

SECTION I

THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE REGION

In the last 100 years we've fought seven foreign wars; five in part or in whole were in Asia. But due to political stability created by growth and prosperity in Asia, along with our military presence in the region, none of them came in the last 20 years.

*George Tenet
Central Intelligence Agency
January 28, 1998*

Because most of the globalizers—especially China, India, and Bangladesh—were among the poorest countries in the world twenty years ago, their growth has been a force for narrowing worldwide inequality.

*David Dollar and Art Kraay
World Bank Development Research Group
September 2001*