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Global Environmental Governance Reconsidered by Frank Biermann & Philipp Pattberg

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Biermann, Frank, and Philipp Pattberg, eds. *Global Environmental Governance Reconsidered*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2012. xvi + 301 pages. Cloth, \$25.00.

This compendium of studies edited by political scientists Frank Biermann and Philipp Pattberg reports the results of the decade-long Global Governance Project, an effort led by the editors and including forty researchers at thirteen European locations. The purpose of the project was to examine the subject of global environmental governance from the standpoint of three new trends: greater participation of non-state actors; increasing public-private partnerships; and more segmentation of the layers of rulemaking. These trends are used to structure the text in three parts.

Part I deals with new actors in global environmental governance and includes chapters on international bureaucracies, global corporations, and science networks. The researchers who investigated international bureaucracies report that structure and internal factors determine the influence of these organizations. Other chapters present case studies detailing the success of global policy on chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and biodiversity. Global corporations are active on environmental issues as lobbyists, communicators, and regulators. These same corporations, however, can be limited by industry conflict and by countervailing forces such as non-government organizations (NGOs). Science networks are also part of the changing landscape of global environmental governance, and reflect the greater institutionalization of science and the augmented uses of advisory bodies. Case studies in this area include the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the International Whaling Commission, and trade policy dealing with genetically modified organisms. Overall, science's sway on policy is dependent on the inclusiveness of the investigatory process and its pertinence to politics.

Part II details research findings pertaining to new mechanisms or forms of cooperation in global environmental governance. Transitional environmental regimes resemble international regimes but without legally binding rules. Examples of such agreements are the Forest Stewardship Council and the Forest Alliance. Other case studies include the transnational public-private partnerships emanating from the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. Researchers studying this area maintain that these partnerships, although limited in their effectiveness, have improved participation and dialogue. Transnational governance experiments associated with global environmental concerns have been initiated for several reasons: to express ideology, to reap profits, and to expand authority. The specific experiments discussed are the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Climate Change Action Plan, and initiatives for starting a voluntary offset carbon market.

Part III treats the new interlinkages that have followed the division of rule making in global environmental governance. One type of association described is between two international organizations or agreements. The three examples selected for analysis are the United Nations (UN) climate regime and the World Trade Organization (WTO); the UN climate regime and the Convention on Biological Diversity; and the Biosafety Convention and the WTO. A second type of linkage is between international regimes and domestic policies. Accordingly, the researchers probing this area assess international policy on genetically modified organisms and its impact on agricultural biotechnology in developing countries. A third type of tie is referred to as a regional governance arrangement. Finally, the section assesses progress in addressing global environmental challenges between the European Union and select member nations.

At the end of the book, the editors offer a chapter on the changing role of the state in global environmental governance. Given that the trends presented are obvious deviations from the usual national patterns, they may have been better served to place the final chapter earlier in the book to contextualize the chapters that follow. Much more successful is their conclusion, which ties together the three parts of the book by identifying common trends, discussing policy recommendations released by the Global Governance Project, and suggesting directions for future research.

The present text has a number of advantages. First, the editors' decision to standardize the format of chapters makes the information easy to follow. Second, the inclusion of a list of acronyms in the front of the book and a glossary at the end are quite helpful. Third, the editors' expertise in leading the Global Governance Project and other related projects furnishes an invaluable first-hand perspective. Of course, Biermann and Pattberg acknowledge the Eurocentric nature of that perspective. But their detailed and technical report nevertheless contributes to our knowledge about new trends in global environmental governance. It starkly shows why we need to be concerned about the legitimacy and effectiveness of traditional state entities, laws, and processes dealing with global environmental issues.

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