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International Organizations and Small States

Participation, Legitimacy and Vulnerability

By Jack Corbett, Xu Yi-chong and Patrick Weller

International Organizations (IOs) are vital institutions in world politics in which cross-border issues can be discussed and global problems managed.

This path-breaking book shows the efforts that small states have made to participate more fully in IO activities. It draws attention to the challenges created by widened participation in IOs and develops an original model of the dilemmas that both IOs and small states face as the norms of sovereign equality and the right to develop coincide.

Drawing on extensive qualitative data, including more than 80 interviews conducted for this book, the authors find that the strategies which both IOs and small states adopt to balance their respective dilemmas can explain both continuity and change in their interactions with institutions ranging from UN agencies to the World Trade Organization.

Contents

1. Introduction

Part I: Actors

- 2. Why Do IOs Encourage the Participation of Small States?
- 3. Why Do Small States Engage with IOs?

Part II: Interactions

- 4. Differentiated Vulnerabilities, Climate Change and the UN Agencies
- 5. Differentiated Development in the IMF, the WBG, and the WTO
- 6. Expanding the Agenda at the WHO and the WIPO
- 7. Conclusion

Notes

References

Index

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