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978-1-107-07274-9 - Power, Order, and Change in World Politics

Edited by G. John Ikenberry

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Power, Order, and Change in World Politics

Are there recurring historical dynamics and patterns that can help us understand today's power transitions and struggles over international order? What can we learn from the past? Are the cycles of rise and decline of power and international order set to continue? Robert Gilpin's classic work, *War and Change in World Politics*, offers a sweeping and influential account of the rise and decline of leading states and the international orders they create. Now, some thirty years on, this volume brings together an outstanding collection of scholars to reflect on Gilpin's grand themes of power and change in world politics. The chapters engage with theoretical ideas that shape the way we think about great powers, with the latest literature on the changing US position in the global system, and with the challenges to the existing order that are being generated by China and other rising non-Western states.

G. JOHN IKENBERRY is the Albert G. Milbank Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University in the Department of Politics and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He is also Co-Director of Princeton's Center for International Security Studies. Professor Ikenberry is also a Global Eminence Scholar at Kyung Hee University in Seoul, Korea, and in 2013–2014 he was the 72nd Eastman Visiting Professor at Balliol College, Oxford.

Professor Ikenberry has written and edited several books, including *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars* (2001), which won the 2002 Schroeder-Jervis Award presented by the American Political Science Association for the best book in international history and politics, and *International Relations Theory and the Consequences of Unipolarity* (Cambridge University Press, 2011).

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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107421066

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First published 2014

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

Power, order, and change in world politics / edited by G. John Ikenberry.

pages cm

ISBN 978-1-107-07274-9 (Hardback) – ISBN 978-1-107-42106-6 (Paperback)

1. International relations. 2. World politics. 3. Balance of power.

4. Hegemony. 5. Gilpin, Robert. War and change in world politics.

I. Ikenberry, G. John, author, editor of compilation.

JZ1310.P694 2014

327.1'12–dc23 2014010353

ISBN 978-1-107-07274-9 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-42106-6 Paperback

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Acknowledgments

The idea for this book started with a conversation in the hallways of Bendheim Hall at Princeton University. Wolfgang Danspeckgruber, Director of the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination, remarked to me that the thirtieth anniversary of Robert Gilpin's *War and Change in World Politics* was fast approaching. We agreed that this would be a perfect occasion to assemble a group of scholars to reflect on the book's grand themes of power and change in world politics. The goal has not been to produce a Festschrift, but to invite scholars to grapple with the theory and vision that Gilpin advances. With Gilpin's book as a starting point, how can we make sense of today's great shifts in power and global order?

Work on this book began on the twenty-ninth anniversary of *War and Change in World Politics*, and it was completed on the thirty-third anniversary. So the book has been long in the making, but it has been a decidedly joyful undertaking for everyone involved. The authors in this volume have been driven by several motivations. One has been to honor Robert Gilpin and his groundbreaking book. Most of the scholars who have contributed essays, including myself, have pursued our work "in the shadow" of *War and Change*. It is a book that has inspired and provoked us. Gilpin's book provides a framework in which many of us have either built on or pushed off against. So the book reflects our efforts to acknowledge a debt to Robert Gilpin. Another motivation has been to showcase the range of current research and debates that flow out of Gilpin's book. Building on realist theory, Gilpin constructed a framework for thinking about great shifts in the global system. It has provided a conceptual language and large-scale hypotheses for inquiry into the rise and fall of international order. The authors in this volume have taken up the challenge of thinking in new ways about the logic of order and change in world politics, doing so with a focus on contemporary power shifts and struggles over order.

When Gilpin wrote his book, the Cold War was not yet ended and Japan was on the rise. Today, the Soviet Union no longer exists and it is

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China that is on the rise. The cast of leading states on the world stage has changed but the drama over power and order remains. The struggle over global order continues. For this reason, Gilpin's last words in his book seem profoundly relevant today. "The supreme task for statesmen in the final decades of the twentieth century is to build on the positive forces of our age in the creation of a new and more stable international order."

I would like to acknowledge the generous financial assistance of the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination, the Center for International Security Studies, and the Program on the Future of Multilateralism, all at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. Thanks also go to Wolfgang Danspeckgruber and Aaron Friedberg for their support. I also acknowledge the excellent assistance of Lindsay Woodrick, Cynthia Ernst, and Alexander Lanoszka.

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