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Slumdogs and Superstars: Negotiating the Culture of Terror

The War on Terror has involved a transformation of the cultural sphere as the U.S. led-coalition propagated Islamophobic narratives, identifying Muslims as a threat to the security of nations. This paper examines the blockbuster film *Slumdog Millionaire* as an instance in this War revealing its cultural politics. Beginning with an examination of the key trans/national issues raised by the film, I analyze *Slumdog*'s representation of its two Muslim protagonists. The paper ends with a discussion of how two Bollywood superstars, A.R. Rahman and Shah Rukh Khan, have publicly negotiated their Indian/Muslim identities in relation to the film. The paper draws attention to the centrality of the 'national' in constructions of the 'global' in the culture of Terror.