6. Diplomacy in the age of globalization

Joseph M. Siracusa

‘Diplomacy in the age of globalization’ discusses the diplomatic challenges faced by globalization. The diplomacy of the global economic system ranges from the activities of transnational corporations to the interventions of global economic intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), particularly the World Trade Organization. These all have important diplomatic webs that operate both within and outside the traditional diplomatic system. This is also true of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which play a significant role in filling service gaps in the provision of education, health and welfare, disaster relief, and small-scale infrastructure development left by governments with insufficient resources or insufficient political will. The United Nation’s Millennium Development Goals and human security are also considered.

7. What else can be done?

Leslie Holmes

The state is only one of many actors with a role to play in controlling corruption. ‘What else can be done?’ considers the options for international organizations (IOs), the business sector, and civil society, before evaluating the overall effort at combating corruption. The work of the European Union, the Council of Europe, and the World Trade Organization is discussed along with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and anti-corruption measures of the World Bank and transnational corporations. Although corruption will never disappear, it can be reduced to manageable levels when states have a robust democracy, a strong commitment to the rule of law, high levels of trust, and a well-developed civil society.

1. What is governance?

Mark Bevir
How does governance differ from government? ‘What is governance?’ considers how the meaning of the term governance has evolved along with our understanding of the role of the state in governing us. The activity of governing is increasingly shared with social actors such as private firms, non-governmental organizations, and non-profit service providers. Governance has therefore come to refer to all processes of governing, whether undertaken by a government or an informal organization. The new relationship between state and society has focused attention away from the state and on to the activity of governing.

8. Quiet revolutions
Colin Ward

Have the aspirations of the anarchists of the last century been a catalogue of impossible hopes? ‘Quiet revolutions’ argues that the answer is no. In a partial, albeit incomplete, but visible way, a number of revolutions have taken place to transform life under the surface. The issue of dress can be used to illustrate this. Fifty years ago, a person's social class could be deduced based on their dress. Generally speaking, this is no longer the case. A more significant ‘quite revolution’ has been the women's movement, rejecting the universal convention of male dominance. We can also see a huge change in the relationship between teachers and children. What can the anarchists do about global capitalism?

6. Human security and development
Christopher S. Browning

More expansive definitions of human security suggest that, although violent conflicts and their effects are important, far more people's lives are blighted by poverty, hunger, disease, and natural disasters. ‘Human security and development’ explains how concerns about human security are often translated into concerns about the stability and security of existing political structures and ruling regimes. For critics, expansive understandings of human security are beset with problems. Where, for example, should the boundaries of human security be drawn, how should we prioritize between different dimensions and commitments, and who should make these decisions and on what grounds?

Jussi M. Hanhimäki
‘An impossible hybrid: the structure of the United Nations’ explains the various functions of the conglomeration of organizations, divisions, bodies, and secretariats that make up the UN. The Security Council is the central organ of the UN system and has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The General Assembly is the forum where the 193 member states can make their cases heard. The UN Secretariat serves the other principal organs of the UN and administers the programs and policies laid down by them, with the Secretary-General at its head. The roles of the Economic and Social Council, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and World Trade Organization are also described.

2. The creation of the World Trade Organization

Amrita Narlikar

‘The creation of the World Trade Organization’ outlines the creation and structure of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1995. Multiple non-tariff barriers had proliferated under the GATT in the 1970s and 1980s, outstripping its mandate. Thus, the WTO was formed in order to provide a coherent and unified system. The two key principles of the WTO are non-discrimination and reciprocity. The WTO differs from the GATT by having an enhanced legal status, a more intrusive mandate, a permanent secretariat, and a stronger dispute settlement mechanism. However, despite the organizational complexity, it retains the member-driven nature of the GATT.

5. Settling disputes

Amrita Narlikar

‘Settling disputes’ outlines the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU), the single, highly legalized settlement body of the World Trade Organization. The onus falls on members to make complaints about other members' conduct. First, a consultation period aims to resolve the issue amicably. If consultation fails, the process proceeds to a panel for judgement. The legal nature of the DSU conflicts with the informal nature of rule making, so smaller countries may be subject to laws they did not make. Developing nations are also less likely to use the DSU due to high costs and an inability to enforce sanctions. Reforms combating these inequalities are being considered.
Governance: A Very Short Introduction

Mark Bevir

Governance: A Very Short Introduction explains the main theories of governance and their impact in the corporate, public, and global spheres. The many uses of the term ‘governance’ are explored: the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund make loans conditional on ‘good governance’; climate change and avian flu appear as issues of ‘global governance’; the US Forest Service calls for ‘collaborative governance’. Why is the term used so pervasively and to what does it refer? What makes good or bad governance?

5. Economic development to human development

Jussi M. Hanhimäki

One of the United Nation’s central goals was to prevent economic upheaval and any resulting political consequences. ‘Economic development to human development’ explains that the aim was to head off economic collapse, war, and revolution with social democratic reforms and intergovernmental policy coordination. But how were these goals advanced? In the post-war era, the main issue was recovery. In the 1950s and 1960s it turned to decolonization and global inequality. Although international relations were guided by an East–West divide, the persistent North–South divide overshadowed the UN’s efforts to reshape the global economy. Key goals of eradicating poverty and hunger, achieving universal education, empowering women, and fighting infant mortality remain today.

7. HIV/AIDS

Christian W. McMillen

HIV/AIDS had been percolating in central Africa since the early twentieth century, but it appeared in its now recognizable form in the spring of 1981. Doctors in America spotted a strange increase in rare infections and Kaposi’s sarcoma, especially in sexually active gay men. In 1982, it was named acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). ‘HIV/AIDS’ explains that soon afterward the virus was identified as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), a complex retrovirus with several different identities. HIV makes its way into the body via infected fluids and can affect all members of society. There is no vaccine, but HIV/AIDS is now treatable, although access to drugs is uneven.
6. Cross-border institutions and systems

Alexander C. Diener and Joshua Hagen

Cross-border institutions and systems are more important now than they have ever been. There are a number of issues that aren't subject to border controls: the environment, public health, the flow of information. ‘Cross-border institutions and systems’ considers how cross-border institutions and systems operate in the contemporary world. Today, ideas and information cross borders more readily than they ever have done. The ability of groups to transcend space and border barriers poses a challenge for governments. How has ‘supranationalism’ affected territorial assumptions of the nation-state system? The European Union's success in eliminating barriers between member states may ironically increase independence movements. What problems do borders pose for enforcing global human rights?

7. What international law does badly (or not at all)

Vaughan Lowe

International law cannot manufacture agreement where none exists. For this reason, international law is not well suited to the promotion of innovative solutions to international problems where the interests of States are radically divergent. ‘What international law does badly (or not at all)’ considers this in relation to climate change and to the protection of commercial interests in proprietary drugs. Also, international law cannot itself deliver international justice. While the law is an invaluable instrument for the implementation of policies that aim to make the world more just—the special preferential treatment given to developing States within the World Trade Organization, for example—it will not miraculously produce justice and fairness of its own force.

6. The significance of nation states

Elizabeth Fisher

Environmental problems transcend the boundaries of nation states. That fact is a reminder of the physical reality of such problems, but—for good or ill—political and legal imagination is the product of political communities that cluster into nation states. ‘The significance of nation states’ looks at how environmental law is shaped by the legal culture of nation states. It also discusses the difference between civil law systems and common law systems. The
internal constitutional arrangements of a country are fundamental to how environmental law develops in a particular legal culture. Is a ‘global environmental law’ emerging?

4. The political dimension of globalization

Manfred B. Steger

Political globalization refers to the intensification and expansion of political interrelations across the globe. ‘The political dimension of globalization’ considers how these processes raise an important set of political issues pertaining to the principle of state sovereignty, the growing impact of intergovernmental organizations, and the future prospects for regional and global governance, global migration flows, and environmental policies affecting our planet. Contemporary globalization has led to a permeation of the traditional territorial borders of nation-states and fostered the growth of supraterritorial social spaces and institutions that, in turn, unsettle both familiar political arrangements and cultural traditions. Will the final outcome of political globalization be the emergence of a ‘cosmopolitan democracy’?

5. Has capitalism gone global?

James Fulcher

What is ‘global capitalism?’ Economies no longer operate in isolation, producing goods at home for export abroad. Companies now run manufacturing operations in many different countries spread across the world. ‘Has capitalism gone global?’ explores four myths of global capitalism. Firstly, global capitalism is not new. The early capitalism of the 15th and 16th centuries was global in nature as it involved world-wide trading activities. Secondly, how global is global capitalism? In reality, most capital moves between a small group of rich countries. Thirdly, global organization of capital has not replaced its national organization. Finally, global capitalism has not integrated the world; inequalities increasingly divide it.

2. A contested invention

Andrew F. Cooper

‘A contested invention’ outlines the development of the BRICS group. The building blocks were in place for a stand-alone forum prior to 2009, but the catalytic moment came
with the global financial crisis. As participants in the initial G20 summit in Washington DC in November 2008, all the BRIC leaders became willing members of a recalibrated global hierarchy. However, the decision by the BRIC countries to establish a diplomatic club of their own can be tied both to their rising economic and political weight and to a shared sense that their elevated status was not adequately reflected in existing international institutions dominated by developed states.

The BRICS: A Very Short Introduction
Andrew F. Cooper

In the wake of the post-Cold War era, the aftermath of 9/11, the 2008 global financial crisis, and the emergence of the G20, few commentators expected a reshaping of the global system towards multipolarity, and away from the United States. And yet, the BRICS—encompassing Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—has emerged as a challenge to the international status quo. But what is its capacity as a transformative force? The BRICS: A Very Short Introduction explores the emergence of the BRICS as a concept. It provides a contemporary analysis of the BRICS’ practice and influence as a forum and a lobby group in advancing a distinctive, but amorphous agenda among global politics.

4. What can be done to accelerate development?
Ian Goldin

The extraordinary diversity of development experiences reveals the many different available pathways that countries have chosen in order to develop. Each requires a determination to succeed and the sacrifice of short-term benefits for longer-term and societal goals. It is hard to accelerate development and the gains can be easily reversed. ‘What can be done to accelerate development?’ looks at key areas that can affect and improve development prospects. These include literacy and education; health; reducing gender inequality; agriculture and improved food nutrition; investment in infrastructure; legal frameworks and equity; global trade; and peace and stability.

Globalization: A Very Short Introduction
Manfred B. Steger
‘Globalization’ has become one of the defining buzzwords of our time—a term that describes a variety of accelerating economic, political, cultural, ideological, and environmental processes that are rapidly altering our experience of the world. Globalization: A Very Short Introduction has been updated with developments in global politics, the global economy, and environmental issues, including the EU fiscal crisis, the rise of robot technology, and West Africa’s Ebola epidemic. Presenting globalization as a process encompassing global, regional, and local aspects of social life, it looks at causes and effects, examines whether it is a new phenomenon, and explores the question whether, ultimately, globalization is a good or a bad thing.