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978-1-107-03504-1 - Governing Failure: Provisional Expertise and the Transformation of Global Development Finance

Jacqueline Best

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Governing Failure

Jacqueline Best argues that the changes in International Monetary Fund, World Bank and donor policies in the 1990s, towards what some have called the 'Post-Washington Consensus,' were driven by an erosion of expert authority and an increasing preoccupation with policy failure. Failures such as the Asian financial crisis and the decades of despair in sub-Saharan Africa led these institutions to develop governance strategies designed to avoid failure: fostering country ownership, developing global standards, managing risk and vulnerability, and measuring results. In contrast to the structural adjustment era when policymakers were confident that they had all the answers, the author argues that we are now in an era of provisional governance, in which key actors are aware of the possibility of failure even as they seek to inoculate themselves against it. This book considers the implications of this shift, asking if it is a positive change and whether it is sustainable.

JACQUELINE BEST is an Associate Professor in the School of Political Studies at the University of Ottawa. Her work focuses on the social, cultural and political underpinnings of the global economic system, which she studies by examining how organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank work to govern the global economy.

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CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press,
 New York

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
 education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107035041

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First published 2014

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

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

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Best, Jacqueline, 1970–

Governing failure : provisional expertise and the transformation of global
 development finance / Jacqueline Best.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-03504-1 (Hardback)

1. Economic development—Finance. 2. Economic assistance. 3. Development
 banks. 4. Nongovernmental organizations. 5. Corporate governance. I. Title.
 HD75.B4965 2014

332.1'53—dc23 2013028563

ISBN 978-1-107-03504-1 Hardback

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Acknowledgements

In the almost seven years that I have been working on this book in one form or another, I have collected a number of debts to colleagues, research assistants and friends.

I would like to start by thanking those colleagues who generously commented on one or more chapters of the final manuscript, including Michael Orsini, Paul Langley, Michael Best, Tony Porter, André Broome and William Walters. A number of others have commented over the years on earlier versions of these chapters, including Mat Paterson, Alexandra Gheciu, Iver Neumann, Lindsey McGoey, Stefano Guzzini, Arne Rückert, Ole Jacob Sending, Len Seabrooke, Rob Aitken, David Black, Rodney Bruce Hall, Kate Weaver, Mark Blyth, Charlotte Epstein, Eric Helleiner, Bessma Momani, Randall Germain and Susan Park.

Earlier versions of several chapters were presented at a number of workshops, conferences and talks. Many of these talks provided crucial feedback on the central theoretical and methodological arguments of this volume. I was particularly inspired by the discussions during workshops at the Copenhagen Business School on “The Business of International Organizations,” and at the European Consortium for Political Research on “Diffusion of Authority,” together with talks at the University of Queensland, the University of Oxford, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, the North-South Institute, the University of Warwick and the University of Sydney.

I am fortunate to be working in an environment where I am surrounded by some excellent minds. Many of the ideas in this book are inspired by conversations with friends and colleagues at the University of Ottawa and Carleton University, including Kevin McMillan, Dalie Giroux, Stephen Brown, Nisha Shah, Paul Saurette, Susan Spronk, Patrick Leblond, Laura Macdonald, H el ene Pellerin, Kathryn Trevenen and Marie-Jos ee Massicotte. I am also indebted to the participants of the International Political Economy Network seminar at the University of Ottawa where I was able to present an overview of the project towards the end of the writing process.

I benefitted from some excellent research and editorial assistance in producing this volume. I would particularly like to thank Marie Langevin

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and Kailey Cannon for their superb research and editorial skills, without which this book would not have been possible. Phillippe Roseberry, Robert MacNeil, Maxime Ouellet and Dan Furukawa Marques also helped enormously through their research assistance.

The research for this book was supported financially by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, together with the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa. I also benefited from research leave spent at the University of Oxford – where I enjoyed support from the Global Economic Governance Centre, the Department of International Development and the Institute for Science, Innovation and Technology – and at the University of Queensland’s School of Political Science and International Studies. I would like to thank Ngaire Woods, Rodney Bruce-Hall, Steve Woolgar and Roland Bleiker for making me welcome at these institutions.

I was also fortunate in being able to benefit from access to several archival collections in researching this book, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Archives, the World Bank Archives and the British National Archives. Premela Isaac and Jean Marcocyeux at the IMF Archives and Sherinne Thompson at the World Bank Archives provided invaluable assistance.

Parts of Chapter 5, “Fostering ownership,” appeared in *Third World Quarterly*, 28 (3), 2007, and parts of Chapter 7, “Managing risk and vulnerability,” appeared in *Third World Quarterly*, 34 (2), 2013. Both are reproduced here with the permission of Taylor and Francis, www.tandfonline.com.

Figure 8.1, “The LOGFRAME,” is reproduced from a report prepared for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID): Project Analysis and Monitoring Company. 1980. “The Logical Framework.” Prepared for the United States Agency for International Development, Document # PN-AAR-443. Washington, DC. The report is available through the USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse: http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNAAR443.pdf.

Figure 8.2, “CIDA results chain,” is reproduced from a Government of Canada official document: CIDA. 2008. “Results-based Management – 2008 Policy Statement: Amended Terms and Definitions.” Gatineau: Canadian International Development Agency. Available from www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/acdi-cida.nsf/eng/ANN-102094249-J4B. The reproduction has not been produced in affiliation with, or with the endorsement of, the Government of Canada.

Finally, I would like to thank my husband and partner, Paul Tyler, for his support and encouragement over the past years as I navigated the ups and downs of the research and writing process.

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Abbreviations

ANT	actor network theory
CAS	country assistance strategy
CCT	conditional cash transfer
CDF	comprehensive development framework
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CGD	Centre for Global Development
COD	cash on delivery
CPIA	country policy and institutional assessment
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DFID	United Kingdom Department for International Development
DFGG	demand for good governance
DSA	debt sustainability analysis
DSF	debt sustainability framework
ED	Executive Director
EFF	Extended Fund Facility
ESAF	Enhanced Structural Adjustment Fund
FSAP	Financial Sector Assessment Program
GAC	governance and corruption strategy
GDDS	general data dissemination standard
GDP	gross domestic product
HIPC	highly indebted poor country
IDA	International Development Association
IEO	Independent Evaluation Office
IFI	international financial institution
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IO	international organization
IPE	international political economy
IR	international relations
LIC	low-income country

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LOGFRAME	logical framework
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation
MGDs	millennium development goals
NGO	non-governmental organization
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OED	Operations Evaluation Department
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
P4R	program for results lending
PBA	performance-based allocation
PDR	Policy Development and Review Department
PEFA	public expenditure and financial accountability
PFPP	policy framework paper
PRA	participatory rural appraisals
PREM	poverty reduction and economic management
PRGF	poverty reduction and growth fund
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSI	policy support instrument
RBM	results-based management
ROSC	reports on observance of standards and codes
RVA	risk and vulnerability assessments
SAF	Structural Adjustment Fund
SAL	structural adjustment loan
SDDS	special data dissemination standard
SDRM	sovereign debt restructuring mechanism
SPS	social protection strategy
STS	science and technology studies
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
USAID	United States' Agency for International Development
VFM	value for money
WDR	World Development Report