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978-0-521-54181-7 - *Altered States: The Globalization of Accountability*

Valerie Sperling

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Altered States

The Globalization of Accountability

Is globalization good for democracy? Or has it made our governing institutions less accountable to citizens? Located at the intersection of international relations and comparative politics, this book explores the effects of globalization on national governance. Under what circumstances do the transnational forces that embody globalization encourage or discourage political accountability? Among the transnational forces discussed in the book are the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, multinational corporations, the United Nations, private military contractors, peacekeepers, the European Court of Human Rights, and several transnational social movements. Using in-depth case studies of situations in which these transnational institutions interact with national governments and citizens, Valerie Sperling traces the impact of economic, political, military, judicial, and civic globalization on state accountability and investigates the degree to which transnational institutions are themselves responsible to the people whose lives they alter.

Valerie Sperling is Associate Professor of Government and International Relations at Clark University. She is the author of *Organizing Women in Contemporary Russia: Engendering Transition* (Cambridge University Press, 1999) and the editor of *Building the Russian State* (2000). Her research on the Russian women's movement, as well as on militarism and patriotism in Russia, has been published in *Nations & Nationalism*, *Women & Politics*, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, and numerous edited volumes.

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Acknowledgments

Trying to make a useful contribution to a veritable ocean of literature on globalization seemed at times like the height of academic folly. When a friend on a Fulbright fellowship to the Russian city of Volgograd learned by email that I was writing a book on globalization, she replied with oddly threatening encouragement: “Go to it! As long as you promise it’s the one book I can read in order to get a grasp of the issues!” I made no such promise. In fact, as my research led me in one direction after another, I began to think of the topic as something resembling an outsize amoeba. I would poke the project in one area and it would bulge out in another, demanding attention. Rather than getting a firm grasp of the innumerable aspects of the topic of globalization and accountability, readers of this book will, I hope, be led to pursue further many of the fluid and challenging issues raised herein.

I am grateful to the many people who helped *me* get a grasp of those issues. They include: Brad Adams, Anton Burkov, Eva Busza, Jeff Checkel, Matt Evangelista, Steve Fish, Eric Gordy, Evan Gottesman, Henry Hale, Steve Hanson, Pauline Jones Luong, Pam Jordan, Diederik Lohman, Sarah Martin, Susan McLucas, Sarah Mendelson, Joel Ostrow, Margo Picken, Paul Posner, Jim Richter, Kathleen Schneider, Martina Vandenberg, Celeste Wallander, and Kristen Williams. I owe much to the book’s two anonymous reviewers for their careful reading of my text, their insightful comments, and their uncanny ability to distill (and then tell me) what I was *really* arguing. I am fortunate to have worked with Lew Bateman, my editor at Cambridge University Press; his interest in my initial book proposal and ongoing support of the project helped me pursue it to completion. I also thank my parents, and my good friends and colleagues in

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