

The chapter opened by considering the often repeated realist claim that the pattern of international politics--wars interrupted for periods characterized by the preparation for future wars--have remained constant over the preceding twenty-five centuries. Moreover, rather than identifying the terrorists as transnational criminals and using police enforcement methods to counter their threat, the USA and its allies defined them as enemies of the state who had to be targeted and defeated using conventional military means. Behind the rhetoric of universal values, the USA has used the war to justify a wide range of policy positions that strengthen its economic and military power while undermining various multilateral agreements on arms control, the environment, human rights, and trade. From classical realists such as Rousseau to structural realists such as Waltz, protagonists have argued that interdependence is as likely to breed 'mutual vulnerability' as peace and prosperity. Had one of the significant norms of the Westphalian order become unhinged, namely, that war happens between sovereign states?