

**Amin, Samir.** *The World We Wish to See: Revolutionary Objectives in the Twenty-First Century.* New York: Monthly Review Press, 2008. Pp. 160. \$60 (hardcover). ISBN 978-1583671726

**Reviewer: Patrick Kane<sup>1</sup>**

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We are now in a new era. So declares Samir Amin in this short book written as a manifesto for socially committed action in an age of uncertainty and generalized crisis. Amin begins by comparing how the three dominant systems of the past century, capitalism, imperialism, and revolution, gave way to the consolidation of a neoliberal phase that restructured capitalism's offensive through globalism. The new era presents a number of new problems and critical transformations. How does globalism's relocation of industry present a crisis point and allow for a fruitful debate about local and global struggles? The older dichotomy between an industrialized center and rural periphery has been transformed. Industry has relocated to new centers of production and older industrial centers have witnessed whittling infrastructure, while even relatively new centers of production, as in Mexico, have become vulnerable to capitalism's remobilization of production. For Amin, a new domination of the core-periphery-relation has emerged that allowed the core to gain privilege over key sectors of the economy through its monopolization of finance, information and research technologies. The core still has a legion of institutions at its disposal, including the WTO, the World Bank, the IMF, the European Union and other political institutions. These institutes and their corporate affiliates are led by a new plutocracy that guides what Amin sees as an obsolescent capitalism.

Samir Amin's contributions to political economy are well known in the postcolonial movement. His career as an economist and as an activist intellectual have centered on both the exploitation of the Third World by the rich nations of the West and the Soviet bloc and on the resistance to

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