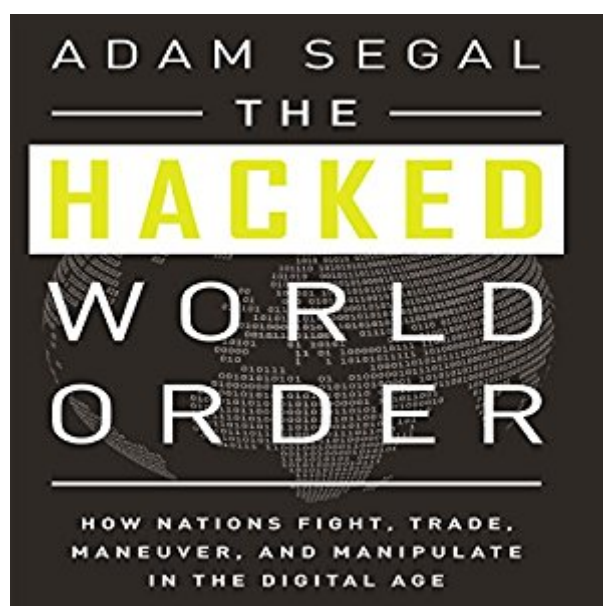


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# The Hacked World Order: How Nations Fight, Trade, Maneuver, And Manipulate In The Digital Age



## Synopsis

The Internet today connects roughly 2.7 billion people around the world, and booming interest in the "Internet of things" could result in 75 billion devices connected to the web by 2020. The myth of cyberspace as a digital utopia has long been put to rest. Governments are increasingly developing smarter ways of asserting their national authority in cyberspace in an effort to control the flow, organization, and ownership of information. In *The Hacked World Order*, Adam Segal shows how governments use the web to wage war and spy on, coerce, and damage each other. Israel is intent on derailing the Iranian nuclear weapons program. India wants to prevent Pakistani terrorists from using their Blackberries to coordinate attacks. Brazil has plans to lay new fiber cables and develop satellite links so its Internet traffic no longer has to pass through Miami. China does not want to be dependent on the West for its technology needs. These new digital conflicts have as yet posed no physical threat - no one has ever died from a cyberattack - but they serve to undermine the integrity of complex systems like power grids, financial institutions, and security networks. Segal describes how cyberattacks have the potential to produce unintended and unimaginable problems for anyone with an Internet connection and an email account. State-backed hacking initiatives can sabotage trade strategies, steal intellectual property, sow economic chaos, and paralyze whole countries. *The Hacked World Order* exposes how the Internet has ushered in a new era of geopolitical maneuvering and reveals its tremendous and terrifying implications for our economic livelihood, security, and personal identity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Hacked World Order: How Nations Fight, Trade, Maneuver And Manipulate In The Digital Age" may become as important as Bruce Sterling's "The Hacker Crackdown" in chronicling the history of online hacking. It may be more important in the sense that this is the first major book I have seen that looks critically at the geopolitical implications of organized online hacking by intelligence agencies, military - and paramilitary - organizations and terrorists. In plain English, it explores the usage of online hacking as a means of waging war via nonlethal means, but ultimately, resulting in creating ample mayhem and mischief on a scale approaching traditional, quite lethal, warfare. It does not delve deeply into the creation of online digital weapons like the notorious Stuxnet virus, the subject of journalist Kim Zetter's exceptional "Countdown to Zero Day: Stuxnet and the Launch of the World's First Digital Weapon". Instead, it describes, in gripping detail, how Iran responded to the online threats posed by Stuxnet and similar viruses, by using reverse engineering of relevant software, and quickly becoming, in its own right, a major regional cyberpower, capable of crippling the online infrastructure of its Middle Eastern neighbors. While Segal shows that there's been reluctance between the United States and Russia to engage in substantial online cyberwarfare, he does note the increasing importance and interest expressed by the Chinese, as well as the rogue states he believes have become important cyberpowers in their own right; Iran and North Korea.

The Information Age or, as this author describes it, the Digital Age, dominates the early 21st Century. Change, brought about by computers, sensors, the internet, and the exponential interconnection of the globe because of our implementation of these technologies, races ever faster forcing individuals and societies to adjust at an ever increasing pace. I set out to explore these phenomena through 3 books: Information - A Very Short Introduction; The Hacked World Order; and, Only Humans Need Apply. This is the second of those 3 books. It met my expectations. Adam Segal, the author, is, among other roles, the Director of the Program on Digital and Cyberspace Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations. In this role, he has been a close observer of the political, military, economic and social effects of the global expansion of cyberspace. His interest, as is perhaps not surprising, is in the effect of governmental policy on the changes wrought by the Digital Age. If this is an interest of yours, you will be rewarded; but even if not, his focus on policy is not so exclusive that you can't come away with new insights. As frequently occurs in such a review, Stuxnet provides an early example of the changed nature of the competition between nations. To his credit the author does not dwell excessively on Stuxnet perhaps in the expectation that his readers are already familiar with this event. His analysis also looks at the rise of other powers to challenge U.S.

dominance of the internet. China and Russia clearly seem to usurp dominance, but Brazil does as well. If you're interested in how this is occurring, the book provides guidance. The impact of Edward Snowden's revelations courses throughout the book.

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