



The G8's Role in the New Millennium

Edited by
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Preface

This book is the product, most immediately of two conferences held in London, England on May 12th and 13th, 1998 immediately prior to the Group of Eight (G8) Birmingham Summit. The first conference, a scholarly symposium on "Explaining G8 Effectiveness", assembled six leading scholars of the G8 and its major issues to give papers, for discussion among themselves, their colleagues and students, of how and why the G8 succeeds as an effective international institution in dealing with the major issues of the day.

The second, a public policy conference entitled, "Jobs, Crime, Money: Challenges for the G8 in 1998", gathered 16 distinguished practitioners and scholars from Europe, North America and Asia. Its purpose was to assess the way in which the G8 could and should best address the global priorities of 1998.

This volume contains the extensively revised papers presented at the scholarly symposium, supplemented by selective contributions from the public policy conference. Yet within its chapters also lie the results of decades of reflection and analysis on G7/G8 and the global challenges it currently confronts, from those who have carefully examined these matters from the inside and from without.

To explore these challenges and the effectiveness of the G8 in dealing with them, this collection combines the talents of leading scholars and analysts of the G7/G8 from several disciplines and regions. Its contributors come from the disciplines of economics, management studies, the international political economy subfield of political science, law and from public service. Their combination in this volume provides a rich and unique synthesis of the contributions of the insights of academic scholars from several disciplines as enriched by those of distinguished policy practitioners of analytic repute.

The contributors to this volume are all senior figures from the three global regions represented in the G8: Europe, North America and Japan. Many have worked in two or more of the three G8 regions or have scholarly interests spanning them all. All authors come from leading universities in their countries, or major public or private sector institutions or are leading experts in their area.

No effort has been made to impose a single interpretive framework,

common point of view or artificial concluding consensus on the individual contributions. Rather the introduction outlines in full diversity and richness the wide ranging debate about the G8, the major forces at work in the world as the new millennium approaches, and the new issues and challenges this presents for the G8. The inclusion among the editors and authors of those with widely varying views on the G8 and from differing disciplinary perspectives ensures that this work will present a poignant and productive debate rather than a strained consensus.

Producing such a volume and the conferences that lay behind it required the exceptional contribution of many individuals. We owe much to Sir Nicholas Bayne, the master interpreter of the G7/G8, and one who served as a constant source of intellectual inspiration, practical support and sound judgement in moving this enterprise from an academic planning concept into an accomplished reality.

We are further grateful to other members of the G8 Research Group's Professional Advisory Council, who helped us with recruiting speakers, serving as speakers and providing insightful advice along the way. These include Robert C. Fauver, David Hale, Michael R. Hodges, Alan Rugman and Koji Watanabe.

We owe a particular debt to Robin Griffiths and his colleagues at Clifford Chance, who served as sponsors of the May 13th conference from which some of our material is drawn, provided facilities at their London office for our May 12th Scholarly Symposium, sponsored a dinner for our overseas speakers, and then prepared transcripts of the conference presentations that served as an essential tool in composing some of the chapters in this book. Robin's generosity, unflagging willingness to help and endless good cheer were a critical ingredient in making the conference and this volume possible.

We are also grateful to the superb conference team at Clifford Chance - led by Amanda Jenkins, Corinne Pearson-Evans, and Matthew Brown. They handled the often difficult logistics with exceptional efficiency. Jim Sigman, Colton Alton, and Tim Judy at Real Education in Denver, Colorado deserve thanks for their strong support in helping us enhance the educational experience of the summit. They designed and built an Internet-based seminar program to broadcast the conferences and other events to some 2000 students around the world.

Special praise must go to Steve Muddiman, Jolanta Pilecka, Ross Jardine and their staff at Hewlett Packard in the U.K. Their enthusiasm for our project and Hewlett Packard's leading-edge technical support provided

an invaluable backbone to our Internet program.

We further wish to express our gratitude to Maurice Fraser, who gave permission for us to use material from Richard Layard's contribution on, "Employability", in M. Fraser (ed.), *The G8 & the World Economy*, (London: Strategems Publishing Limited, 1998).

We also acknowledge with deep gratitude the enormous contribution of Paul Jacobelli, Co-ordinator of the G8 Research Group. It was his vision, entrepreneurship and perseverance that made our London symposium and conference possible, ensured their successful execution and helped to prepare this volume for publication. We also thank Jane Kim for the long hours of painstaking work required to format the text and charts in this book.

Among the many members of the G8 Research Group who contributed to making this volume and the supporting conferences a success, we wish to highlight the leadership and support of Peter Hajnal, Kunihiro Ito, Sian Meikle, Ella Kokotsis, Carla Angelone, Nancy Scott, Ivan Savic, Cindy Blazevic, Michael Youash, Gina Stephens, Sandra Larmour and Marc Lalonde.

Also of major importance in this effort was the support of colleagues from our partner institutions, notably Jonathan Aronson and Steve Lamy of the University of Southern California's School of International Affairs. We also thank our colleagues at Trinity College, the International Relations Program and the Centre for International Studies: Thomas Delworth, Robert Bothwell, Louis Pauly, Geoffrey Seaborn, Marilyn Laville and Mary Lynne Bratti. Finally, we are grateful to our editor at Ashgate, Kirstin Howgate, whose vision, good cheer and dedication sustained us through the process of converting raw text into a finished book.

On June 17, 1998, three weeks after our conference, Michael Hodges suddenly passed away at the age of 53. We are proud and grateful to have worked with him over the years in the G8 Research Group and on this conference and volume, which were very much his inspiration. His chapter in this volume is not the one he would have written, had he had the time to develop his initial thoughts before his untimely death. But it displays the freshness, insight and critical spirit that characterized his scholarship during a long and distinguished career. To honour his very real contribution and his memory, we have retained his name, as planned, as the lead co-editor of this volume. We dedicate it to him and to all that he stood for as a colleague and friend.

John J. Kirton, Joseph P. Daniels, October 1998

List of Abbreviations

APEC Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation

ASEM Asia-Europe Meeting

BCCI Bank of Credit and Commerce International

BIS Bank for International Settlements

CEC Commission for Environmental Cooperation (Montreal)

CLC Canadian Labour Congress
COC Council of Canadians

DFAIT Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

(Canada)

ECB European Central Bank
EMU European Monetary Union

EU European Union

FATF Financial Action Task Force FDI Foreign Direct Investment

FSRA Fiscal Structural Reform Act (Japan)
FTA Free Trade Agreement (Canada and U.S.)
FTAA Free Trade Agreement of the Americas

FY Fiscal Year

G3 Group of Three (Finance Ministers/Central Bank Governors

- Japan, U.S., Germany)

G5 Group of Five (Finance Ministers)

G7 Group of Seven (Major Industrial Countries)

G8 Group of Eight (G7 with Russia)

G15 Group of Fifteen (Developing Countries)

G24 Group of Twenty-Four (Developing Countries within the

IMF)

GATT General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

GDP Gross Domestic Product
GIS Global Information Society
GNP Gross National Product

HIPC Heavily Indebted Poorest Countries

IBRD International Bank of Reconstruction and Development

(World Bank)

IMF International Monetary Fund

MPC Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England

NAFTA North America Free Trade Agreement
NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO Non-governmental organization
OAS Organization of American States
ODA Official Development Assistance

OECD Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

OPEC Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries

OSCE Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
Qaud Quadrilateral Trade Ministers Forum (Japan, Canada, U.S.

and EU)

SFO Serious Fraud Office

SIG Support Implementation Group

SME Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

TNC Transnational Corporations

U.N. United Nations U.S. United States

U.S.S.R. Union of the Soviet Socialists Republics

UK United Kingdom

UNCED United Nations Conference on Environment and

Development

WHO World Health Organization
WTO World Trade Organization

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Introduction

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1 The Role of the G8 in the New Millennium

JOHN J. KIRTON AND JOSEPH P. DANIELS

Introduction

During the 1990s, the Group of Seven (G7) and now Group of Eight (G8), has attracted a rising crescendo of scholarly and policy criticism as it and the world have confronted a host of new issues and major transformations. The criticisms have centered on the apparent failure of the G7/8 to manage its core economic and financial agenda, to assist Russia in its democratic market transition and integration into the global economy, and to address the new transnational issues and pressures toward regionalism in the world. To many, these charges have acquired added force as the Asian financial crisis moves beyond its regional origins to create economic damage and instability everywhere. Further erosion in the credibility of the summit process will no doubt occur as Russia sits precariously on the verge of financial and even political collapse, as Europe reinforces its regional identity and strategy with the advent of the Euro, and as North America considers building on regional solutions through the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in response (Bergsten, 1998; Malmgren, 1998; Hale, 1998).

Amidst such prevailing pessimism and uncertainty, this collection offers a more firmly grounded and optimistic assessment of the outlook for global governance as the transformed world of the new millennium rapidly approaches. It looks beyond the current criticism to examine the underlying transformations now underway in the G8 as an institution and in the world that its seeks to govern. It provides a critical, scholarly assessment of the G8's performance and prospects in addressing the issues that have moved from the domestic stage to the centre of the international agenda as the post cold war world of globalization and deepening integration gives way to the fully global system of the new millennium.

The collection explores the logic of the contemporary critics to offer improved explanations of the circumstances under which the G7/G8