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# *International Politics on the World Stage*

BRIEF EDITION

JOHN T. ROURKE

MARK A. BOYER

# INTERNATIONAL POLITICS on the WORLD STAGE

*Brief Edition*

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*In Memory of*

Mamu (1892–1995)

Ralph A. Boyer (1927–1992)

# PREFACE

*International Politics on the World Stage*, Brief Edition, has been developed as a shorter international relations text in order to provide students and teachers with the opportunity to explore international relations in a variety of ways. In contrast to a course that centers on the original, longer edition of this text, this brief edition allows for the use of more supplemental materials (such as cases, simulations, special topical approaches to the field, or computer applications) in a course. Thus the course can be tailored to fit a variety of teaching and learning styles.

The brief edition is, however, more than just an abridged version of the longer edition. It has been updated both in terms of substantive examples and scholarly research. The brief edition also has four fewer chapters than the longer edition and has been reorganized considerably to reflect the needs of a shorter approach to the field. Still the brief edition does not lose the sense of international political drama portrayed in the original *International Politics on the World Stage*, 5th Edition.

The text is organized in the following way: Part I (Chapters 1, 2, and 3) focuses on approaches to the study of international relations. Chapter 1 makes the case that international relations does matter to the average student and that the individual student can have an impact on international relations. It also lays out the basically theoretical and conceptual debates, in particular the recurrent divide between realist and idealist approaches to analysis and prescription in world affairs. Chapter 2 is primarily historical. It traces the evolution of the international system, concentrating on how the contemporary international system has its roots in the past and the degree to which there are both centralizing and decentralizing tendencies coexisting in world affairs today. Chapter 3 lays out the conceptual framework of the levels of analysis to show the students the different perspectives that can be used to structure our study of international relations.

Part II (Chapters 4, 5, and 6) deals with the realm of ideas and values. We begin by discussing the forces of nationalism in chapter 4 with a focus on the strength of nationalism and the positive and negative effects of nationalism on world affairs. Chapter 5 concentrates on the transnational level and introduces the student to the impact of various ideas, ideologies, and moralities. These include Marxism, feminism, Islamic thought, and democracy, among others. Chapter 6 ties in with the themes of chapter 5 by discussing the nature of international law and how that relates to the ideas and norms already existing within the world system.

In Part III (Chapters 7, 8, and 9), the student delves into the structure in international relations. Chapter 7 focuses on the state and, in particular, on the roots

of state power within the anarchic world system. Chapter 8 presents the conceptual underpinning of the development of international organization (IO) and uses a variety of regional organizations as studies of the evolution of IOs in world affairs. Chapter 9 continues this focus on IOs, but at the global level, by turning attention to the UN, to GATT and the WTO, and to the IMF and the World Bank.

Part IV (Chapters 10 through 14) deals with the various substantive aspects of international conduct. Chapter 10 discusses state power and diplomacy in world affairs. Chapter 11 focuses on the traditional highly political issue area of military security and addresses such topics as the causes of war and the utility of force in the modern age. Chapters 12 and 13 focus on the growing importance of political economic issues. Chapter 12 focuses primarily on the challenges facing the developed countries, while chapter 13 looks at the less developed world. Last, chapter 14 elucidates issues of ecological quality and sustainable development as well as the challenges that are emerging in this substantive arena.

Even with all these changes, however, *International Politics on the World Stage*, Brief Edition, maintains the conceptual and theoretical sophistication of the longer edition and employs the same standards of timeliness and readability found therein. *International Politics*, Brief Edition, presents the student and teacher with the most up-to-date coverage of the substance of current international relations, including the decisions to deploy U.S. forces in Bosnia, the tragic assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and the French decision to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific. Since it is as up-to-date as possible, it provides the student with stronger ties to the real world of international relations. In other words, current events illustrations make the concepts and theory of the textbook come alive in demonstrative ways.

The brief edition also seeks to be student-friendly. Its wide use of graphics such as photographs, figures, cartoons, and maps gives visual life to the text ideas. A glossary, chapter summaries, and an extensive bibliography are also included to aid the student in studying and the faculty member in teaching.

Finally, this brief edition also maintains the standards of continuously accessing scholarly research that was followed in the longer edition. We have included the insights of newly published research, even material that has been published since the last edition of the longer parent text came out. This means that the student today is reading a state-of-the-art discussion in international relations.

Before closing, we would like to acknowledge a number of the scholars who took the time to review our initial plan to condense the material of the longer edition. Their input and ideas were invaluable in the process that we have undertaken over the past year. They are:

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The time and effort they put into reviewing our approach to the new volume is greatly appreciated.

Along those same lines and to close, we ask that you please let us know if you have any comments on what we have done in this volume. As with any first-time venture, we are sure that there are some bugs that we will need to work out for future efforts. We hope that you will write to us with any insights you have on how we can make this volume more student-friendly and teacher-useful while continuing its lively mix of contemporary substance and scholarly research. We are in the business of teaching about world affairs, but we can do our job well only if we hear how we are doing from both teachers and students.

John T. Rourke  
Mark A. Boyer



# COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD







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