



Worlds in Transition

Evolving Governance Across a Stressed Planet

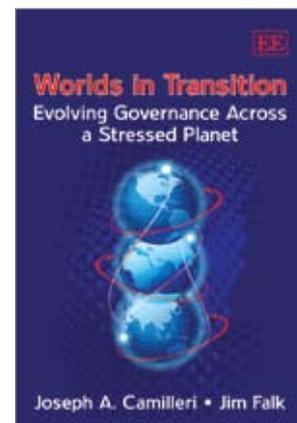
Joseph A. Camilleri, Professor of International Relations and Director, Centre for Dialogue, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia and
Jim Falk, Professor and Director, Australian Centre for Science, Innovation and Society (ACSIS), University of Melbourne, Australia

'Worlds in Transition is an extraordinary book, the most comprehensive and profound assessment of the overall challenge of global governance yet available. Its ambitious scope extends beyond normal social science to consider the nature and limits of human adaptive capacities strained to the breaking point by the interplay of climate change, globalization, and a fragmented world order.'

– Richard Falk, University of California, Santa Barbara, US

'At a time of overspecialization in the knowledge industry, it is energizing to read a book that navigates the social, humanistic, and natural sciences. Do Camilleri and Falk succeed in this bold venture? Yes, profoundly! Their tour d'horizon is a romantic journey, a love affair with traversing different branches of learning. Gracefully composed, Worlds in Transition also offers insights into the perils of our era and issues a clarion call for a system of multi-tiered governance to address them.'

– James H. Mittelman, American University, US



We are living through a unique moment of transition, marked by a frenetic cycle of invention, construction, consumption and destruction. However, there is more to this transition than globalization, argue the authors of this unique and penetrating study. In their highly innovative approach, they set this transition against a broader evolutionary canvas, with the emphasis on the evolution of governance.

The book's detailed analysis of five strategic sectors (economy, environment, health, information and security) points to an intricate and rapidly evolving interplay of geopolitical, cultural and ecological spaces. It shows that the normative ethos and politico-legal institutions of the modern epoch are gradually being eroded. Despite competing trends and countertrends the authors discern the slow, at times ambiguous, often contentious but unmistakable emergence over the last several decades of a new governance regime, one which is striving for a leap in human reflexivity in response to the challenges of a stressed world that is simultaneously singular and plural.

This evolutionary and inter-disciplinary study of human governance in what is a remarkable moment of transition makes for indispensable reading. It will appeal to a wide international audience and will prove an invaluable reference for scholars, researchers and students of the physical and social sciences concerned with understanding the complexities of the current human predicament. Those working in the fields of international relations, economics, politics, security studies, political economy, environmental studies, cultural studies, and science and technology studies will find it especially useful. National and international policymakers will also find much to interest them.

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