Issues in World Politics

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**Brian White, Richard Little
and Michael Smith**

Editors

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ISSUES IN WORLD POLITICS

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Preface

One of the exciting and challenging effects of the 'modularization' of undergraduate programmes is the growing number of students sampling areas of study outside their main field(s), particularly in the first year of study. In common with many other academics, the challenge for university teachers of International Relations/World Politics is to devise and write introductory textbooks that will not only serve the interests of specialist students but will also appeal to a wider range of undergraduates fascinated by particular aspects of the contemporary world but who may not want to pursue the subject further.

This book attempts to meet that challenge by adopting as its focus the range of issues that are at the heart of the agenda of contemporary world politics. The working assumption here is that issues which are often the subject of topical debate and media coverage provide an important point of access to world politics for a large number of students. The book therefore seeks to build upon some knowledge and an existing interest not only by providing relevant information and a context for making sense of particular issues but also by explicitly addressing the question of what these issues collectively tell us about the nature of world politics at the end of the twentieth century.

What began as an idea and a challenge could only develop to a successful conclusion with the cooperation of a number of people. Steven Kennedy, our publishing editor, gave the project enthusiastic support and encouragement from start to finish. Brian White succeeded in tempting Richard Little and Michael Smith to share editorial duties while undertaking to manage the project. The editors in turn were delighted to receive the support of experts on particular issues who rose to the challenge of writing for non-specialist as well as specialist students and managed to stick to the common format and a very tight set of deadlines. Edited volumes can be a difficult experience for editors but in this case it was a

pleasure – for which many thanks to the contributors. Grateful thanks are also due to Sheila Berrisford, Jean Edwards and Barbra Georgellis who all provided crucial help and support at various stages of the project.

BRIAN WHITE
RICHARD LITTLE
MICHAEL SMITH

Notes on the Contributors

Sita Bali is a Senior Lecturer in International Relations at Staffordshire University. Her doctoral research explored the international political implications of migration through an examination of the British Sikh community, and she is the author of a forthcoming book on the politics of the Sikh diaspora titled *Sikhs: The Search for Statehood*. She has also written articles on Indian politics.

Anoushiravan Ehteshami is Reader in International Relations and Director of Postgraduate Studies at the Centre for Middle East and Islamic Studies, University of Durham. His recent publications include (as co-editor) *Islamic Fundamentalism* (1996); *After Khomeini: The Iranian Second Republic* (1995); and (as editor) *From the Gulf to Central Asia: Players in the New Great Game* (1994). His latest book (with Professor Hinnebusch) is *Syria and Iran: Middle Powers in a Penetrated Regional System* (1997).

Richard Little is Professor of International Politics at the University of Bristol. He has also taught at the Open University and Lancaster University and was the editor of the *Review of International Studies* from 1990 to 1994. He has written extensively in the area of international relations theory and his publications include (with Robert McKinlay) *Global Politics and World Order* (1986) and (with Barry Buzan and Charles Jones) *The Logic of Anarchy* (1993).

Michael Pugh is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Politics at the University of Plymouth. He is the editor of the journal *International Peacekeeping* and has written or edited works on maritime security issues and humanitarianism and peacekeeping, including *Maritime Security and Peacekeeping* (1995); 'Humanitarianism and Peacekeeping', *Global Society* (10:3, 1996); and *The UN, Peace and Force* (1997).

Melvyn Reader is currently completing a Ph.D. in the Department of Politics at the University of Southampton. His doctoral thesis is on 'The Rise of Protestant "Fundamentalism" in World Politics: A Case Study of Brazil', which examines the relationship between the impact of globalization on development and the growth of religious fundamentalism in the 'South'.

Alan Russell is a Senior Lecturer in International Relations at Staffordshire University. He is the author of *The Biotechnology Revolution: An International Perspective* (1988). His recent publications include 'Merging Technological Paradigms and the Knowledge Structure in the International Political Economy' in *Science and Public Policy* (22:2, 1995), and 'Technology as Knowledge: Generic Technology and Change in the Global Political Economy', in Talalay *et al.* (eds), *Technology, Culture and Competitiveness and the Global Political Economy* (1996).

Stephen Ryan is a Senior Lecturer in the School of History, Philosophy and Politics at the University of Ulster. He is the author of *Ethnic Conflict and International Relations* (2nd edn, 1995) and has written several chapters and articles on the themes of ethnic conflict, conflict resolution and international relations.

Michael Smith is Professor of European Politics and Jean Monnet Chair holder in the Department of European Studies at Loughborough University. He was previously Professor of International Studies and Dean of the School of International Studies and Law at Coventry University. His publications include (edited with Richard Little) *Perspectives on World Politics* (2nd edn, 1991); (with Stephen Woolcock) *The United States and the European Community in a Transformed World* (1993); and (with Brian Hocking) *World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* (2nd edn, 1995).

Joanna Spear is a lecturer in the Department of War Studies at King's College, London. She recently returned from two years as a research fellow at the Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University. Her most recent publications are *Carter and Arms Sales: Implementing the Carter Administration's Arms Transfer Restraint Policy* (1995), and 'The Role of Arms

Limitations and Confidence and Security Building Measures', in Brown (ed.), *The International Dimensions of Internal Conflict* (1996).

Caroline Thomas is Reader in Politics at the University of Southampton and her primary research interest is in the 'South' in international relations. Her recent publications include (with Peter Wilkin as co-editor) *Globalization and the South* (1996); (as editor) *Rio: Unravelling the Consequences* (1994); and *The Environment in International Relations* (1992).

John Vogler is Professor of International Relations at Liverpool John Moores University. Since 1990 he has been the Convener of the BISA Environment Group and a member of the Economic and Social Research Council Global Environmental Change Programme Committee. His recent publications include *The Global Commons: A Regime Analysis* (1995) and (with Mark Imber as co-editor) *The Environment and International Relations* (1996).

Mark Webber is a lecturer in the Department of European Studies at Loughborough University. His recent publications include *The International Politics of Russia and the Successor States* (1996); 'Coping with Anarchy: Ethnic Conflict and International Organizations in the Former Soviet Union', *International Relations* (13:1, 1996); and 'The Soviet Union, Russia and 1945: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back', *Journal of Area Studies* (7, 1995).

Brian White is Professor of International Relations and Head of International Relations and Politics at Staffordshire University. His publications include *Britain, Detente and Changing East-West Relations* (1992); (with Michael Clarke as co-editor) *Understanding Foreign Policy: A Foreign Policy Systems Approach* (1989); and (with Michael Smith and Steve Smith as co-editors) *British Foreign Policy: Tradition, Change and Transformation* (1988).

List of Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AMRAAMs	Advanced, Medium-Range, Air-to-Air Missiles
AOSIS	Association of Small Island States
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of South-east Asian Nations
BAe	British Aerospace
BMD	Ballistic Missile Defence
BWC	Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention
CAAT	Campaign Against the Arms Trade
CAFOD	Catholic Fund for Overseas Development
CBW	Chemical and Biological Weapons
CCW	Convention on Conventional Weapons
CFCs	Chlorofluorocarbons
CITES	Convention on Trade in Endangered Species
CMEA	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
CoCom	Coordinating Committee on Multilateral Export Controls
CSD	Commission for Sustainable Development (of the UN)
CTBT	Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
CWC	Chemical Weapons Convention
DHA	Department of Humanitarian Affairs (of the UN)
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ERM	Exchange Rate Mechanism
ETA	<i>Euskadi ta Askatasuna</i>
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (of the UN)
FCCC	Framework Convention on Climate Change
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
G-7	Group of Seven
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDO	Grassroots Development Organization
GDR	German Democratic Republic
GEC	Global Environmental Change

GNP	Gross National Product
HCFC	Hydrochloroflourocarbon
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Seas
ICO	Islamic Conference Organization
ICPF	International Commission on Peace and Food
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
IFOR	Implementation Force (of NATO)
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IGO	Intergovernmental Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPE	International Political Economy
IRA	Irish Republican Army
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LDC	Less Developed Country
MARPOL	Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MERCOSUR	Mercado Comun del Cono Sur (Southern Common Market)
MNC	Multinational Corporation
MPLA	Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola
MTCR	Missile Technology Control Regime
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIC	Newly-Industrializing Country
NPT	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
NSG	Nuclear Suppliers Group
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
P5	Permanent Five Members of the UN Security Council
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
RPF	Rwandan Patriotic Front
SALT	Strategic Arms Limitation Talks
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programme
SIPRI	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
TNB	Transnational bank
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITA	União Nacional para a Independencia de Angola
UNPROFOR	United Nations Protection Force
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
VAT	Value-Added Tax
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development
WEU	Western European Union
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization