International Institutions and National Policies

The proliferation of international institutions and their impact has become a central issue in international relations. Why do countries comply with international agreements and how do international institutions influence national policies? In contrast to theories that focus on the extent to which international institutions can wield ‘carrots and sticks’ directly in their relations with states, Xinyuan Dai presents an alternative framework in which they influence national policies indirectly by utilizing nonstate actors and expowering domestic constituencies. In this way, even weak international institutions that lack ‘carrots and sticks’ may have powerful effects on states. Supported by empirical studies of environmental politics, human rights, and economic and security issues, this book sheds fresh light on how and why international institutions matter. It will be of interest to students, scholars and policymakers in both international relations and international law.

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