



GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS



Global Governance, Poverty and Inequality

Edited by Jennifer Clapp
and Rorden Wilkinson



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Global Governance, Poverty and Inequality

In the first decade of the twenty-first century the world experienced a series of crises that have combined to exacerbate already profound conditions of global economic inequality and poverty in the world's poorest countries. In 2007, the unsound lending practices that caused a collapse in the US housing market ushered in a broader economic crisis that reverberated throughout the global financial system. This economic shockwave had a global impact, triggering not just instability in other industrialized countries, but also in their developing counterparts, also highlighting deficiencies in the current structures of global governance to protect the world's poorest and most disadvantaged.

In these times of crisis, it is important to question the capacity and the appropriateness of existing global governance approaches to address both poverty and inequality. This work seeks to critically evaluate the role of global governance mechanisms for dealing with these pressing issues. With a focus on both formal and informal governance mechanisms, and drawing leading scholars together from a range of disciplines, this collection offers sharp analyses of the successes and failures of the global system in tackling the pressing problems of poverty and inequality.

Jennifer Clapp is the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) Chair in Global Environmental Governance and Professor in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at the University of Waterloo, Canada.

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Routledge Global Institutions

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The "Global Institutions Series" is designed to provide readers with comprehensive, accessible, and informative guides to the history, structure, and activities of key international organizations as well as books that deal with topics of key importance in contemporary global governance. Every volume stands on its own as a thorough and insightful treatment of a particular topic, but the series as a whole contributes to a coherent and complementary portrait of the phenomenon of global institutions at the dawn of the millennium.

Books are written by recognized experts, conform to a similar structure, and cover a range of themes and debates common to the series. These areas of shared concern include the general purpose and rationale for organizations, developments over time, membership, structure, decision-making procedures, and key functions. Moreover, current debates are placed in historical perspective alongside informed analysis and critique. Each book also contains an annotated bibliography and guide to electronic information as well as any annexes appropriate to the subject matter at hand.

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Foreword by the series editors

The current volume, dealing with the thorny issues revolving around the role of international institutions in the pursuit of reductions in global poverty and inequality, and edited by Jennifer Clapp and Rorden Wilkinson, launches the inclusion in the series of a growing number of first-rate research volumes that examine crucial global problems and possible global policies and solutions. *Global Governance, Poverty and Inequality* consists of specialized and critical chapters by world-class analysts, which provides a desirable and useful complement to what has now become recognized as a dynamic and well regarded series on “global institutions.” In addition to these research volumes, the series strives to provide readers with user-friendly and short (usually 50,000 words) but definitive guides to the most visible aspects of what we know as “global governance” as well as forensic accounts of the issues and debates in which they are embroiled. Soon we will have 50 books that act as key reference points to the most significant global institutions and the evolution of the issues that they face. Our intention has always been to provide one-stop shopping for all readers—students (both undergraduate and postgraduate), interested negotiators, diplomats, practitioners from nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations, and interested parties alike—seeking information about most prominent institutional aspects of global governance.

The new research stream incorporates lengthier works by key authors as well as edited compilations, in which the collective wisdom will help push out the envelope on important topics linked to global institutions. Ideally, these volumes will be used as suggested readings in courses in which other specific titles in this series are pertinent (in this case we point readers to books on the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, and the International Monetary Fund, to name but a few). Our aim is to enable topics of importance to be dealt with exhaustively by key authors as well as enabling collected works to address issues in ways

that bring more than the sum of the individual parts, while at the same time maintaining the quality of the series.

As always, we look forward to comments from our readers.

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