
As a sophisticated urban theorist, Smith embarks on the challenging task of locating "globalization." He does so by deconstructing the "local versus global" dichotomy and demonstrating the interactive and fluid spatial and historical nature of the interaction between the two in the context of cities. This book is an attempt to demonstrate the temporal and spatial particularism of globalization, the discursive and practical nature of the "local versus global" construction, and the importance and nature of what he calls "transnational urbanism." Globalization is not a zero-sum process, and the emergence of "global cities" has not meant the disappearance of communal identities, national boundaries, states, and local actors. Countering the structural tendencies of urban political economists, the ahistoricism of globalists, and the abstractions of postmodernists, Smith presents "transnational urbanism" as a cultural metaphor for an agency-oriented urban theory. Cities are the primary sites of transnational urbanism--a pervasive and complex process involving cultures, policies, institutions, actors, and localities. Smith's is the most balanced theoretical approach to globalization, seeing it as it works, without any vilification or glorification. This is an important book in the field for graduate students and faculty.  

-- **A. Mahdi, Ohio Wesleyan University**