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A Hobhouse Memorial Public Lecture given on Wednesday 15 February 2006 at the London School of Economics

Ulrich Beck

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Abstract

In a world risk society, we must distinguish between ecological and financial dangers, which can be conceptualized as side effects, and the threat from terrorist networks as intentional catastrophes; the principle of deliberately exploiting the vulnerability of modern civil society replaces the principle of chance and accident.

Keywords:

risk

catastrophe

not-knowing

enlightenment function of world risk society

cosmopolitan real politik

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