, Postmodernity, and Difference

*Nelson W. Keith*

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**Nelson W. Keith : Reframing International Development: Globalism, Postmodernity, and Difference** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reframing International Development: Globalism, Postmodernity, and Difference:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A book for the present season!By A CustomerRecently, I was informed of this book by a colleague I met at a conference in San Francisco. I could not put it down. In this truly remarkable book, Keith brings together trends marginalized by the worldview that holds the 'developed' and the 'modern' as dominant. He shows us the outlines of a possible, emerging world, one characterized not by dominance and subordination among nations, peoples, and developmental processes, but by a genuine interdependence. This emerging world is to be undergirded by a philosophy and political agenda he terms 'globalism,' one anchored to 'difference.' The author carefully distinguishes globalism from globalization and internationalism, calling it the

"normative component of the spirit [rather than the project] of the Enlightenment." (p.27) and "both an outgrowth of and a reaction to modernity." (p.31). Globalism, in other words, a more truly egalitarian vision that eschews the binary opposites (Self-Other) created by the Enlightenment's take on reason. These 'Other(s)', who include non-Western and Third World peoples, women, peoples of color, and even Nature, who were relegated to the status of non-being by modernity, are now taking their place as agents in the joint emancipation of Self-Other through the practices, ethics, and epistemology of difference. Keith's argument is complex and is impossible to do justice to it in a 1000 words. It is truly a masterpiece of interdisciplinary scholarship that is rarely seen today; one marvels at his range, depth, and impressive abilities to synthesize in a fashion that excites so much about the inquiring mind. Although the book resides at a fairly high level of abstraction, it also suggests kindred practices. In the end, Keith draws a sketch that remains to be filled in through more research along the fruitful lines he sketches. People who are truly interested in change in our globalized age must get this impressive piece of scholarship.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A theory for the new millennium  
By A Customer  
For years now, I have been picking up every book that professes to have a new insight into the times we are living. With each new search, in disgust and despair, I find nothing but another silent testament supporting the theory in "The End of History." There are no new ideas, no new ideologies and all of wo/man's sometimes glorious, sometimes utopian aspirations seem to have been reduced to amoral capitalism, all motivations have been shrunk into one single squalid goal: profit. Then I came across "Reframing International Development" and there, within its covers, was the different vision--the hope for a different future--I had been seeking. Here is a book that examines the theory of race and gender in a new way. Dr. Nelson is like a master weaver who picks up the strands of knowledge and weaves them into a tapestry that forms a picture that makes it all seem suddenly clear. This is no "Political Science for Dummies" Dr. Keith writes with a presumption that his readers are intelligent, educated people (Thank you for that, Dr. Keith). He writes a beautiful, brilliantly thought out book that initiates a dialogue for the new millennium. It is the next step in political ideology. A source to stimulate the new political discussions that the "Capitalist Consensus" attempted to silence.

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Superb new view of international development  
By A Customer  
For years now, I have been picking up every book that professes to have a new insight into the times in which we are living. With each new search punctuated by disgust and despair, I find nothing but another silent testament supporting some version of 'The End of History' theory. There are no new ideas, no new ideologies, and all of wo/man's sometimes glorious, sometimes utopian aspirations have been shrunk into a single squalid goal: profit. Frustrated, angry and hopeless, like other 'leftists' of my period, I am reduced to contemplating a black hole. By chance, I came across the above mentioned volume and there, within its covers, was the different vision I sought. Here was the book that examined theories of race, gender, and the plight of other excluded groups and brought them into a sharp, new developmental focus--one that connected them in a new way that suddenly made sense! Dr. Keith has written a beautiful, brilliantly thought-out book. It initiates a dialogue for the new millennium. This is no Political Science for Dummies. It is an intellectual adventure for the reader who has a deep interest in the social sciences, justice, culture, and history. It is a work that stimulates the new multidisciplinary discussion that the 'capitalist consensus' has silenced. A thoroughly satisfying read. A tour de force. Get it!

Attempts to theorize contemporary globalization rarely stray beyond variations on old themes of superordination versus subordination. Yet there are many new definers of our present global reality - depletion of strategic resources, degradation of our environment, counter-offensives against modern patterns of thought and action - which suggest that a new framework of global relations is needed. Nelson Keith challenges the presumptions upon which Western notions of the world have rested, and sounds a call to forge a world order more sensitive to all of its representative voices.