

Garnet Routledge Book Series: 'Emerging Global Challenges'

The *Emerging Global Challenges* book series is the successor to the Routledge series on *Europe in the World*, which was organised in conjunction with 'GARNET' : the EU Network of Excellence on Global Governance, Regionalisation and Regulation. Our aim in the new series is to focus on the major global issues that have surfaced in recent years and which, we believe, will dominate world politics in the coming decades. While we are open to any exciting ideas for edited or single/joint authored works on emerging global challenges, we are currently inviting book proposals relating to the following seven broad themes:

The Obama Era and the Challenge to Western Dominance

Beyond the symbolism of the election of the first African-American president, the post-Bush era revives the issue of identity and representativeness in international politics. The problem of Western dominance, which has been acknowledged as a matter of fact since the beginning of decolonization, needs to be reassessed in order to make sense of what could be loosely defined as non-Western power and to understand the political dynamics of what has once be called "the West versus the Rest" paradigm. This is not simply a matter of the rise of China and India or the revival of Russian power but of greater assertiveness in many states and transnational and sub-state groups at the same time as the traditional military, political/cultural and economic tools through which Western power was sustained are proving less effective.

Norms and Interests in World Politics

The US reaction to 9/11 and especially the war in Iraq have brought about new global debates on issues such as preemptive war, the use of torture, the export

of democracy, that renew the problem of the articulation between norms and interests. The reformulation of global security takes one step further the research agenda that aims at overcoming the rationalist-constructivist divide, by redefining the very categories of “interest” and “norm”.

Knowledge and Power in World Politics

The transformation of the global knowledge economy that was triggered by the spread of the internet a decade ago, is now reaching a new stage with the rapid growth of an educated middle-class in the emerging powers, especially China and India. The creation of the “Shanghai index” and the calls for reform of the university within OECD countries, are different illustrations of the same phenomenon which is the global re-evaluation of the production and dissemination of knowledge. This one of the latest developments of globalization that still need to be assessed.

The Challenge to International Governance

The economic recession, environmental problems such as climate change, the decision of the American-led coalition to go to war in Iraq without Security Council approval, the failure of the EU Constitution and later the Lisbon Treaty to secure popular approval and the inability of the UN to make much difference to many problems have all exposed serious deficiencies in the regional and global governance instruments that many once saw as the basis of a ‘new world order’. Is this merely a pause in an inevitable progress towards further global and regional integration or are we facing some more fundamental problems?

The Rise of Right Wing Extremism and Nationalism

One consequence of globalisation has been an attempt to reaffirm various local or particular identities in response to perceived challenges of globalisation, such as migration, economic restructuring, the spread of Western values and the decline of traditional morality. Illustrations of this phenomenon include the rise of Islamist politics as well as other forms of religious fundamentalism in India, Pakistan, the US and elsewhere, and increasing nationalist assertiveness and the rise of far right parties and groups in many countries. In Europe the last ten years have witnessed far right parties becoming part of the government or achieving significant representation in many national parliaments, while there have been other manifestations of far right sentiment, including violence, in several countries. The recession has exacerbated these tendencies in Europe and elsewhere. How serious and deep-rooted is this phenomenon? What can be done about it?

Sustainability

Although many international conferences have stressed the importance of 'sustainable development', defined by the 1987 Brundtland Commission as development which "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs", problems like climate change, water, energy and food shortages and depletion of the oceans continue to threaten any meaningful understanding of 'sustainability'. How serious are these problems? Are they exaggerated or, as some argue, part of a disguised western agenda? What can be done about them?

Global Justice and the Poorest Countries

It is a commonplace observation that the benefits of globalisation have been spread unevenly. While some countries –including some in what was once termed the 'Third World'– have enjoyed significant economic growth, others

have experienced near starvation, increasing disease levels and even virtual ungovernability and collapse into ongoing internal warfare. In some cases, such as Zimbabwe, North Korea and Burma, repressive dictatorships have exacerbated these problems, while in other cases economic development has not brought corresponding improvements in human rights and democratic governance. What are the causes, consequences and potential solutions of these problems?

If you have an idea for a new book in the 'Emerging Global Challenges' series, please send a written proposal to the Series Editors:

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For guidance on how to structure your proposal, please visit:

www.routledge.com/info/authors