



Thucydides' Meditations on Fear

Examining Contemporary Cases

By *Raymond Taras*

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This is a compelling book featuring six case studies which are confronted with problems involving their identities. How can we tackle their dilemmas? By adapting Greek philosopher Thucydides' fivefold classification of societal fears.

Understanding contemporary global politics by connecting them to the meditations of a classical Greek philosopher may seem farfetched and counterintuitive. But for political theorists, policymakers, the new influencers, journalists and engaged students, Thucydides' ancient wisdom provides insights into diagnosing and even undermining an endemic of political fear spreading across the world's borders. With his help, this book probes six case studies of aspiring great powers and the brittle identities that they may have unwittingly constructed. Raymond Taras questions the motives of the manipulators of fear whether found in authoritarian states or increasingly in backsliding liberal democratic ones. The urgency of returning to and respecting tolerance in states establishing relations with arriving refugees and migrants takes on critical importance.

Contents

Introduction: Thucydides' Meditation on Fear; 1. Meditations on Fear: The Continuing Relevance of Thucydides; 2. National Fear: Brexit, Free Movement, Englishness; 3. Regional Fear: Saxony and the Far Right in Germany; 4. Ethnic Fear: Russia's Management of Migration; 5. Individual Fear: Japan's Americanized Artist; 6. Inter-state Fears: Australia's Linkages to China; 7. Identity Fears: Identity Fears: The United States and Tribal Politics; 8. Musings on Political Fear: Methods and Theories; Select Bibliography; Author's Biography; Index

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Raymond Taras is author or editor of over twenty academic books in comparative politics and international relations specializing in Russia and Central European politics and migration studies.

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