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PALGRAVE HANDBOOKS IN IPE

# THE PALGRAVE HANDBOOK OF CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Edited by  
Timothy M. Shaw, Laura C. Mahrenbach,  
Renu Modi and Xu Yi-chong



# Palgrave Handbooks in IPE

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Timothy M. Shaw • Laura C. Mahrenbach  
Renu Modi • Xu Yi-chong  
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# The Palgrave Handbook of Contemporary International Political Economy

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*In honour of Steen Fryba Christensen, whose innovative work in IPE  
demonstrated the value of scholarship bridging the Global North and Global  
South.*

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# List of Acronyms

|         |                                                              |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACP     | African, Caribbean & Pacific (states affiliated with the EU) |
| ADB     | Asian Development Bank                                       |
| AfDB    | African Development Bank                                     |
| AI      | Artificial intelligence                                      |
| AIIB    | Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank                         |
| ASEAN   | Association of South East Asian Nations                      |
| ASM     | Artisanal & small-scale mining                               |
| BAT     | Baidu, Alibaba, Tencent                                      |
| BIC     | Brazil, India, China                                         |
| BIS     | Bank for International Settlements                           |
| BRI     | Belt & Road Initiative (China)                               |
| BRIC    | Brazil, Russia, India, China                                 |
| BRICS   | Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa                   |
| CARICOM | Caribbean Community                                          |
| CC      | Comparative capitalism                                       |
| CCC     | Critical comparative capitalism                              |
| CDB     | China Development Bank                                       |
| CDM     | Clean Development Mechanism                                  |
| CIC     | China Investment Corporation (SWF)                           |
| CIVETS  | Colombia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Egypt, Turkey, South Africa    |
| CME     | Coordinated market economy                                   |
| COP     | Conference of the Parties (Paris climate accord)             |
| CPE     | Comparative political economy                                |
| CR      | Concentration ratios                                         |
| CSR     | Corporate social responsibility                              |
| DRC     | Democratic Republic of the Congo                             |
| ECB     | European Central Bank                                        |
| EEC     | European Economic Community                                  |

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|          |                                                                 |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| EFL      | Entrepreneurial Finance Lab                                     |
| EIA      | Environmental impact assessment                                 |
| EITI     | Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative                   |
| EM       | Emerging market                                                 |
| EMDC     | Emerging market & developing countries                          |
| EP       | Emerging power                                                  |
| EPA      | Economic Partnership Agreement (ACP with the EU)                |
| EPZ      | Export processing zone                                          |
| ESG      | Environmental, social & governance standards                    |
| EU       | European Union                                                  |
| FAO      | Food & Agriculture Organisation                                 |
| FATF     | Financial Action Task Force                                     |
| FDI      | Foreign direct investment                                       |
| FFD      | Financing for development                                       |
| FIFA     | Federation International de Football Association                |
| FS       | Financial statecraft                                            |
| FSF/B    | Financial Stability Forum/Board                                 |
| G8/7     | Group of 8/7                                                    |
| G20      | Group of 20                                                     |
| GAPP     | Generally accepted principles & practices                       |
| GATS     | General Agreement on Trade in Services                          |
| GATT     | General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade                            |
| GEG      | Global economic governance                                      |
| GFC      | Global financial crisis                                         |
| GHG      | Global health governance                                        |
| GHG/s    | Greenhouse gases (emissions)                                    |
| GVC      | Global value chain                                              |
| HIV/AIDS | Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome |
| IADB     | Inter-American Development Bank                                 |
| IBRD     | International Bank for Reconstruction & Development             |
| ICC      | International Chamber of Commerce                               |
| ICT      | Information & communication technology                          |
| IG       | Internet gambling                                               |
| ILO      | International Labour Organization                               |
| IMF      | International Monetary Fund                                     |
| IOC      | International Olympic Committee                                 |
| IOM      | International Organization for Migration                        |
| IoT      | Internet of things                                              |
| IPE      | International political economy                                 |
| KP       | Kyoto Protocol (on climate change)                              |
| KPCS     | Kimberley Process Certification Scheme                          |
| LDC      | Least developed country                                         |

|          |                                                                                  |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LGBTQ    | Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer/Questioning                               |
| LLR      | Lender of last resort                                                            |
| LME      | Liberal market economy                                                           |
| LMICs    | Low- & middle-income countries                                                   |
| MDGs     | Millennium Development Goals                                                     |
| MENA     | Middle East & North Africa                                                       |
| MERCOSUR | Common Market of South America                                                   |
| MIKTA    | Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey, Australia                                |
| MINT     | Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria, Turkey                                               |
| MIST     | Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey                                           |
| MNC      | Multinational corporation                                                        |
| MSC      | Marine Stewardship Council                                                       |
| MSCI     | Morgan Stanley Capital International                                             |
| MSI      | Multi-stakeholder initiative                                                     |
| NAFTA    | North American Free Trade Agreement                                              |
| NATO     | North Atlantic Treaty Organisation                                               |
| NCD      | Non-communicable disease                                                         |
| NEPAD    | New Programme for Africa's Development                                           |
| NFL      | National Football League (US)                                                    |
| NGO      | Non-governmental organization                                                    |
| NIEO     | New International Economic Order                                                 |
| NIIP     | Net international investment position                                            |
| NOC      | National oil company                                                             |
| NTB      | Non-tariff barrier                                                               |
| ODA      | Official Development Assistance                                                  |
| OECD     | Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development                              |
| OECS     | Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States                                         |
| OFC      | Offshore Financial Centre                                                        |
| OPEC     | Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries                                |
| PBoC     | People's Bank of China                                                           |
| PPP      | Public-private partnership                                                       |
| PPP      | Purchasing power parity                                                          |
| PTA      | Preferential trade agreement                                                     |
| QE       | Quantitative easing                                                              |
| RCEP     | Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership                                      |
| REDD     | (UN programme for) Reducing Emissions from Deforestation &<br>Forest Degradation |
| REE      | Rare earth element                                                               |
| RMB      | Renminbi (or yuan) (currency of China)                                           |
| SDGs     | Sustainable Development Goals                                                    |
| SDR      | Special Drawing Rights                                                           |
| SIDS     | Small island developing states                                                   |
| SLDC     | Small & least-developed country                                                  |

**xxii      List of Acronyms**

|        |                                              |
|--------|----------------------------------------------|
| SME    | State-permeated market economy               |
| SOE    | State-owned enterprise                       |
| SSA    | Sub-Saharan Africa                           |
| SSA    | Social structures of accumulation            |
| SWF    | Sovereign Wealth Fund                        |
| TPP    | Trans-Pacific Partnership                    |
| TRIP   | Trade-related intellectual property (WTO)    |
| TTC    | Transnational tobacco company                |
| TTIP   | Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership |
| UAE    | United Arab Emirates                         |
| UN     | United Nations                               |
| UNASUR | Union of South American Nations              |
| UNCLOS | UN Convention on the Law of the Sea          |
| UNCTAD | UN Conference on Trade & Development         |
| UNDP   | UN Development Programme                     |
| UNEP   | UN Environmental Programme                   |
| UNFCCC | UN Framework Convention on Climate Change    |
| UNHCR  | UN High Commission for Refugees              |
| UNSC   | UN Security Council                          |
| VARP   | Vietnam, Argentina, Romania, Pakistan        |
| VoC    | Varieties of capitalism                      |
| WEF    | Water-energy-food 'nexus'                    |
| WEF    | World Economic Forum                         |
| WHO    | World Health Organisation                    |
| WTO    | World Trade Organisation                     |

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# 1

## Continuities and Change in IPE at the Start of the Twenty-first Century

Laura C. Mahrenbach and Timothy M. Shaw

### Introduction

The middle of the second decade of the twenty-first century may turn out to be more of a turning point for the global political economy than anticipated when capitalism became virtually global at the end of the Cold War. Given contemporary nationalist and protectionist demands by Donald Trump's White House, Theresa May's Brexit countdown, and right-wing regimes in parts of the newer European Union (EU), any 'New Global Partnership' may be different than envisaged by the United Nations (UN; Puplampu et al.

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2017). Frustrated with slow reforms, the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) have created now-functioning economic governance institutions of their own, not just to meet needs insufficiently covered by existing institutions but also as a means of integrating their philosophies of development into the governance landscape (Chin 2014; Abdenur and Folly 2015). At the same time, massive migrations around the middle of the second decade, especially towards the EU, have been intensified by fears of religion-based terrorism. This has produced nationalist social movements united in their scepticism towards the compromises necessary to sustain existing political governance—or at least management—of the world economy. Moves such as President Trump’s declaration that the United States (US) will withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement and an intensifying US-China trade war add fuel to this fire.

The political uncertainty is bolstered further by the contradictory economic forces at work. On the one hand, the world economy faces a variety of unprecedented headwinds, including:

- the exponential (long-term?) decline of established economic centres like the EU, Japan, and the US;
- continued reshuffling of what is ‘emerging’: classes, companies, economies, powers, even universities but also inequalities and non-communicable diseases (NCDs);
- relentless technological change and disruption, from the Internet and mobile phones to FinTech and the Internet of Things; and
- new and old ‘global’ issues, among them climate change, drugs, guns, gangs, migration, religious fundamentalism, and water.

The International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) most recent World Economic Outlook (2017) additionally highlights ‘persistent structural problems’ in the world economy and worries political will is insufficient to deploy the economic policies necessary to address them. These fears are pertinent at the regional level as well, with the OECD (2017) arguing that continuing high levels of unemployment in the Eurozone may slow the region’s growth prospects for years to come.

On the other hand, signs of progress are also apparent. The decade-long rise of the BRICs (later BRICS) has advanced rebalancing among countries (Gray and Murphy 2013), if not necessarily within them. The world’s most marginal continent, Africa, appears to be undergoing the anticipated renaissance (Shaw 2012): *The Economist’s* 2011 description of Africa as the ‘hopeful’ rather than the ‘hopeless’ is verified, at least in some areas (e.g. access to water), by progress

made towards achieving economic and social development goals (World Bank 2017). Speaking of development, and in response to encouragement from international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) ([www.beyond2015.org](http://www.beyond2015.org)) and think tanks ([www.post2015.org](http://www.post2015.org)), the UN has articulated new development desiderata under the banner of ‘sustainable development’ (<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>). These depict a finer-tuned approach to long-term development than did the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially in highlighting the manifold ways in which environmental disregard hinders economic progress in the developing world. Finally, *The Economist* (2017, 19) also recently noted that ‘for the first time since 2010, rich world and developing economies will put on synchronised growth spurts’.

This handbook captures the state of analysis of contemporary International Political Economy (IPE) which has not only been transformed by the end of bipolarity and the rise of emerging markets but continues to be buffeted by the forces described earlier. Both the analytic and existential ‘worlds’ of IPE are changing in myriad ways. For example, in June 2018, the threat to established multilateralism was palpable as President Trump ‘made nice’ with Russia’s Vladimir Putin and North Korea’s Kim Jong-Un, while publicly insulting Canada’s Justin Trudeau, leaving the G7 summit early and promising, then refusing, to sign a G7 joint statement. As analysts and advocates of IPE, we need to ponder how such new (and mercurial) alliances among strongmen affect the EU, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the G20, not to mention the BRICS and South-South cooperation. But we must also grapple with the implications of the reverse situation: cooperative strongmen may indeed threaten global governance, but competition among them can ‘also raise the risk of confrontation between them’ (MacKinnon 2018, A13). ‘Hawkish’ domestic reputations left India’s PM Narendra Modi and China’s President Xi Jinping little room to manoeuvre in resolving a border dispute in 2017 (Stuenkel 2017), threatening conflict at the annual BRICS summit and raising questions about when allegiance to multilateral clubs will be able to overcome such hurdles—and when they will not.

Our authors juxtapose a set of overlapping perspectives to consider whether and how the several ‘worlds’, from ‘old’ North Atlantic/North Pacific to the ‘emerging’ or ‘Second World’ (Khanna 2009), have grown together or apart as global crises and reordering proceeded. Every chapter includes a contemporary update on both existential and theoretical developments: from ‘Asian’ to ‘global’ crises, from newly industrialised countries to BRIC/S and Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey, and Australia (MIKTA). Our contributors include both established and rising scholars in IPE. Their work spans a variety

of disciplines and draws on both academic and practical experience in global economic affairs. Furthermore, in line with developments in IPE, many of our contributors come from the Global South, whether in diasporas or not. In preparing this handbook, then, we hope to reinforce the pressure towards a more 'global International Relations (IR)' as advocated by Amitav Acharya (2014), Arlene Tickner and Ole Wæver (2009), Parag Khanna (2009; [www.paragkhanna.com/](http://www.paragkhanna.com/)), Oliver Stuenkel (2015; [www.postwesternworld.com](http://www.postwesternworld.com)) and others.

The handbook is the third in Palgrave's new series of Handbooks on IPE, preceded by volumes on the *International Political Economy of Energy* (Van de Graaf et al. 2016) and on *Critical International Political Economy* (Castruny et al. 2016). It is informed by Timothy Shaw's IPE series at Palgrave Macmillan (now part of Springer Nature: [www.palgrave.com/ipe](http://www.palgrave.com/ipe)), which after 35 years continues to attract 20–30 new titles each year. That series always focused on the Global South, previously the 'Third World'. Symptomatically, eight of its hardback 'classics' were reissued in paperback in late 2013, accompanied by new prefaces. In other words, much remains to be done in understanding the issues and geographical areas of the Global South, and many of the chapters in this volume explicitly address this task. At the same time, we recognise that understanding the Global South in absentia of their interaction with the Global North is insufficient if we want to understand the growing complexity of today's economy and the political decisions which guide it. Consequently, from Brexit to climate change to macroeconomic imbalances, this volume explores issues where the Global North continues to both generate and hold responsibility for solving global problems and/or where South-North cooperation will prove crucial in the future.

This overview provides an introduction to the four themes explored by authors in this handbook. First, we discuss the development of contemporary IPE theory and, especially, how both theories and concepts have evolved in line with manifold changes in the global economy. Second, we consider elements of global reordering arising from global economic shocks of the 1990s, the rise of the BRICs/BRICS in the 2000s, and the subsequent global financial crisis (GFC) and (still) ongoing recovery. Third, we address the numerous and diverse global crises policymakers must confront, ranging from food insecurity to financial regulation to development. Fourth, we engage with several specific issues in contemporary IPE, where our authors alternately provide a new take on established issues (e.g. globalisation) or point out new areas whose micro- and macroeconomic implications are likely to be substantial. We conclude our overview by identifying five changes which should shape how we understand, teach, and practise IPE, particularly related to the Global South, in the coming decades.

## Contemporary IPE Theory

Given the changes to the world economy—and the political context within which it is regulated and managed—it is unsurprising that scholars are redefining the boundaries of IPE theory to incorporate new issues, actors, institutions, and levels of governance. Such novel forms of analysis are increasingly demanded as orthodox, established disciplines like IR remain hesitant to look outside the state and the formal. Several trends are apparent in the existing literature, which are also reflected in the contributions of this handbook's authors.

First, scholars—and even practitioners—are increasingly updating traditional theories of IPE to accommodate the increasing *geographical diversity* of our understandings of IPE. For example, the world of capitalisms has never been more diverse. Authors increasingly explore new 'varieties of capitalism' in the Global South in addition to old trans-Atlantic and -Pacific capitalisms (Nölke 2014). Southern varieties of capitalisms are themselves diverse, varying even within regions. For instance, Nigeria and South Africa are increasingly connected and yet display strikingly different forms of 'African' capitalism: while Nigeria is a highly informal political economy with a small formal sector rooted in energy, beer, consumer goods, and so on, South Africa is characterised by a well-established formal economy centred on mining, manufacturing, farming, finance, services, and so on. Changes in the world economy and global economic governance have simultaneously bolstered the activities of new actors and suppressed the dominance of others. From Brazil and India's proactive engagement in global trade negotiations (Hopewell 2016) to the new power vacuum in climate governance which China and the EU are happy to fill (Adams 2017), rising powers and established states are collectively and individually carving out new roles for themselves in the US-led/dominated system of global governance and changing that system in the process. Such changes have raised questions about the applicability of old IPE theory for explaining contemporary global economic governance (e.g. Schmidt 2009). In response, scholars are developing new concepts and reconfiguring old ones to better approximate how geographical diversity in governance affects the global political economy (Destradi 2016; Fonseca et al. 2016).

A second trend sees authors pushing the boundaries of traditional theories to *improve predictions and fill gaps in our understanding*. These innovations have often been prompted by changes in the global economy and global economic governance. For instance, the clash between rising energy demands and

the threat of climate change has prompted a re-evaluation of classical Marxist understandings of how and why capital accumulates in the world economy (see DiMuzio and Dow (Chap. 34), this volume). Likewise, the proliferation of global states (Cooper and Shaw 2013) concurrent with Brexit, the EU's migration invasion, and the resulting undermining of the EU as a regional model has led scholars to engage with a variety of 'new' regionalisms (Krapohl 2017; Shaw et al. 2011). Other innovations expand the scope of traditional theories. For example, work on 'financial statecraft' demonstrates the relevance of neorealist IR theory to development and financial policy in addition to the theory's classical emphasis on balance of power and security (Roberts et al. 2018). Similarly, domestic politics have been shown to matter even in technical issue areas like WTO dispute settlement reform, raising new questions about how domestic preferences affect global economic positions when electoral pressures are weak (Mahrenbach 2016). Yet, other authors seek to clear up theoretical muddling by scholars and reporters alike. For instance, Matthew Eagleton-Pierce (2016) dissects 'neoliberalism' into 44 related concepts, depicting the diverse pathways by which neoliberalism has become ingrained in economic behaviour at the individual, national, and global levels.

A final trend sees scholars broadening theoretical horizons in response to the *expanding complexity of economic governance*. As semi-state, hybrid formats increasingly challenge and supersede exclusively interstate international organisations and laws, 'governance' is being redefined and rearticulated (Harman and Williams 2013; Bevir 2011). This has led to new interest in the role of informal international organisations in the global economy (Vabulas and Snidal 2013) as well as the rediscovery and rehabilitation of 'transnational' governance (Dingwerth 2008; Hale and Held 2011; see also Keohane and Nye 1972). Furthermore, scholars have accorded more attention to the creation of—and interaction among—multiple levels of governance. Nowhere is this more apparent than in reference to changes in global trade. Recent negotiations, for instance, for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the US and the EU sparked strong public engagement (and often resentment), with the Belgian province of Wallonia demonstrating just how important subnational actors are in today's polarised environment. At the same time, bilateral and regional preferential trade agreements (PTAs) have proliferated as the Doha Development Agenda puttered along, fostering a move towards 'thin institutionalism' and a more power-based system of trade governance (Trommer 2017). Trade scholars have responded by making room for non-state actors in their analyses (Siles-Brügge 2018), exploring the changing power relations at the heart of trade governance (Hopewell 2016,

Narlikar and Priyadarshi 2014) and updating theories to include the interaction between different levels of trade policymaking (Mahrenbach 2013). These theoretical developments will have long-term implications for IPE, for example, by encouraging the creation of innovative new graduate programmes, such as PhDs at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, or Waterloo, which incorporate extended concepts of global governance (see Weiss and Wilkinson 2014) into young scholars' curricula.

The chapters in this section reflect these trends. Not only do they span the multiple levels of analysis crucial to understanding how heightened complexity and diversity are affecting global economic affairs. They additionally reflect on IPE theory's empirical implications regarding political- and socio-economic decision-making across the world. How can theoretical adaptation enhance our ability to explain changes in today's global economy? And how can it help us better prepare our students for the world in which they will engage as scholars, activists, advisors, and practitioners?

## Global Reordering

The growing salience and activism of emerging powers and emerging markets, including but not limited to the BRICS, constitutes a central shift in global relations. This has been reflected in the proliferation of analytical perspectives about emerging economies, middle classes, multinational companies (MNCs), states, and societies in contemporary economic affairs. It is also evident in the interdisciplinary interest in global reordering: compare Goldstein's (2009) political economy approach to emerging MNCs with Pieterse's (2011) socio-logically informed concept of 'emerging societies'. Innovations in the institutional architecture of IPE scholarship, such as new centres for studying the BRICS in Delhi ([www.orfonline.org](http://www.orfonline.org)), Rio ([www.bricspolicycenter.org](http://www.bricspolicycenter.org)), and Toronto (<http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/>) and institutes focussed on regions and regionalism, such as German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg ([www.giga-hamburg.de](http://www.giga-hamburg.de)) or United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) in Bruges ([www.cris.unu.edu](http://www.cris.unu.edu)), have secured global transitions at the forefront of IPE scholarship in years to come.

Crucially, while much of this work has concentrated on the BRIC/S and 'emerging' or 'rising powers' (e.g. Lesage and Van de Graaf 2015), IPE scholars, nonetheless, recognise the diversity of the 'new' in today's world. Studies have detailed the nuances and repercussions of growing engagement by 'middle powers', 'regional powers', and a variety of other types of powers in global