

Feb 8 Reaction Paper

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Mathews, "Power Shift"

International organizations have been growing at light speed since the end of the Cold War. Most of the changes to the state, global business market, and boom in international NGOs are due to technology. There are positives such as increased global security, human rights, etc, but also problems such as the difficulty many have with large scale projects, a democratic deficit, and potential loyalty dislocations. My major question is how have things changed in the last 8 years since this article was written? How have environmental NGOs have responded to the Bush Administration's assault on environmental regulations in the U.S.

Kaldor, "The Idea of Global Society"

Kaldor takes us through a history of Civil Society from Aristotle to 9/11. Hegel distinguished CS from the state, yet it was still congruent with the state, mostly to unite against a common enemy. In the 70's, Latin America and Europe helped break the link with the state. In the 90's the social movement evolved and CS helped institutionalized the stable long term ones. A New Policy Agenda tries to drive CS to be "a mechanism for facilitating market reform and intro of parliamentary democracy" or a "neoliberal vision." Finally the postmodern version included the good movements with the bad ones. 9/11 and the Iraq War demonstrated that the U.S. is the only nation to still act with global unilateralism not controlled by globalization. Kaldor hypothesizes that the Bush administration cannot stop globalization. How are international relations distinguished from civil society here?

Rieff, "The False Dawn of Civil Society?"

This article take the con side of civil society, articulating how the magic silver bullet that civil society promises is but a guise for liberal market capitalism at best, and insidious special interest organizations with no accountability at worst. The author's more interesting points and powerful criticism deal with the way that civil society tries to symbolize democratic values, yet it undermines the state, a democratically elected entity. This article was written in 1999. Would Rieff still illustrate this in light of the Iraq War? Would he have like the UN to have made more of an impact on the events leading up to the war? It is likely that he would have liked people to get more involved in the political arena.

Clark, "Worlds Apart"

Clark's two chapters described the dynamics of civil society over the last two decades and analyzed three case studies. He charts their ascendancy, ascribing their growth due to cheapness, technology, and ability to travel. He describes the advocacy of these organizations as well as their problems (lack of accountability, effectiveness, etc.). In the second chapter he goes into depth about the various organizational model forms and how much of the world is in the form of N-models. He describes many of the challenges faced by organizations today. Case #2 about Amnesty International, raised some interesting points. When should an organization change its mission and when should it keep from growing beyond its goals or means?

Smith, Pagnucco, Chatfield, "Social Movements and World Politics"

This piece maps out transnational social movements, their methods, their arenas, and effects on the global stage. They are important in focusing attention on global issues, they "help governments learn about a problem," and "enhance government accountability." These movements are necessary because of current

	<p>developments in the economy, technology, etc., and that political processes, international and domestic are increasingly interdependent (77). Who will formalize terms and concepts in this field? Who in the end will decide what constitutes a transnational social movement vs. a social organization? This is the one major difficulty through much of the reading: Civil Society has no standard. This is strength, but also an incredibly confusing weakness. What other fields are like this? Journalism perhaps operates without a legal form of accountability.</p>
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