

Book Review: Carnegie, Allison and Clark, Richard. Global Governance Under Fire: How International Organizations Resist the Populist Wave. **Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2026. 226 pages, paperback, \$32.95.**

Carnegie and Clark's new book, *Global Governance Under Fire: How International Organizations Resist the Populist Wave* is intriguing as the authors research the ability of international organizations navigating the political arena during the populist wave impacting global politics. As noted by Carnegie and Clark, "The organs of global governance, painstakingly constructed through decades of diplomatic negotiation and multilateral agreements, face unprecedented threats" (p.1). They continue to write, "An array of challenges has fueled opposition to global governance: rising economic inequality, mass migration, a global pandemic, the existential threat of climate change, technological interruptions and the shifting international balance of power (p.1). International organizations are facing these challenges as the political makeup continues to shift due to the new alignment following the populist wave.

Populism—as noted by Carnegie and Clark—is currently popular in the global arena for how it touches on a number of important philosophical constructs across numerous parties. "Because many political ideologies and core values are compatible with populism, its appeal crosses party and ideological lines, boosting its popularity. Populism's congruence with other beliefs help populists attract support at the ballot box relative to other skeptics of international cooperation" (p.7). Populism—as noted by Carnegie and Clark, is having a tremendous impact on the global political arena. They explain that a number of scholars see it as a detriment to the political arena. For Carnegie and Clark, populism presents a number of challenges to international organizations. Carnegie and Clark use their research as an opportunity to look at the resilience of these international organizations despite the potential for this political upheaval due to populism.

In *Global Governance Under Fire: How International Organizations Resist the Populist Wave*, Carnegie and Clark highlight a couple of important notions in the international political arena. They "explore the effects of populist attacks on the foundations of the international order" (p.2). They research a couple of important questions such as: "Can international cooperation survive despite the rise and persistence of populism? If so, what form will it take, and what are the implications for the quality of global governance?" (p.2). Carnegie and Clark note that the concern in the international community focuses on the idea that populism as a political concept shifts society away from concepts like globalization and elite individuals serving in leadership positions within international organizations. The more that populism gains political traction, the more concern there is for the important factor of international organizations to potentially stop being a critical factor in the international political arena. They note that "global governances are under threat" (p.4). Given these political factors, Carnegie and Clark use these global challenges as a means of understanding how "populism is changing the global order" (p.4).

Carnegie and Clark's book is a study examining the political pressure from populism and how international organizations navigate these challenges (p.27). They also make a number of important suggestions for international organizations to move towards "long-term resilience" (p.27). The book consists of several chapters that look at a variety of different factors for international organizations. The book includes nine chapters on: populism and global governance, theory, how IOs fight back, populist attacks on IO, sidelining populist leaders, appeasing populist constituents, appeasing populist constituents, institutional resilience and a conclusion. In short, the authors contend that international organizations are resilient. They write, "their ability to navigate these turbulent waters has kept the primary organs of global governance functioning, safeguarding international cooperation at a time when it is vital to address mounting

challenges, including climate change and global health crises. From quiet diplomacy and issuing strategic concessions to forgoing alliances and leveraging technology, IOs have shown that they possess both the tools and the will to confront populist challenges"(p.225-226).

Global Governance Under Fire: How International Organizations Resist the Populist Wave is not only an intriguing read, but contributes to the literature in an important fashion. International organizations are a vital contributing factor to the functioning of policy and international law. The book focuses on how international organizations are proving to be resilient during the populist wave.

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