As we started working on this edition of the text, most of us felt as if the dark cloud of the global financial crisis was still over us. Reading the international and business sections of major newspapers, we witnessed the European Union plunge deeper into economic trouble as members such as Greece and Spain fell into debt traps and most of the countries using the euro as a currency lapsed into recession. Unemployment and austerity continued to inflict severe social and even psychological damage on people the world over. The November 2012 Doha meeting on climate change failed to produce an agreement to limit carbon dioxide emissions, signaling that large countries still consider economic growth to be a higher priority than addressing major environmental dilemmas. As a result, we may be in for another global tragedy—one that will not be reversible.

Despite the reelection of President Barack Obama, political gridlock in Washington, DC prevents the United States from addressing its most important problems or leading the world toward reforms of global governance. The dominant economic liberal ideology and policies associated with globalization have come under serious intellectual and political challenges. So far nothing has emerged to replace this popular ideology.

The war in Afghanistan continues, while the U.S. drone campaign has ratcheted up in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other Muslim nations. Ethnic and religious conflicts persist in parts of the Middle East, Somalia, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Syria has been in the midst of a terrible civil war that has left more than 70,000 dead.

Fortunately, there are rays of hope. The Arab Spring brought down dictators in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, and Yemen, opening up the possibility that the Arab world will finally join the community of democratic nations. The Occupy Wall Street movement and anti-austerity protests in Europe and elsewhere gave a new voice to citizens and social groups, re-focusing attention on inequality, poverty, and the seeming dominance of corporations in the political systems of developed nations. China, Africa, and South America have continued to grow economically, bringing more of their citizens into the middle class.

How are we to understand this current historical juncture that appears to be both on the verge of an abyss and on the cusp of a more promising era for some countries? Do we see a new global political and economic order beginning to take shape with China, India, and Brazil poised to claim greater influence in international institutions? Can states, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and global social movements effectively deal with the effects of hypermobile capital, bring more economic growth without overtaxing the environment, and satisfy political demands peacefully? These are a few of the many questions we raise in this sixth edition of the text.

Our major goal is to provide students with the tools necessary to delve deeper into issues, develop their critical thinking skills, and understand many
of the theoretical and policy dynamics of the global political economy. Rather
than profess just one set of beliefs and explanations, we offer a variety of
different perspectives so that our readers will be able to form their own opinions
about controversial issues. In this edition, each chapter begins and concludes with
some thought-provoking theses; we hope that students will use them as a spring-
board from which to independently reflect on global problems and patterns.

NEW TO THIS EDITION
This sixth edition of the text has significant revisions and updates. Many of the chap-
ters contain extensive coverage of the global financial crisis and the European debt
crisis, connecting them to social protests in the United States, Europe, and the Middle
East. We focus more closely on how IPE theories and structures help us explain and
interpret many North–South disputes that are changing the contours of global govern-
ance. There is greater attention to why national and international institutions have not
been successful in addressing serious global energy, food, and environmental prob-
lems. Five chapters have been extensively rewritten, and there are ten new text boxes.
The revisions to look for in the text are in

■ Chapter 1, “What Is International Political Economy?” is a revised introd-
cutory chapter that shows students how IPE can help them understand key
ramifications of the financial crisis, especially the Arab Spring, the Occupy
Wall Street movement, and the Euro zone debacle. It updates and clarifies
how globalization ties into many themes in the text.
■ Chapter 3, “Wealth and Power: The Mercantilist Perspective,” provides more
examples of neomercantilist policies and a new call-out box on the struggle
over rare earth minerals.
■ Chapter 4, “Economic Determinism and Exploitation: The Structuralist
Perspective,” has a new call-out box on the ideas of Noam Chomsky.
■ Chapter 6, “The Production and Trade Structure,” includes more analysis of
updated trade and production data and has a new discussion of outsourcing.
■ Chapter 8, “International Debt and Financial Crises,” is thoroughly revised,
with new theses, new sections on different kinds of debt, and more concise
explanations of debt crises in the 1980s and 1990s. New sections explain the
reactions of Keynesians and the Occupy Wall Street movement to the finan-
cial crisis. There are also new sections on the unfolding Euro zone crisis, the
effects of austerity, and potential reforms to the global finance structure.
■ Chapter 9, “The Global Security Structure,” is extensively rewritten, with a
strong focus on realist perspectives and a broad history of changes in the se-
curity structure since the beginning of the Cold War. The chapter provides an
overview of the Obama administration’s security policies, including greater
reliance on drones, and a new focus on non-traditional security threats. New
call-out boxes deal with drone operators and the International Criminal
Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.
■ Chapter 10, “The Knowledge and Technology Structure,” offers a new
section on global struggles over control of information and a new call-out
box on WikiLeaks.
Chapter 12, “Toward a More Perfect (European) Union,” is thoroughly re-
vised, with a broad history of the political economy of European integration
and a new second half explaining the unfolding crisis in the Euro zone—
including the bailout programs, EU institutional problems, and the role of the
troika in dealing with the debt crisis.
Chapter 13, “Moving into Position: The Rising Powers,” has a new section
on Brazil that contrasts recent economic successes with growing environmen-
tal problems. Updates on India focus on corruption and inequality. There
is extensive discussion of China’s rising middle class and the debate over
whether China is adapting to global norms or undermining international
cooperation. It is now a complete BRICs chapter.
Chapter 14, “The Middle East: The Quest for Development and Democracy,”
examines the Arab Spring and its potential for generating democratic politi-
cal systems. The implications for changes in regional geopolitics are also
discussed. We also analyze the Israeli—Palestinian conflict in more depth.
Chapter 15, “The Illicit Global Economy,” has a new call-out box on Gibson
Guitar company and the Lacey Act. Several new examples of timber, antiqui-
ties, and animal trafficking are given.
Chapter 18, “Food and Hunger: Market Failure and Injustice,” includes a
new call-out box on biofuels.
Chapter 19, “The IPE of Energy Resources: Stuck in Transition,” is thor-
oughly revised, with new sections on fracking, the clash of fossil fuel produc-
tion versus environmental protection, and the role of major oil companies in
shaping global energy policies and slowing the shift to renewables. Two new
call-out boxes discuss fracking and Nigeria’s “resource curse.”
Chapter 20, “The Environment: Steering Away from Climate Change and
Global Disaster,” places a new emphasis on the urgency of addressing prob-
lems of global warming and climate change. New sections examine debates at
the recent Durban and Doha climate talks.

FEATURES

While covering the “nuts and bolts” of IPE theories and issues, many of the chap-
ters provide students with a historical context in which to understand the subject
matter. More importantly, in contrast to other introductory texts, we challenge
students to think critically when it comes to applying these theories to different
issues and policy problems.

As in previous editions, the book begins with five chapters that to set out some
basic tools for studying IPE. Chapter 1 introduces the fundamental elements of the sub-
ject and some recent developments in what has become a very popular field of study.
We begin with relatively simple tools and concepts that deal with the nature of IPE—
its subject boundaries, the three dominant IPE theories, four global structures, and
the levels of analysis. Chapters 2, 3, and 4 explore the three dominant analytical
approaches to studying IPE that remain influential today: mercantilism, economic
liberalism, and structuralism. Chapter 5 introduces two alternative perspectives
(constructivism and feminism) that have grown in importance in recent years.
Part II of the text examines the web of relationships and structures that tie together a variety of international actors including nations, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and multinational corporations. Chapter 6 focuses on the production and international trade structure. Chapter 7 provides an outline of the international monetary and finance structure and problems, which in Chapter 8 are applied to Third World debt, the global financial crisis, and the European financial debt crisis. Chapter 9 focuses on changes in the international security structure, including shifts from national to individual security concerns and the possibility of a transition from a unipolar to a multipolar balance of power. Chapter 10 examines struggles among international actors over knowledge and technology, with significant attention to intellectual property rights.

In Part III, Chapter 11 examines the problem of development and some of the different strategies that less developed countries have used to “grow” their economies and modernize their political institutions. Chapter 12 traces the integration process that has created the European Union and the serious economic challenges for Euro zone states. Chapter 13 covers the political-economic changes in the “emerging” countries of Brazil, Russia, India, and China. Chapter 14 addresses the Middle East and North Africa, a region fraught with conflicts and engulfed in sweeping political changes since 2011.

Finally, in Part IV, as part of an effort to understand a number of important global problems and issues, Chapter 15 covers illicit activities involving trafficking of people, drugs, and other items. Chapter 16 examines the dynamic and problematic issue of the movement of people around the world—in this case through tourism and migration. Chapter 17 examines the important role of transnational corporations in the international political economy. Chapters 18, 19, and 20 discuss the interconnections between global food, energy, and environmental problems, employing many of the analytical tools developed earlier in the book.

All the chapters end with a list of key terms that are in bold print in the chapter, discussion questions, and suggested readings. Recommended websites related to each chapter can be found at the text website at www.upugetsoundintroipe.com. The website also includes a list of recommended videos and documentaries faculty and students can use to gain more detailed background and ideas about different topics.

**ANCILLARY MATERIALS**

MySearchLab. Need help with a paper? MySearchLab saves time and improves results by offering start-to-finish guidance on the research/writing process and full-text access to academic journals and periodicals. To learn more, please visit www.mysearchlab.com.


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